Minutes of meeting #4603
October 30, 2025
Roger Hill is Groot

The non-existent wind on Zoom whistled through the virtual trees on this All Hallows Eve Eve as president Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. She and Dean scrambled to find a prop in their office to reflect the spooky season and settled on a bat. After various remarks of trick-or-treaters, or lack thereof, CL gave a pearl of wisdom: "Candy will get you through times of no kids better than kids will get you through times of no candy."

Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings
Nick Smith gave us the following Hatchings:

- 1923, William Campbell, actor (Star Trek)
- 1934, Hamilton Camp, actor, voice actor and songwriter
- 1947, Tim Kirk, Hugo-winning fantasy artist
- 1951, P Craig Russell, graphic novel illustrator
  1960, Jane Hightmyer, actress, Earth Final Conflict

Media anniversaries included: the 1981 premiere of Looker, a movie written by Michael Crichton, and, as Matt Mitchell reminded us, the 1938 radio broadcast of War of the Worlds by Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater, which managed to scare the jelly beans out of a good number of listeners.
The Passings included:

- June Lockhart, actress, known best for Lost in Space
- Maria Riva, actress in various s-f TV anthology series
- Prunella Scales, British actress known best in Fawlty Towers
- Tony Adams, British actor

Susan Fox added that Andy Monson III, known as "Andy Astronaut" longtime costumer, and supporter of the space program, had recently passed away.

After Matt read the minutes of meeting #4602, Dr. Susie Searight bid $10 to name the minutes: The Great Pumpkin. After a little presidential prodding, Dean moved to approve the minutes and the members sustained at 8:28 p.m.

Patron Saints:
Of the first Saint, **Francis Hamit**: Matt said that besides his other nice qualities, Francis was the first to give Matt feedback on his first issue of De Profundis. Nola Frame-Grey said that while she doesn't necessarily agree with what Francis says, his take on history is very thought-provoking. Cathy agreed Francis is very knowledgeable about military history. After consulting the Joy of Cooking, or rather the Patron Saint archive, Matt reported that Francis has published more than 1,000 pieces of writing since 1968, including several Elizabethan-era plays, the non-fiction book Virtual Reality and the Exploration of Cyberspace, and several novels. Francis was given three cheers.
Our other Patron Saint, the late and very much lamented **Bill Rotsler,** was (as CL reminded us) a writer, a cartoonist, a filmmaker, a performer, and pretty much anything else that brought amusement or enlightenment to other people. He added that of the many stories told about Bill, all of them are true. Larry Niven added that Bill would draw cartoons during boring banquets. Nick remembered that as talented a writer as he was, he was nevertheless impressed whenever someone read one of his books. Bill was given three cheers.

Cathy, in an attempt to expedite the evening's program, tried to initiate 30-second Committee Reports, with varying levels of success.

Honor Guard: CL said the Spot of Honor was held this week by his Halloween Haunts, Highlights, and Hijinks FaceBook page. However, as this was the end of the month, a quick auction was held, resulting in Eylat Poliner bidding $25 to have LOSCON 51 hold the spot for November.

Registrar: We had no Matthew Tepper, as well as no guests.

Treasurer: Elayne said we had two unpaid peeps. Susan helpfully posted rates in the chats. It's getting close to the time where one can pay for an annual membership. There was some debate as whether that was $170 or $175. Elayne said we have to amend the standing rules as they still show the old dues schedule. CL suggested Matt check the De Profundis archives for the new correct dues.

Board of Directors: Michelle said the next Board meeting will be November 16th at 11:00 am on this Zoom channel.

Loscon 51 Guests of Honor and info, and Club Programming for November and December, were put in the chat for all to read.

Fannish wellness: as Chris Marble was absent, everybody was feeling great!

Old Business: CL reminded us that next week are the nominations for the three open seats on the LASFS Board of Directors.

Any new business the club might have had was put under the pendulum, to allow CL to proceed with the main program: his reading of Edgar Allen Poe's classic work, "The Raven." Following this, CL answered a couple of questions about the two movies inspired by this poem, and also satires of same by Mad Magazine and Bullwinkle. Truly, a hallmark of any great work. Heidi mentioned the book Ballads of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins, part of the Hunger Games milieu inspired by "The Raven" Roger Hill put forth the theory that the raven's "Nevermore!" is the same sort of all-encompassing phrase as "I am Groot".

Regular announcements: Eylat called out for loaders of equipment for Loscon on Wednesday November 26th at 10 AM at Elayne's residence. Later that day at 3:00 would be loading stuff from the storage unit. Thursday the 27th is going to be unloading and set up. Sunday the 30th is when the process is essentially reversed. Monday December 1st everything gets put back, more or less. Exact times can be discussed with Eylat.

Miscellaneous
Eylat thanked Dean and Susan for the artwork for the new LosCon tablecloth. Susan mentioned that the artwork is now in the digital hands of several people, so this won't be a worry in the future.
Nola thanked Dean for the Loscon flyer she was able to distribute to her s-f group.

Nick reviewed T. Kingfisher's Wizards Guide to Defensive Baking, calling it "one of weirdest examples of practical necromancy he has ever encountered, and a reason why you would want to be able to animate an undead horse." (So you can beat it?) But it does feature baking-related magic and mixed Halloween-Christmas themes.

After Cathy put the link for the Aftermeeting in the chat, Eylat moved to adjourn. It was multiply seconded and sustained at 9:14 p.m. Quoth the Scrivener, Nevermore.