

THE WALKING FEN

MEDIAWEST*CON 34 MAY 23-26, 2014

*Since we are still kicking after all these years, MediaWest*Con 34 celebrates the Undead -- vampires, zombies, werewolves, and all the grim, ghoulish, and supernatural denizens of the not-quite-dead netherworlds. So bring your garlic necklaces, hex bags, and spellbooks... and expect one helluva good time!*

PROGRESS REPORT ONE

MediaWest*Con 34 Progress Report 1 © 2014 by T'Kuhtian Press, except as otherwise designated; published January 2014; edited by Gordon Carleton. Certain movie, TV, or other titles may be trademarks of their respective studios or production companies; no infringement is intended.

MediaWest*Con is the definitive gathering of SF/Media fandom, held each Memorial Day Weekend in Lansing Michigan. MediaWest*Con is sponsored by T'Kuhtian Press as a celebration of the diversity of SF/Media fandom, run by fans, for fans, and is staffed entirely by volunteers. MediaWest*Con traditionally features the Art Show and Auction, Fanzine Reading Room, Fannish Videos, Masquerade, Dealers' Room, Game Room, SF/Media Fan Fund, Fan Quality Awards, a Con Suite (AKA Hospitality Suite) and a Party Suite, and many, many panels on a wide variety of topics representing many areas of interest. Programming is determined by member input and participation. Programming is intended for an adult audience; we do not censor adult themes in panel topics or in the Art Show. We have no official guests. The name MediaWest*Con is a service mark of MediaWest*Con.

MEDIAWEST*CON 34 CONTINUES AT RAMADA LANSING

Once again, we will be holding programming for MediaWest*Con 34 (May 23-26, 2014) at the Lansing Ramada (7501 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing MI 48917).

Nearby Comfort Inn (formerly Hampton Inn) continues as the official MW*C 34 auxiliary hotel.

As we had to adapt the hotel reservation process on the fly last year due to the hotel change, we did not take reservation requests at the con, so we could take the time and revise the system in a more orderly way. Thank you for your patience.

The MW*C 34 reservation request procedure is below.



MEDIAWEST*CON 34 HOTEL REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

- 1 – You must FIRST be registered as an Attending Member of MediaWest*Con 34
- 2 -- Reservation requests for MW*C 34 must be made through the MW*C reservation request system and will NOT be accepted at any of the participating hotels' front desks during the con, or by the hotels by mail, FAX, phone, or hotels' websites at any time.
- 3 – On or after 12:01am EST January 23, 2014, fill out the on-line hotel registration form located on the MW*C website (www.mediawestcon.org). Reservation requests will NOT be accepted prior to that date to allow for all MW*C 34 members to become acquainted with the reservation request procedure.
 - Please do NOT list the primary name on the room also as a person sharing the room
 - If you know them, please provide the membership numbers of sharers
 - If sharers will not be attending members of the con, please list their relationship to the primary member (parent, child, spouse, etc.)
 - There are multiple hotels listed on the form. Please rank the hotels in order of your preference.
 - As reservations are processed in timestamp order, there is no advantage to people sharing a room submitting separate or duplicate requests. Please do not do this.
- 4 - Registrations will be filled in order of timestamp from the system. If you are unable to sign up on line, please call the hotel liaison, Carol Lynn, at 313-885-5304 and she will enter the information into the on-line system for you. No hotel reservations will be accepted by mail, e-mail, or FAX without prior authorization from the hotel liaison.
- 5 – Those requesting adjoining or connecting rooms should put the SAME group name on the “Group” or “Connecting With” field. You may use any group name you wish but they MUST MATCH on all the forms.
- 6 – Some rooms will be set aside at the main location for those with physical disabilities: if you qualify for this exception, you must check the “Physical Hardship” box and provide documentation of your qualifying medical condition (handicap parking permit, doctor’s note, etc.) These can be forwarded, or scanned and emailed, to hotelliaison@mediawestcon.org, or mailed to MediaWest*Con, 200 E. Thomas St, Lansing, MI 48906.

