

## Summary of the 2018 President's Remarks:

My personal theme for the past year has been "Building a Foundation" It's been a learning experience as well as I've gotten used to the position of President, and I'm grateful for the help and guidance Philip Gust has generously provided as well as the long-standing service of officers like Jeanine Swick for keeping us all on the straight and narrow. Philip's leadership left us in an great place financially and with many wonderful programs just begging for people to take advantage of them. This year we have gotten several foundational pieces in place so we can start moving forward again and building up the International Costumers' Guild as an organization that people want to join and support.

We have opened new avenues of communication for our global membership with Slack and the Facebook group. We also now have our beautiful new website up and running, after an enormous effort on the part of our tech committee. Unfortunately, the ICG Archives has been offline for quite some time as the software supporting it is no longer secure or supported by modern web software. Having it down is a blow but we have a team volunteering their time and talent to transfer the enormously valuable collection to a modern software that can support it properly. This will unfortunately take some time but when it's done, it'll be back and better than ever! All told, I'm pleased with the platform that we've established and believe that it's something we can build off of in several directions.

I'm especially pleased that we have a large new chapter in New Orleans forming up right now, and the Cosplay Photography SIG that's taking advantage of our programs. Both groups have come to us as already operational organizations and I think we could do really well recruiting other small cosplay organizations and bringing them into our community. We have a lot to offer organizations as a whole, more than we really offer to individual costumers, and I think should try to reach out to similar cosplay clubs around the country to offer our support as well as work to develop products that these small clubs as well as our current chapters would find valuable.

The other issue that I've been investigating during my first term as president is a problem that all organizations face- where only a small fraction of members are interested in stepping up to do the hard work that goes into running our chapters and the ICG as a whole. Time and again as I've talked to members around the country I've run into this issue. While many members are very interested in attending fun and educational guild events, fewer are willing to step up and do the work to hold them. Symptoms include struggling to fill guild officer positions, a lack of events being organized on a chapter level, and even disinterest in attending events that are planned. Even some of our chapters that are outwardly doing very well with actively planned and executed events are doing so well only because a few individuals are doing all of the work. It's a problem we've discussed on the BoD list and that I've discussed individually with several of you

too, and while there isn't a single easy solution. However, it is something that we can combat because the keys are all in place for us to use.

I assume, since everyone here is here and attending the member meeting that you are some of the most involved and active members of your chapters. Many of us will be either on stage or helping run one of the shows this weekend and we are the people who can really make a difference in the community. I would like us all to increase our engagement and consider how we are representing the ICG to the rest of the costuming community. Fight back against the "-isms" Sexism, Racism, Ageism- we don't want to be a group that excludes people and sometimes we need to be more actively welcoming of everyone instead of passively welcoming.

Local community engagement. Some of our chapters, like the Portland Time Travelers' Guild, do this really well. They've built relationships with other groups in the costuming and convention communities. When other organizations hold events, the Time Travelers' will show up and support it- and vice versa!

Transparency. I think that the ICG is run in a very opaque fashion. It's not something that we are trying to do but it has happened anyways. Until I decided to run for President I didn't really feel any connection to the wider ICG community even though I wanted to. I would like to encourage members become more involved on the ICG level. I would love to see more members joining our committees. Chapters vary in size and obviously aren't going to send a member to participate in every committee but I hope that the Treasurers will join the Budget Committee and participate in the discussions there- as is encouraged in our Standing Rules! I know the Publications and PR committees would also welcome representatives from each chapter to help with their work too. The more people who participate in these committees, the more they can accomplish. I have a laundry list of things I'd like the Tech Committee to do, and we are restricted by the time our members can volunteer. By serving on these committees, and gaining experience with process of how they and the ICG as a whole function.

I look forward to growing the ICG through the next few years and hope that we can bring a greater degree of participation on all levels of the organization.