

International Costumer

Volume XX Issue 6

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"Skating." by Henry Sandham. Published by L. Prang & Co. 1885. Image: [Library of Congress](#).

From the President's Desk

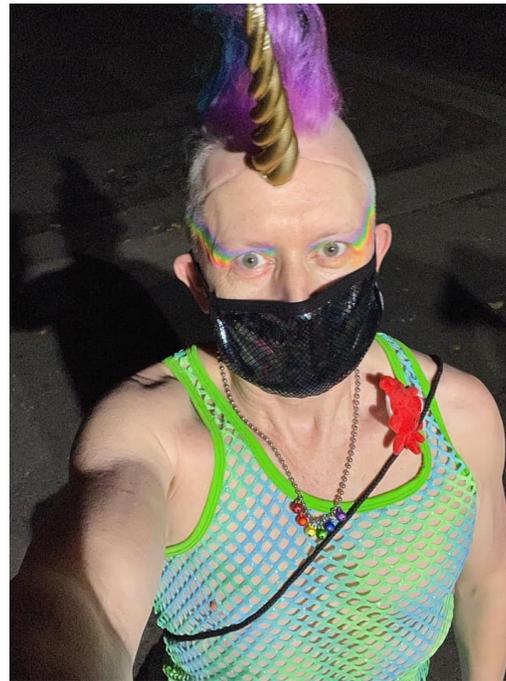
Kevin Roche

It's been eight months since we have had a permanent editor for the *International Costumer*, and right up front I want to thank Phil Gust for editing these last four issues.

I know it's been a rough second year as we cope with the continuing pandemic and its restrictions, and I'm sorry to say the Time Travelers Costume Guild, after a long silence, finally officially notified us that because they are currently unable to do any in-person events, they had decided to withdraw from the ICG. I wish them well, and hope perhaps they may re-join us at a future date.

The world is starting to open up a bit, and the prospect will I hope spur our creativity into a higher gear. I had my first real costume-bunny bite just in time for Halloween, for a small Twisted Fairy Tales backyard gathering, and banged out a "Little Merman" costume. (at right).

Andy and I are also looking forward to our first in-person convention in nearly 2 years, flying to Discon 3 (the 2021 Worldcon) in Washington, DC in mid-December, and are also making preliminary plans for Further Confusion, Gallifrey One, and Costume-Con 40 in early 2022. We're waiting to see how things work in the current public health climate, and will be actively assessing and managing risk along the way.



Kevin's "Little Merman" Halloween costume

Zooming Along

Several Chapters have been making great use of the ICG Zoom Pro account for virtual meetings and events, and I encourage any Chapter or SIG (or committee, or group of members) who wish to do so as well contact me or the ICG Treasurer to be added to the access list.

We have a calendar set up in Google Workspace to help avoid double-booking the zoom account. The ICG Pro account has one definite advantage over personal Zoom accounts, as it has no built in time limit like they do. Use of the ICG Zoom account is a benefit available to ICG chapters and SIGs, and by extension, all members in good standing. If you have a group that can take advantage of it, reach out!

Business of the Board

Right now the Board of Directors is considering some revisions to the ICG Standing Rules to clarify their language regarding Directors representing chapters, and to review and approve the 2022 budget. The latter is a regular part of our corporate calendar, but the former is a first step

towards a larger review of our governing documents (Bylaws and Standing Rules). Updating those governing documents is one of my goals for the upcoming year, so I'm thrilled that we are finally making a start.

If you are interested in being part of that review process, please let me know via icg-president@costume.org so I can build a robust and diverse committee to handle the task!

Looking Ahead to 2022

Lifetime Achievement Award

It's never too early to start considering nominations for the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award! Nominations are due 60 days before the Annual Members Meeting, which (if I'm counting correctly) is January 31, 2022. Please visit the website at <https://costume.org/wp/icg-lifetime-achievement-award/> to see the details about eligibility and how to prepare a nomination. Nominations can be made by any ICG member, chapter, or SIG in good standing.

ICG Annual Meeting

Public Health situation permitting, we *are* planning to hold an in-person Annual Members Meeting at Costume-Con 40 in Bethesda. While the exact schedule has not been set, for the purpose of calculating deadlines, etc., consider the meeting date to be April 1, 2022 (and that's no joke!)

If you can't attend in person, you can submit a proxy for someone to vote on your behalf, either via a Google Form: <https://forms.gle/XsW9jnGvoZjZjcX47>, by printing, and sending the form at: <https://costume.org/wp/about-the-international-costumers-guild/icg-annual-meeting-proxy-form/>, or by copying and sending the proxy form in this issue.

Annual Elections

The annual meeting includes our annual elections. Nominations for board officers are due to me via icg-president@costume.org 30 days prior to the annual meeting, Wednesday, March 2, 2022. I have not yet polled the current officers to see if they are standing for re-election, but we still have a vacancy, for Corresponding

Secretary, so please consider lending your time and talent to the corporate board as an officer. I can say that (since I am currently receiving the email coming into that mailbox) that the duties are not particularly onerous, and it would be a tremendous help next year to have a full set of officers.

Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund

The Marty Gear Fund continues to accept grant applications, but it has been a while since the committee has received one. COVID-19 restrictions in the last several years may be one reason, but as restrictions lift, we hope to start receiving applications. Visit <https://costume.org/wp/marty-gear-costuming-arts-and-sciences-fund/> for more information on the fund and the grant process.

Other Ways to Pitch In

- **Newsletter Editor:**

We still need of an editor for the *International Costumer!* (This does not have to be a solo job -- if two members would like to take on the task as co-editors, that would be a great way to fill this need.)

- **Committees:** I mentioned the governing documents review committee above. We also need to build up the continuing ICG Guidelines committee, including a team to render the existing PDF file into a more web-friendly format. Have a look at the standing committees (<https://costume.org/wp/about-the-international-costumers-guild/committees/>) and see if you can lend a hand!

Don't forget the cos-chat Google Group!

The ICG Tech committee finally implemented our new Google Group-based replacement for ICG-D, cos-chat@costume.org. This moderated chat group is sponsored by the International Costumers Guild (ICG), but you do not need to be a member to participate in it! You can either access this as a web forum or use it as a mailing list (like the old ICG-D). Current privacy regulations (and Google TOS) mean we can't simply add members of the old Yahoo Group to the new group, though we are working on a broadcast invitation.

Here are two ways to sign up:

- If you have gmail or another Google mail account, visit <https://groups.google.com/a/costume.org/g/cos-chat>
- If you do not, email cos-chat+subscribe@costume.org from the address you want to subscribe!

We hope the list will become a lively online gathering and conversation space!

PS. A couple more photos (at right) of the Halloween costume. Yes, the current brand of hair color I'm using is actually UV reactive (fluorescent)!

Guest Editor's Letter

Philip Gust

On behalf of the Publications Committee, I would like to thank Melina Chestley for her services as editor of the *International Costumer*. through the March-April issue. This has been a challenging time because so many costuming activities have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, and she has done a spectacular job



finding interesting content to include in each issue.

This end-of-year issue includes reports from your President, Vice President, and Treasurer and a proxy form for the ICG Annual Meeting at Costume-Con 40 that you can print if you would rather designate your proxy that way.

Open Newsletter Positions

The *International Costumer* newsletter helps members stay in touch with what is happening in the ICG. Editing and distributing the newsletter depends on members like you to donate their time and talents in service of the costuming community. If you are interested in these positions and/or want further information, please contact me at icg-newsletter@costume.org

Editor(s): responsible for soliciting content and creating the newsletter (6 issues per year).

Website helpers; responsible for uploading the newsletter to the website and sending the newsletter announcements to the mailing list.

Thoughts from the Vice President

Leslie L. Johnston

Coming into a leadership role in the ICG when there was no way to meet in person with colleagues and friends was certainly an interesting challenge. Many kudos to ICG President Kevin Roche and the Technology and Web Committee for their quick work in pivoting many of our processes into virtual ones. I've been part of the ICG since its earliest days; it's a community that provides a home for me.

In my professional, personal, and ICG life, I've very much noticed how difficult it is to stay aware of what's going on with groups and events and even friends. There is a huge diversity of groups whose members are experiencing the same struggle. And every group, including the ICG, needs to look at ways to get the word out about their organizations and build participation.

I used to seriously dislike the phrase "Managing your Brand" to describe an organization and the efforts it takes to succeed, but the pandemic shifted my

thoughts as I saw other groups I belonged to go away. It used to be enough to just exist; now we're one of many.

The internet and social media are just one part of it: during the pandemic I've seen so many groups create a Facebook page/group and an event and never speak of it again, then wonder why there was low participation. It takes a surprising amount of ongoing, proactive outreach across multiple platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and even old school email) to grab attention.

This is the time to make sure we're using all the technology platforms that we already have to their fullest for internal and external engagement, and invest efforts and resources where we can in new technologies.

The ICG and costuming are first and foremost about the creative people who are part of our community, so we also have to nurture our personal and organizational relationships too. But we already do that, you say! Yes we do, and we're really successful in so

many ways. But we should be trying to provide even more opportunities to connect and share with each other, and meet new people who aren't yet aware of the ICG and all it has to offer, especially the regional Chapters and Interest Groups.

In-person events are coming back—Yay!—so let's get out there in a safe way and reconnect and let people know about the ICG, whether it's as simple as putting out flyers at cons or mentioning it when we're on panels. The Public Relations page on the ICG website has brochures and templates (<http://costume.org/wp/public-relations/>)

Let's use our technology platforms to promote our virtual events and online resources such as the ICG Archives Gallery (<https://gallery.costume.org/>) and the affiliated Costume-Con Visual Archive (<https://www.costume-con.org/>), collaborate more with other groups, and to share in-person opportunities.

Let's give everyone the tools to revitalize the connections we have with each other, and to grow our community.