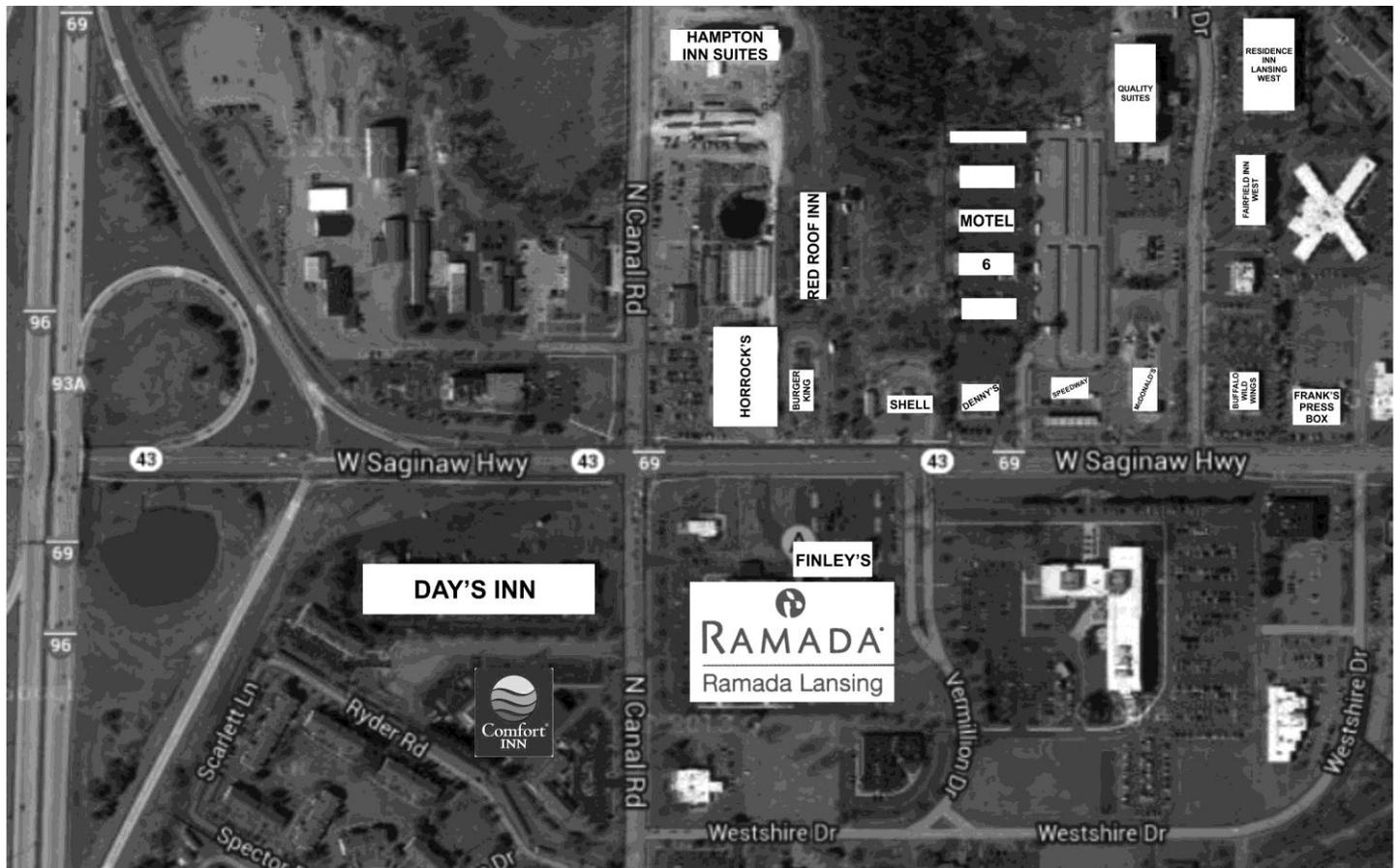
These rooms will also be processed in order of timestamp from the system even if the documentation arrives later. Documentation must be provided no later than 30 days from the timestamp date or you will lose the physical hardship exception and be processed by timestamp with the rest of the reservations. The documentation is not saved from year to year.

7 – Confirmations will be sent by e-mail when at all possible. Once you have received your confirmation number, you will need to guarantee the reservation with the hotel by providing the hotel with a credit card number. At that time, please reconfirm your arrival and departure dates with the hotel.

8 – If you do not get a reservation at your primary choice of hotel, you will be given one of your other choices by how you ranked them and automatically added to a waiting list in case rooms become available at your primary choice. The waiting list will also be processed in order of timestamp from the system. If a room becomes available, you will be contacted before any changes are made.

