

Minutes of the ICG Board Meeting

May 17, 2013 – Aurora, CO

Convened 9:36 AM

Recessed 11:58 AM

Re-convened: 12:11 PM

Adjourned 12:13 PM

In Attendance

Philip Gust (Pres.), Mary Ellen Smith, Jeanine Swick (Treas.), Byron Connell, Bruce Mai, Janice Dallas, Pierre Pettinger (Parl.), Henry Osier, Aurora Celeste (V.P.) , Carole Parker, Sarah Richardson, Dawn McKechnie, Stace Feldman, Michele Jaye Solomon, Elaine Mami, Kathe Gust (Rec. Sec), Maral Agnerian

No additions or modifications to the agenda were offered.

President's Report

Philip Gust reported that he had promised to contact every ICG chapter during the first year of his office and has done so. Several of the chapters are large and thriving, some are smaller and doing less well. Some new chapters would like more guidance on how to accomplish some basic things such as setting up websites. The Oklahoma chapter folded last year due to a perceived lack of value in remaining with ICG.

The questions on the table for the next year are addressing how the organization can provide value and increased communication with current chapters, as well as help for new ones that might like to form. The president would like the board to consider ways to strengthen at risk chapters and plans to focus on those topics for the next year.

Henry Osier queried whether 2 members are enough to keep a chapter active. The parliamentarian stated that there is a minimum number required to found a chapter, but not to maintain active status.

The board had a discussion of the standing committees and hoped the new Communications and Public Relations committee could assist chapters in finding methods of promoting themselves locally. The board is also hoping that committee could come up with some ideas for a more global communication plan as well.

Aurora Celeste remarked that at this time a new ad-hoc committee she is chairing is still forming. It will focus on developing ideas and finding new ways for ICG to offer more value to member chapters at low or reasonable cost to the organization.

Chapter Reviews

Janice Dallas (Northern Lights) reported about 47 members in her chapter with about half of those Anime costumers. Her chapter recruits at ARISIA convention and gives an award at that masquerade. Their members help run various conventions and they can field a good technical support group when needed. For promotion they also show an ICG DVD at the recruitment table. They typically hold Sunday

breakfast meetings and have identified a fabric store that lets them meet and work on projects. They would like assistance with publicity.

Dawn McKechnie (Fibre Fantasy Artists) reported that the Canadians are not only diverse in style, but many do not own cars, so they are unable to meet aside from conventions, where many of them volunteer. They would like to see more value for their chapter coming from ICG.

Byron Connell (NJ/NY) reported that they have 15 official ICG members, but also another 10 or so, who are not members of ICG. They are geographically dispersed, like the Canadians, but are fortunate to have a local core that can meet 6 times a year. They include an educational event at those meetings. They also do “field trips” together. They currently have low financial reserves due to losses at CC 29. It will take time to re-build those.

Mary Ellen Smith (Utah) reports that the Utah chapter sadly lost a member in February due to cancer. Their small core group is formed of older costumers and basically burned out from doing things over many years. They have diverse members and have problems with people joining briefly to mine the group for expertise, but not contributing back. Some very good ideas for events and promotion came from this group. Reverse Trick-or-treat – taking candy, prizes, toiletries, etc. to places like hospitals, Ronald McDonald House or retirement homes. They also run make-up and costume workshops for Halloween in Public Libraries and they participate in their local St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Stace Feldman (Madison) reported about 12 members with an equal number of hanger’s on. They are very active at GeekCon where they volunteer. They also do a few workshops each year and have bid for CC 34.

Michele Jaye Solomon (Chicagoland) reports that they have about 20 members and do a lot of historical programming. They participate in Military History Fest and run a popular Victorian Tea event. This year they did a U.S.O. canteen which was so successful that they were asked to consider repeating it. The group will share recipes upon request. They offer an annual Halloween party and competition. The volunteer at WindyCon and other conventions and do “Landfill” and “Chaos” costuming and other day long events. Another idea is the Three-draw pattern competition, where 3 patterns are drawn by the judges from a group of 10 possibles and the contestants have to use at least part of all three, rather like Iron Chef.

Henry Osier (Armed Costumers) reported his group grows slowly. They use social media for communication and are often contacted by students who need assistance with writing papers. They support a large Dr. Who convention called Tardis. Steampunk is a growing area of interest for them and allows older fans of both historical and science fiction to feel comfortable in the group.

Sarah Richardson (Greater Columbia) reported that they have about 28 between members and hanger’s on. They have increased their public relations and use Website, and Google+. They are looking at adding a Facebook page. They hold about 6 workshops per year and hold a “costumer’s auction” to raise funds for the group. Sarah personally sponsors several new members for a year to get them interested in the group. They also volunteer at the Baltimore free haunt as a safe event for people at Halloween.

Bruce Mai (St. Louis) reports that their chapter meets every six weeks, but most of them live within a 20 mile area. They have few new members, but don’t really seek them either. This is an older chapter with

many very tired participants. Archcon is the main convention they support, but there are issues with the programming director, so they are limited in what they can do. They are very committed to Costume Con. Their Facebook page does have some followers. And their events tend to be "Photo shoots" with a topic.

Elaine Mami (Southwest) reports that the group in Arizona consists mainly of re-enactors, mostly historical such as SCA, but there are a few SciFi as well. The core group is very active with local conventions (Leprecon) and hold one social and one workshop each month. Many of the workshops are devoted to making things which are sold at events to raise money for the group. They have trouble recruiting leadership positions and need to contact more groups outside metropolitan Phoenix.