Treasurer's Report

Jeanine Swick

The last two years has hit us hard as we have lost several chapters for various reasons including as fall-out from the COVID-19 epidemic. Our membership currently stands at 201 members in good standing with an additional 30 recently expired in 14 chapters and 4 special interest groups. Chapter reports are still coming in at so there may be renewals in process that have not reached me. This is down from 358 members in 18 chapters and 4 special interest groups January 2020.

Chapter membership reports are due by the 7th of each month, even if there is no change in member roster. Just report that there have been no changes. Submitting a member's dues monthly is very important along with keeping your chapter's membership roster up to date. When a chapter does not submit members' dues for months at a time, their members—especially new members—do not get on the ICG master roster and miss out on member benefits such as this newsletter.

The Finance Committee is currently reviewing the 2022 budget before submitting it to the Board for approval. The budget must be approved by the Board by Dec. 31, 2021. Once it is approved, it will be posted to the Financial Statements page on the ICG website (<http://costume.org/wp/about-the-international-costumers-guild/financial-statements/>). The page also has the 2021 budget and financial statements for the first three quarters of 2021.

A review of 2021 financial statements shows that the ICG continues to be on a sound financial footing, with sufficient resources to carry out its mission and weather any temporary decrease in income from membership dues resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on chapters.

As a 401(c)(3) the ICG also receives income from donations and from member purchases made through the Amazon Smile program by using <https://smile.amazon.com> for online purchases and specifying *International Costumers Guild Inc. (Lunenburg MA)* as the beneficiary.

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con. If you want to vote, print and complete the form and give it to someone who will be attending. You must sign this form for it to be valid.

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International Costumers' Guild 2022 Annual Meeting Proxy Assignment Form

On this _____ day of _____, 20____, I, _____,
assign my vote to and authorize the below named member of the International Costumers' Guild,
belonging to _____ Chapter, to represent me in all
busines coming before the 2022 Annual Meeting of the International Costumers' Guild.

Assignee Name*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Assigner Name**: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Signature: _____

**Who you are authorizing to vote on your behalf.*

***Your name.*

About the ICG

Membership Benefits

ICG membership benefits include participation in local Chapters and in Special Interest Groups, voting rights, eligibility for grants, online forums, learning and volunteer opportunities, and the *International Costumer*.

ICG Online

ICG website: <http://www.costume.org/>

ICG Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/internationalcostumers>

ICG Gallery

<https://gallery.costume.org/>

Members-only Google discussion group:

<https://groups.google.com/a/costume.org/g/cos-chat>

ICG Board meeting Google group:

<http://groups.google.com/u/6/a/board.costume.org/g/meeting>

Use Amazon Smile to support the ICG:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1656188>

Board of Directors:

icg-board@costume.org

Budget and Finance Committee:

icg-financecommittee@costume.org

Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund

icg-grants@costume.org

Public Relations Committee:

icg-prcommittee@costume.org

Publications Committee:

icg-pubscommittee@costume.org

Technology & Web Committee:

icg-techcommittee@costume.org

Guidelines Committee:

<http://guidelines-committee@board.costume.org>

Officers

President: Kevin Roche

icg-president@costume.org

Vice President: Leslie Johnston

icg-vice-president@costume.org

Treasurer: Jeanine Swick

icg-treasurer@costume.org

Corresponding Secretary: *vacant*

icg-corr-secretary@costume.org

Recording Secretary: Anne Davenport

icg-rec-secretary@costume.org

Helpful Hands

International Costumer editor: *vacant*

icg-newsletter@costume.org

Webmaster: Philip Gust

webmaster@costume.org

Archivist: Pierre Pettinger

icg-archivist@costume.org

Gallery Administrator: Nora Mai

Gallery Webmaster: Leslie Johnston

gallery-admin@costume.org

GEL Administrator: Bruce MacDermott

gel-admin@costume.org

Assistant Administrator: Elaine Sims

Parliamentarian: Pierre Pettinger

icg-parliamentarian@costume.org

The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund

The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund provides grants for projects and activities that promote the art and science of costuming. For information on how to apply for a grant, please visit

<http://www.costume.org/grants/grants.html>

About *The International Costumer*

The *International Costumer* newsletter is published bi-monthly by the ICG. The current issue is for members only. Back issues are freely available to the costuming community on the ICG website.

Online Submissions

We welcome short costuming articles, book reviews, event reports, and news items. Submit your copy as rtf, doc, docx or txt files to the editor at icg-newsletter@costume.org. All graphics formats are accepted.

Contacting the Editor

Please contact the editor to report problems, or to offer comments and suggestions:
icg-newsletter@costume.org.

Newsletter Delivery

The *International Costumer* is available as both an online and print edition. Your preference is part of your ICG membership record. To update your information or change your preference, contact your local chapter. Returned copies of the print edition cannot be re-mailed.

Members who have an e-mail address on record are notified when a new issue is available.

Access the online edition at

<http://costume.org/wp/the-international-costumer-newsletter/> The user name is

"**costumer**" and password is "Holiday Magic".

Editorial Board

Melina Chestley, Betsy Marks, Kathe Gust, Philip Gust, Andrea Lewis, Patrick O'Connor, Kevin Roche, Jeanine Swick, Randall Whitlock.