9 - If your e-mail, phone or mailing address changes from what is on the form, you must contact the convention to update your information or risk not getting proper notifications. Updates should be sent to hotelliaison@mediawestcon.org.

10 – The **MediaWest*Con 34** hotel reservation request procedure was created with the full knowledge and cooperation of the participating hotels' management.



MORE ON RAMADA, COMFORT INN, AND SURROUNDING HOTELS

The location of the Ramada should be familiar to long-time **MW*C** members, as it was the original location for **T*Con** (1978), **2*Con** (1979), and **MediaWest*Con 1** (1981) through **11** (1991), first as a Hilton Inn and later as a Holiday Inn. It has gone through several owners and franchises since then, and is now a Ramada. The facility has also been expanded and remodeled since those days (and have continued remodeling since **MW*C 33!**). The Ramada is the second largest hotel in the greater Lansing area.

The room rates will be the same as last year (\$85 + tax/night for 1-4 people, \$95 + tax/night suite; rates good for length of stay, i.e. before and after the con dates).

The Ramada has 244 sleeping rooms and 6 suites. **MW*C** will have the majority of rooms blocked during the con (Ramada has ongoing agreements with airlines for crew stopovers, etc. and must hold some rooms due to various commitments, but will later add to the **MW*C** block as available) and we will use 2 of the suites for Con Suite and Party Suite. Some rooms will also be blocked for the week leading up to the con, for those of you who like to arrive early.

Ramada will host a Welcome Reception Thursday, May 22 in the lobby for those who arrive early.

There are five other hotels (Days Inn with 130 rooms and 6 suites, Comfort Inn (the official **MW*C 34** auxiliary hotel) with 105 rooms and 6 suites, Red Roof Inn with 81 rooms, Motel 6, and Fairfield Inn West with 64 rooms and 8 suites) within walking distance* (see map), as well as 3 all-suite hotels (Quality Suites with 117 suites, Residence Inn Marriott West with 78 suites, and Springhill Suites with 104 suites) in the immediate vicinity. In addition, a new 86 room Hampton Inn Suites is now open near Horrocks'.

Comfort Inn (formerly Hampton Inn), the official **MW*C 34** auxiliary hotel, is matching Ramada's \$85 flat rate. Comfort Inn rooms have 32 inch LCD HDTV, coffee maker, microwave, mini-refrigerator, hairdryer and iron with board. Comfort Inn also has an indoor pool and hot tub, exercise room, and business center.

The Ramada has a full-sized indoor pool and Atrium Recreation Center with sauna, whirlpool, and fitness center, free parking, free WiFi, a guest computer with internet access, and provides free continental breakfast for guests. Rooms have coffee makers, iron/ironing boards, hairdryers, and data port phones. Ramada is continuing to upgrade to flat screen TVs in guest rooms. Microwaves are available in some rooms, and by request.

The Ramada is closer to the airport (6 miles), has free airport shuttle service, and will extend complimentary shuttle service to various destinations within a 5 mile radius. Ramada is also willing to shuttle members to and from the other hotels, and will provide shuttle service beyond the 5 mile limit for \$10 per person.

Pets are allowed, with a nonrefundable pet fee of \$25 (Comfort Inn has a refundable \$25 deposit). There will be a designated dogwalk area.

Posting flyers in the hotel with low-tack tape will be allowed in designated areas (lobby, pool area, and by elevators), and we will have a designated area for official **MW*C** postings. Members will be allowed to decorate their doors. As always, care must be taken not to mar any wallpaper, woodwork, etc..

There are also numerous restaurants, both fast food and sit-down, in the immediate area. Finley's American Grill is attached to the Ramada (though the hotel has its own catering and room service kitchen). Across the street is Horrock's (fresh produce, groceries, antipasto and olive bar, and more), Burger King, Denny's, McDonald's, Ukai Hibachi Grill and Sushi Bar, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Frank's Press Box

Across the highway (and accessible by foot via sidewalks and crosswalks) to the west is a large shopping center that includes a Wal-Mart, Cracker Barrel, Bob Evans, Steak N Shake, Staples, PetSmart, Lowes, Michaels Art Supply, Gander Mountain, and Tractor Supply. There is also a new Dunkin Donuts (24 hour drive-thru)/deli/24 hour BP station, McDonald's, Arby's, Biggby's Coffee, Menards, and Cancun Mexican Grill. Culvers is across the street.

