

TOAST TO THE LEGION OF ZOOM By Rich Krisciunas © 2/20/22 ©

Welcome to the first annual conference of the Legion of Zoom.

This started as a result of a quip by Greg Ruby when Steve Mason and I were at a virtual Sherlockian Zoom meeting. Greg said, "I see you guys all the time. You are the Legion of Zoom."

Little did Steve, Greg and I know that a year later, we would be holding a virtual conference, with 40 members who attended a minimum of 17 different society meetings, passing out certificates of membership and, frankly, becoming the envy of everyone who enjoys Sherlock Holmes.

Three years ago, I was attending live meetings of my four local scions in Michigan. Meetings where members played "The Grand Game, with presentations and quizzes amidst toasts to Canonical characters and bad puns. The fun stopped when Covid prevented us from meeting in person.

Then somebody scheduled a meeting virtually on Zoom. I attended and heard a great presentation and met some like-minded people who enjoyed discussing the Master Detective. I found another virtual meeting and another and my addictive personality sought out more.

Over the past two years, I have attended over 200 meetings virtually and met many wonderful people I probably never would have met in person; from Canada, Europe and the United States. Chances are I wouldn't drive 1200 miles to a meeting of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Texas or 2300 miles to Seattle to visit The Sounds of the Baskervilles. But, virtually, I've been to San Francisco, St. Louis, Chicago, Vancouver, Cincinnati, Baltimore, London, Ontario, and London, England, to name a few.

I have spent enjoyable week nights and weekends in my library, attending as many as four meetings a day plus a Sherlockian movie. All of us have learned from each other and expanded our knowledge of the Canon, Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and John Watson and heard scholarly presentations from the best in the hobby. But most of all we have made good friends.

Many of our Legion of Zoom members have contributed to the growth of our fandom by giving presentations to different groups. My good friend Steve Mason's idea to form a virtual group has come to fruition.

As an officer in the Legion of Zoom, I am proud to have attended the first of, hopefully, many conferences with many friends and great speakers. I hope we can continue to meet virtually in the future.

I ask you to raise your glasses and toast the Legion of Zoom and all who are here today.