Santa Claus Versus The Martians
Minutes of meeting #4612
January 1, 2026

Vice-president Susan Fox had the singular honor of calling the first meeting of the year 2026 to order at 8:00 p.m.

From there, she commanded Nick proceed with the Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings
Hatchings:

- 1888, Chesley Bonestell, artist of astronomical phenomena, both real and fictional
- 1905, Charles G. Finney, author
- 1942, John Crowley, author and laureate of The World Fantasy and Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards
- 1956, Bill Willingham, comic book writer and illustrator
- 1964, Jo Walton, Welsh-Canadian RPG designer and writer

Susan climbed off the magisterial balcony to provide additional Hatchings:

- Frank Langella, actor in Dracula, Masters of the Universe and Deep Space Nine
- Verne Troyer, actor known as Mini-Me from the Austin Powers films
- Brian Troud, artist who worked on Labyrinth and the Dark Crystal
- Douglas Lawrence Osowski,Voice actor, professionally known as Mr. Lawrence, best known as Plankton in Spongebob SquarePants,

Media anniversaries:

- 1965, premier of the movie The Wizard of Mars, which did indeed credit L. Frank Baum for inspiration.

Dispatchings:

- Tim Kask, of TSR Games and editor of The Dragon mag
- Isiah Whitlock Jr., actor
- Tim Robertson, Australian director, actor, and author,
- Pierre Bordage, French s-f writer

Reading of the minutes of meeting #4611
After reading the minutes, Matt bid $5 to name the minutes: Bon Voyage 2025 and Don't Come Back
An especially hearty approval, of the title if not the minutes, occurred at 8:23 p.m.

Patron Saints:
Dan Alderson: Susan remembered Dan as a quiet, slowly shuffling fellow, who was a genius at orbital mechanics, an adviser to many s-f writers in such matters, while being sweet and adorable. CL recalled that Dan belonged to the Cal Tech-based group called FALT, and that he worked at JPL most of his life. He was a frequent contributer to APA-L and other LASFS-based publications. Everybody knew Dan was a great guy except him. Dan was given 3 cheers and an orbital mechanic.
Going from A to Z, we next honored Joe Zeff: Maryann said The man with the sideburns sent me. Joe Zeff told her about LASFS, and encouraged her to come see. Susan recalled recently seeing him at Loscon. Chris called Joe was a talented fellow with lots of system administration experience, and tried to recruit him for Earthlink. Matthew remembered Joe's frequent report on stupid computer users at meetings. Joe was given 3 cheers and a clue by four.

Committee Reports
Fannish wellness: Chris reported that George Mulligan is not yet verticalized, but still getting physical therapy 2x/day.

Honor Guard: CL explained that the Spot of Honor is auctioned off in lieu of our long-lost parking spaces, and announced that Scifi.radio holds the Spot this month. Gene Turnbow asked if there a parking space behind the new clubhouse? Elayne replied that most of the space in back of the clubhouse is going to be taken up by the storage units, and there is a ramp for handicapped access, so the answer is...probably not.

From there, Elayne segued into the Treasurer's report. It's a new month and a new year, and Elayne went through the dues schedules. Susan helpfully posted them in the chat:

Dues, pun fund fees and donations may be rendered via Zelle or PayPal to payment@lasfs.org
Dues rates: $5.00 weekly
$15.00 Monthly
$170.00 Annually
Donations any time!

For his debut as Registrar, Marc Silver reported that we could wear our Members Only jackets. Matthew lamented the one stolen out of his Subaru back in the day.

Susan once again donned her Board Secretary hat, which has moose antlers for some reason, and announced the Board of Directors meeting on January 18th at 11:00 a.m. From there, she went to Programming, switching quickly to the Mad Hatter's top hat (hypno-rays sold separately) and announced that the next general meeting with be a Hybrid meeting at the Denny's on Sepulveda, teasing that this could be the last such hybrid. As Christian is not going to be in attendance, there was discussion as to whether there would be an auction. CL intoned that the Magic 8Ball said "Yes." Perhaps the 8Ball will be the first item up for bid.

No Old or New Business kicked down the door to pepper-spray the members, and there was great rejoicing.

Timebound announcements
Nick - Swars OG Trilogy at Egyptian
Los Feliz - Demolition Man
BrainDead - Brazil
Frida - 7 Samurai - restored uncut
New Beverly - Muppet Movie
NuArt - Rocky Horror and Clockwork Orange
Vidiots - A Night at the Opera and Gbusters 2 and Brazil. Phantom Menace and Raider and Last Crusade
CL- Equinox film.

Moments of Science:

- Nick reported on the scheduled tran-lunar test flight of Artemis II next month, with a mixed American-Canadian crew. Susan added that the pilot, Victor J. Glover, was the first pilot of the Crew Dragon to the ISS
- Lee reported on a new type of Plastic that breaks down environmentally faster in seawater.

Reviews

- Lee reviewed a website called Fogpoint Radio, a Fictionalized community broadcast of 30s and 40s music.
- Nick reviewed The Copenhagen Test series, a s-f technothriller on Peacock.
- CL reviewd a film called Girl in the Kremlin, before seguing into a mini-rant about how his publisher's demands for more books severely curtails his movie viewing time. From offstage came the sounds of very tiny violins. He announced that his next published work, A Princess of Time, will be out in February. As this book involves time travel, several members responded with time-travel related quips...which I'm going to refrain from repeating as you've heard them all before.
- Susan recommended another time-travel-related novel series, The Chronicles of St. Mary's by Jodi Taylor.

Miscellaneous
Christine asked if there was an update on the open house for the new clubhouse. Elayne said that books need to get up on shelves and some detritus need clearing up. The Board of Directors meeting might meet at the clubhouse on the 18th. There was discussion of coffee Keurigs and electric teakettles. Peter Santelli asked if the metal sign on the previous clubhouse had been rescued and if it will be mounted on the new building. Elayne countered that there is no place to hang it on the building front.

Matt moved to adjourn at 9:14 p.m, and the members sustained. However, this did not curtail a discussion of how to get the lighted sign off the old building. Eventually the subject was left to dangle like Harold Lloyd off a clock tower.