There are several gas stations (including Shell, BP, and Sunoco) in the immediate vicinity, with a Speedway directly across the street.

Further to the East (in driving distance) is Outback, Carraba's, Red Robin, Krogers (groceries), Miller Animal Clinic, Walgreens, Subway, Dimitri's Restaurant, Jet's Pizza, FedEx Office, Lansing Mall (with food court), Applebee's, Fire Mountain Grill, Meijer (groceries and general goods), and Target, as well as many other fast food and sit-down restaurants, bank and credit union branches, and gas stations.

For those concerned with safety, the township police and fire departments are kitty-corner across the street.

*Yes, we realize "walking distance" is a relative term, so we have included the map above to show scale. The map is based on a satellite photo from Google Earth, and we have added blocks to highlight the locations of hotels, food, and gas outlets.

MEDIAWEST*CON STAFF & CONTACT INFO

Website: www.mediawestcon.org, E-mail: mediawestcon@aol.com, Phone/FAX: 517-372-0738

Mail: MediaWest*Con 34, 200 E. Thomas St, Lansing MI 48906-4047

Below are the folks in charge of the smooth operation of various **MW*C** departments. Please include a SASE with inquiries by mail. We will update individual department info below as necessary. If you have trouble contacting any of them (or any other problems), please let us know.

Co-Chairs -- Lori Chapek-Carleton & Gordon Carleton, e-mail: MediaWestCon@aol.com

Membership/Registration (records, data entry, onsite), Transportation — Lori Chapek-Carleton, as above

Communications (e-mail, publications, website), Data Output (membership badges, lists), Graphics (logo, T'shirt design) — Gordon Carleton, as above

Art Show -- Art Show Director: Gordon Carleton; Karen Klinck & staff will be running the Art Show under his supervision at the convention itself.

Plays -- c/o Gordon Carleton, as above

GoFers -- Jeanne Sullivan, GoFer Captain, 9230 2nd Ave SW #C624, Seattle WA 98106, e-mail: dragonjems@gmail.com

Con Suite/Video -- Jeanne Sullivan, as above

Programming -- Elyse Dickenson & Dawn McLevy, 2834 Redding Road, Fairfield, CT 06430, e-mail: mwconprogram@yahoo.com

Flyers -- Elyse Dickenson & Dawn McLevy, as above

Party Suite -- Elyse Dickenson & Dawn McLevy, as above

Fan Quality Awards -- Jan Keeler, 22440 Dickenson Rd., New Boston MI 48164-9455, e-mail: dinah8994@aol.com

Fanzine Reading Room -- TBD (see page 4)

SF/Media Fan Fund -- c/o MediaWest*Con

Dealers -- TBD -- While we have enjoyed the years we spent as Dealers Room Coordinators due to health and personal issues we are stepping down. We will always cherish the friendships we have made at MediaWest*Con. -- Debra and Anna Barber

Orphan 'Zine Table -- Janice St. Clair and Laura Basta-Sandler, e-mail: LSandler1@aol.com or BastaSandler@yahoo.com

Fannish Video Room -- Sheryl Adsit, 13200 Blodgett Avenue, Downey, CA 90242-5204, e-mail: oafgirl@aol.com

Masquerade -- Andre Lieven, 63 Bellman Drive, Ottawa ON Canada K2H 8S4; ph. 613/596-4546, e-mail: andrelieven@yahoo.ca

Security -- Seth Cutts, 301 1/2 W. Grand River, Lansing MI 48906, ph. 517/482-8267

Blood Drive -- Kim Dyer, 4656 Wilcox, Holt, MI 48842, ph. 517/694-2006, e-mail: kimbis@aol.com

Hotel Liaison -- Carol Lynn, hotelliaison@mediawestcon.org; ph.313/885-5304

Lansing Liaison -- Carl Tielking, 1205 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing MI 48915, ph. 517/580-7834 or 517/515-3643, e-mail: alkiecarl@yahoo.com

Door Decoration Competition -- Alem, e-mail: aemisc@yahoo.com

Game Room -- Ericka Kahler, PO Box 15062, Lansing, MI 48901, e-mail: eakahler@yahoo.com, ph. 517/ 230-0542

MEMBERSHIP

A **MW*C 34** membership list will be in Progress Report 2. If you received this PR you are a member. If you received this PR by mail, your membership number should be on the mailing label.

