

REPORT OF MARK PROTECTION COMMITTEE ACTIONS **SEPTEMBER 2004-JULY 2005**

Members of the Mark Protection Committee from September 2004 through July 2005 were as follows, with the expiration of membership listed in parentheses after their name: Lynn Anderson (elected until 2005), Stephen Boucher (elected until 2005), Linda Deneroff (appointed by CascadiaCon until 2007), Scott Dennis (elected until 2006), Donald E. Eastlake III (elected until 2006), Sue Francis (elected until 2005), Tim Illingworth (elected until 2007), Bob MacIntosh (appointed by Nippon 2007 until 2009), Pat McMurray (alternate appointed by Interaction until 2007), Craig Miller (appointed by L.A.con IV until 2008), Cheryl Morgan (appointed by Interaction until 2007), Mark Olson (appointed by Noreascon 4 until 2006), Ruth Sachter (elected until 2006), Kenneth M. Smookler (appointed by Torcon 3 until 2005), Kevin Standlee (elected until 2007) and Ben Yalow (elected until 2007).

Major accomplishments of the Mark Protection Committee between September 2004 and July 2005 include the following.

1. We held discussions with the Science Fiction Museum on their name (there was a possibility their original name would conflict with WSFS marks). They then went ahead and changed it to the Science Fiction Museum, which is nonconflicting.
2. It was brought to our attention that a Chicago Sun-Times article referred to the Chicago Film Festival awards as an “annual Hugo Awards ceremony honoring the best in television.” However, they have been calling their awards the Gold and Silver Hugos for a long time, and the Mark Protection Committee has known about them for a long time—many years, in fact. The last time it came before the committee (which was some years ago), the consensus was that the Chicago Hugos’ usage is so entrenched that WSFS would probably not prevail if we contested their further use. Yes, this erodes the WSFS marks a little bit.
3. The Richard Hugo House in Seattle, was apparently giving out a Hugo Award in complete ignorance of the one from WSFS. When we contacted them, they agreed to change it to the “Richard Hugo Prize.”
4. The website for *SF World*, a Chinese science fiction publisher <http://en.sfw-cd.com/> <<http://en.sfw-cd.com/>> incorrectly referred to China having hosted a Worldcon when they actually hosted “World SF, The International Association of Science Fiction Professionals.” After we contacted them, they graciously corrected the error.

5. We renewed one our UK-registered marks (“Worldcon” in class 41, Conventions) that was due to expire. This was paid for by Interaction and counts toward their traditional donation. (Each Worldcon traditionally donates US\$1 per site selection voter to the MPC to fund its ongoing operations. When possible, Worldcons outside the USA use the donation to pay for costs the MPC incurs in that country rather than have to lose money on currency conversions.)
6. Several MPC members began working on a long-term budget plan for the MPC. Many of the MPC’s expenses are cyclical, recurring every seven or ten years, with several years of inactivity between them. In addition, the MPC has for some time wanted to register the form of the Hugo Award trophy rocket as a service mark as well, and new registrations cost more than renewing existing ones. A long-term budget with a ten-to-fifteen-year planning horizon would allow the MPC to manage its expenses and explain to the WSFS and individual Worldcon committees why the MPC is asking for money now, even though there is no immediate threat to a WSFS mark.
7. The committee obtained certified copies of all U.S. registered marks and will give them to Ken Smookler, who will use them as part of a second attempt to register the marks in Canada. The first attempt several years failed due to our lack of timely filing, and unfortunately we forfeited the filing fees.
8. A *Financial Times* story <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/fe87cc34-f499-11d9-9dd1-00000e2511c8.html> consistently used “Worldcon” in its story when it means “Worldcom.” Kevin wrote to them calling attention to the error and asking if it would be possible to fix the article. They replied that the usage was meant satirically and they declined to issue any corrections.