

## Westercon 70

LepreCon 43 | ConAlope

## Press Release - April 2017

We are pleased to bring Westercon, the most prestigious science fiction and fantasy convention in the west, to the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, from July 1st to 4th, 2017.

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Attendees of Westercon 70, an annual regional convention, will learn the truth about the massive government cover-up behind the alien visitation at Roswell, NM, seventy years ago... or maybe not. Fans of science fiction, fantasy, filk, gaming and art will converge upon the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, AZ over the 4th of July weekend, 2017.

The convention, branded ConAlope after the legendary creature that arose from the imaginations of lore-bearers of the southwest, will commemorate the 70th anniversary of both Westercon and the crash landing of a UFO (or military surveillance balloon) in Roswell, NM on July 8,1947 . "We suggest that the stranded aliens wrangled a horde of frisky jackalopes and rode west to Tempe," says chair Dee Astell. "They may well make an appearance at Westercon!"

Westercon moves around the western region and is sponsored in 2017 by Leprecon, Inc., a science fiction and fantasy non-profit in Arizona with a focus on art. We are therefore combining Westercon 70 with LepreCon 43 and bringing a strong art show to this event.
LepreCon is also known for its gaming track, named CONflagration, which will invade the Abbey room at Westercon 70.

Advance memberships are priced at just $\$ 75$ for adults; $\$ 50$ for serving military and teens (aged 13 to 17); and $\$ 30$ for kids age 7 to 12 for this four-day event. These prices are valid until May 30th, 2017. Other options are available on our website, westercon70.org.

Our Guests of Honor include:

- Artist Julie Dillon (California), winner of two Hugo Awards and four Chesley Awards.
- Artist Tom Deadstuff (Arizona), creator of unique works in paper mache.
- Artist Larry Elmore (Kentucky), famed for his work on Dungeons \& Dragons and the Dragonlance book series.
- Author Connie Willis (Colorado), winner of eleven Hugo and seven Nebula awards, more than any other writer.
- Author Gini Koch (Arizona), of 14 books in DAW’s Alien/Katherine 'Kitty’ Katt series, plus others, under a variety of pseudonyms.
- Filker Tim Griffin (California), award-winning teacher, musician and storyteller.
- Sci-fi diplomats Bjo and John Trimble (California), conrunners, art show pioneers and fans. They are also the reason why Star Trek had a third season.
- Fans Val and Ron Ontell (California), longtime fans and conrunners, originally from New York, who have organized Worldcon cruises since the mid-eighties.
- Toastmaster Weston Ochse (Arizona), Bram Stoker Award-winning author of horror and military science fiction.

Westercon 70 will feature many events over the four day weekend including two dances, multiple concerts, a masquerade, a film festival, a filk room and many panels and workshops. It will end, of course, with Tempe's traditional fourth of July fireworks.

A charity auction will be held to benefit the Challenger Space Center in Peoria, AZ. The WesternSFA, a local non-profit, will be holding a book drive to benefit homeless children attending Children First Academy. A traditional blood drive will also be held.

Room rates at the Tempe Mission Palms are just $\$ 109$ per night (plus taxes), the same rates as when Arizona last held Westercon at this venue in 2009. Reserve your room now by visiting http://westercon70.org/hotel or call (800) 547-8705 and mention 'Westercon 70'.
For more information, please visit our website, westercon70.org, or contact our publicity coordinator, Debra Krol, by e-mail at publicity@westercon70.org.