MW*C 34 memberships are still available. See www.mediawestcon.org for current membership rates.

PROGRAMMING

Programming is determined by member input and participation. Programming is intended for an adult audience.

When suggesting topics, please keep in mind that the majority of topics should reflect **MW*C**'s core interest of science fiction and fantasy. News, sports, so-called "reality" shows, game shows, etc. are generally outside our purview unless they have some sf/fantasy or other fannish content. Cardassians yes, Kardashians no.

Jan 1 - Feb 15 -- panel topic suggestions Feb 16 - Mar 9 -- signup for panels Mar 10 - Apr 1 -- organize schedule then a second round of signup, polishing schedule, to be done by May 1st	E-mail: mwcprogram@yahoo.com MW*C: groups.yahoo.com/group/mwcprogram/ Twitter: check out for quick news! http://twitter.com/mwcprogram
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MISCELLANEA

Apologies for taking as long as it has to get the hotel reservation request procedure set up, but we have had a lot of problems since **MW*C 33**.

It took longer than we had hoped to get the hotel bill for **MW*C 33** sorted, then longer than we had hoped to get the hotel contracts for **MW*C 34** in place.

Gordon injured his left hand in August. While it was painful, we didn't know how badly he was injured until weeks later, when the swelling hadn't gone down and he had it looked at. X-rays revealed his thumb had been grossly dislocated. He was sent to a specialist, who determined it would require surgery to put the bone back where it belonged.

Before that could happen, he developed an unrelated infection that abscessed. It was described as a bad infection in a bad place, was exhausting and painful and messy, and took a couple weeks to clear up.

Meanwhile, Chiana, one of our older Samoyed girls, started to do poorly, and ultimately had to be put to sleep. Chiana had been to many **MW*Cs** since puppyhood through **MW*C 33**.

Gordon had surgery on his thumb in October, and had somewhat limited dexterity due to the pin and bandages for weeks after. Now the pin is out and the bandages off, but he still can't bend his thumb much. It is still a bit swollen, but the sensitivity is slowly getting closer to normal.

Gordon also has cataracts in both eyes, and has now been told that neither eye is correctable without surgery. This makes it difficult to read, especially on a computer monitor (i.e. looking into a light source), or even watch TV.

We did manage to get the **MW*C 33** Post-Con Progress Report out in December, before the first day of winter brought an ice storm, and, like much of Lansing and surrounding areas, we lost power at the house. The ice also brought down tree branches, doing some damage to the house. After days without electricity, heat, internet, etc., power was restored on Christmas eve. Even so, we were luckier than many; some are still without power at this writing.

Fortunately, the power came back in time for Sookie to have a litter of seven puppies December 30th. Momma and puppies are doing fine. So, we've been a little busy.



In Memoriam

We are very sorry to report that Jan Gosnell has died, following a recurrence of cancer. She was a long-time fan, and had for many years run the 'Zine Reading Room and SF/Media Fan Fund silent auction at **MediaWest*Con**.

From Patricia Poole -- famish@ciaccess.com (Dec 30, 2013): Jan Gosnell has died. She made the transition from this world to the next quietly, peacefully, and unexpectedly at 1 a.m. today. According to her wishes, there will be a cremation without a ceremony, and her ashes will be spread in favourite places. It's possible there will be a small local gathering hosted by her remaining family. If any of you want to hear more about that when I find out details, please let me know. But, I promised Jan there would be a celebration of her life at **MediaWest*Con** -- a blow out party. I have a budget in mind for hosting that, but know I'm not the only person who wants to honour her memory. Look for flyers at the con. And, go into the new year knowing Jan has begun her next great adventure. There may be a new star in the cosmos; or if you feel a Presence brush by you, Jan promised to keep an eye on us. Hugs to all -- Pat

From Vicki Burke on Facebook: Hi everyone. I'm putting together a memorial video for Jan Gosnell for **MediaWest*Con**. If you have any photos of Jan you can send I'd love it. I'm taking pics till March 1st. My e-mail is: artmomvic@hotmail.com I can scan regular photos if you'd prefer to mail them to me along with a S.A.S.E. PM me for address.

From Jeanne Sullivan: We have lost many dear friends over the last few years and to honor them a Memorial Wall will be set up in the Con Suite. Bring copies (please copies only) of your friends/fans that have passed. Many of us remember faces rather than names. It would be nice to remember the good times that we shared with them.