Carole Parker (Silicon Web) reported that the geographically dispersed cyber group meets mainly at conventions and stays in touch via social media. Many are individually active, but the main chapter activity is presenting the Dreamcatcher Award at conventions if there are enough members to make that possible.

Henry Osier proposed recessing the Board Meeting in order to hold the Members meeting. Byron Connell seconded the motion and it was passed.

The General meeting began at 11:12 AM and ran until 12:10 PM (minutes are separate)

The president reconvened the board meeting at 12:11 PM

Adoption of Slate of Officers

The list of the officers selected by the members was read at this point. There was a motion by Byron Connell to adopt the slate of officers as stated. Carole Parker seconded the motion and it passed with Aurora Celeste and Henry Osier opposed on principle.

Michele Jaye Solomon proposed ajourning the meeting. Stace Feldman seconded the motion. The proposal passed and the Board Meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM

Minutes of the ICG General Meeting

May 17, 2013 – Aurora, CO

Convened 11:12 AM

Adjourned 12:10 PM

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 AM

Proxies were turned in to Jeanine Swick. Copies of the agenda and previous minutes were distributed.

There were no emendations or error corrections proposed for the minutes. Byron Connell moved to approve the minutes. Carole Parker seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with an abstention by Henry Osier.

Officer Reports

The President offered a report on the state of the corporation. Finances are in good shape. The move to online newsletter had a particularly noticeable effect on the bottom line. Chapter reports are generally good, but some chapters are experiencing challenges. The online newsletter is a success. Thanks to both old and current newsletter editors. The focus of the upcoming year will be adding value to chapters and building new chapters. The secondary focus will be to continue to build bridges to other costuming groups.

* The Vice President had nothing to report.

The Treasurer reported as of December 2012 we had a little over \$10,000 and now have over \$14,000. There are no outstanding liabilities. There were several donations to support the archives. At the present time there are 17 chapters with 477 active members.

The Corresponding Secretary was unable to attend and did not send in anything to report.

The Recording Secretary reported one board action in 2012. This motion dealt with appointment of a new newsletter editor upon the retirement of Patrick O'Connor. Carole Parker was appointed.

Standing Committee Reports

The Budget and Finance Committee reported that the budget was approved on time and all quarterly reports and tax forms have been filed.

The Publications Committee reported that the International Costumer is officially an electronic publication. The retired editor is still mailing a few copies in print to members with no online access. An informal poll of the members present confirmed that the title is accepted, and that they like the content. The Lifetime Achievement Winner profiles are particularly enjoyed. Suggestion for future content of a random member spotlight came from Aurora Celeste. Carole also agreed to post submission guidelines to help members who wish to be published. An announcement was made that Costumer's Quarterly, an out of print magazine produced by the ICG, is now available on the website with a table of contents listing and author index.

The Technology and Web Committee reported that constraints from our current hosting vendor, 1 and 1, may make it necessary to find a new host. There are also issues with the Gallery software that make this change attractive. The group will be looking for a new host that can support Gallery and where we may be able to also offer website hosting for our chapters.

The Communication and Public Relations Committee has been formed under the leadership of Minnesota Society of Costumers President Erin Schneider. They will start up in June. Henry Osier was recently appointed to the committee.

Other Reports

The Archives and Gallery Committee report that there have been recent support issues with Gallery. The archives have been offering scanning service to other groups as a way to acquire older photos for the archive. Many of these groups are content to let us keep the print in our archives and return them only digital copies. The Gallery also has a Facebook page and YouTube channel. They are tracing statistics on both sites. More videos will be added to the YouTube channel soon, and the group is providing some video for the half-time of the Costume Con masquerade as well as creating more road shows. They have a new projector and new equipment which will allow them to create “on the fly” shows about costumers who are in the audience of a presentation.

The Parliamentarian reported that there may be a need to fix some inconsistencies in the standing rules in order to clean up some problems. The changes are largely “cosmetic”, but should be undertaken.

Carole Parker asked: Does this require board (of directors) action?

Response: Yes, there is a process for it that needs to be followed.

Group Exemption Letter (GEL) Administrator was not present at the meeting to report. The President reported that there are some places where the information on GEL is not complete and needs to be filled in. Please contact the President about this if your chapter participates in GEL.

Fundraising Committee reports that there are still items on CafePress for sale. They can be found on our website, but although new items are added from time to time, nothing has sold in about 2 years. They committee would like to propose adding new designs rather than just the current logo. They also plan to approach the original logo designer in hope of getting a better version of the logo and one that is actually in color, rather than colorized.

Comment from Jeanine Swick: When new items are added put that into the newsletter.

Response: Have been announcing on ICG-D, but can do newsletter also and promote this more.

Old Business

The migration from Yahoo groups to Google is very difficult and will take considerable time and effort. There is a Google groups for non-profits and we are members of that, but moving our back archive is not straightforward. Since Yahoo groups still seem to be stable at this time, movement is no longer being pursued by the technical team.

No other old business was proposed or discussed.

New Business

Ann Davenport asked whether anyone had contacted DragonCon TV to find out whether they were interested in showing any of our videos. The Archives and Gallery Committee will inquire.

Election of Officers

Officer Nominations were read from the list approved by the Board. There was a call for nominations from the floor, but none were submitted. A motion to approve the list was moved by Michele Jaye Solomon and seconded by Byron Connell. Henry Osier and Nora Mai abstained. Aurora Celeste opposed. Motion carried to elect the slate as read. There were 18 proxy ballots counted.

Leah Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. Laura Ulak seconded. Henry Osier abstained courteously. The General Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.