

The International Costumer

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

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<http://www.costume.org>

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From The President's Desk — November 2023

By Kevin Roche

Well then, in the last three months, I've been to Sweden to catch Covid-19, helped run a rodeo, presented on the possibilities of quantum computing for weather/climate forecasting, and attended PacAnthro Weekend aka PAWCon, as well as trying to keep the routine business of the ICG ticking along...

Peregrinations and other fluffy stuff

My last post was from SeaTac airport as we were en route to Reykjavik and Stockholm for a long-overdue non-volunteering vacation. Reykjavik was a far-too short visit, and on Monday we moved into our lovely-if-at-the-top-of-4-flights-of-stairs apartment in the middle of Gamla Stan (The Old Town section of Stockholm). Tuesday we attended the dress rehearsal performance of *Allsang på Skansen*, a weekly sing-along concert which has been held during the summer in Skansen Park since 1935. I had my rainbow mohawk up and was wearing one of the rainbow shirts I'd sewn, and ended up getting pulled out of my seat to dance by Pernilla Wahlgren, the current host of the show. If we'd been there for the broadcast rather than the rehearsal, I'd have been on Swedish TV and streaming!



Kevin dancing with Pernilla Wahlgren at Allsang på Skansen



Toy Unicorn Kevin went to Pride while Kevin isolated in the attic bedroom

Unfortunately, that evening I started feeling poorly, and tested positive for Covid-19 the following morning. I spent the next five days isolating in the attic bedroom while the rest of our party went to Stockholm Pride. A squishy rainbow-maned unicorn toy served as my avatar at those events.

I did recover to do some (quiet) sightseeing our second week in town, including a visit to Uppsala, but missed all of the Pride

events. Even so, it was still a good trip, and we intend to go again in 2026.

In September we helped run the Bay Area Gay Rodeo in Guerneville (where I was honored to sing the Canadian and US Anthems again this year), and just a week and a half ago we attended PAWCon (aka Pac Anthro Weekend) just for fun here in San Jose. I bought my first “petsuit” (printed spandex bodysuit) in advance of the convention which turned out to be great fun, and am plotting ways to use it as a base layer for future costumes.

And (slightly less fluffy), as I hinted in the opening, I presented about the potential for Quantum Computing to be used for weather/climate modeling and forecasting to the Storm, Flood, and Sea Level Defense Conference 2023. The short answer: the technology isn't powerful enough yet to be useful, but there is a 100,000 qubit quantum-focused supercomputing project underway which could get us there inside the decade.

ICG Business

- You may have noticed a subtle change in a few places on our website. The board agreed we should explicitly mention cosplay in our masthead as an act of inclusion. Thanks to Phil Gust for executing the request so quickly. We have members and potential members who identify as cosplayers more than they do as costumers, and this makes it clear that we consider their art a part of what we do; it's a simple signal of outreach.
This is actually a simple foretaste of the work our Governing Documents Review Committee is undertaking to position the ICG to thrive more in years to come. I've written a separate article on this project.
- Right now the Board of Directors has reviewed and is in the process of approving the [proposed ICG Budget for 2024](#). There are tweaks to a few line items for the Annual Meeting, the Archives and the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences fund. Thanks to everyone who offered feedback to their Board representatives! The annual budget is our best (educated) guess on what it will cost to operate for the year to come; note that some line items are to cover contingencies that may not come to pass.
- This year's Annual meeting will be held at Costume-Con 42 in Aurora, Colorado, the weekend of March 29-April 1 (after a day of excursions on March 28). The meeting is currently scheduled for the morning of Friday, March 29th. That means that *now is not too early to think about*:
 - Reports to present at the annual meeting
 - Ratification of the revised ICG Governing Documents, if they are ready.
 - Items for the Agenda
 - If you cannot attend and wish to assign your voting proxy for the officer election and any other business for the Annual Meeting, you can [fill out the online Proxy Form](#)
 - Considering nominations for the [ICG Lifetime Achievement Award](#) (or asking me to reactivate a

nomination from last year)

- Nominations for ICG Officers
- The ICG is a 100% volunteer-run organization, and right now we are sorely short of members on several committees. A relatively small group of people is bearing the load of maintaining all of our activities, and that is not healthy for either those people or the Guild as a whole. Please consider whether you can dedicate a bit of your time and talent to helping us function:
 - pubs committee (We still lack both an International Costumer editor, and a ICG Press editor!)
 - public relations committee (chair, members)
 - tech and web committee (assistant webmasters)
 - volunteers to work as assistant archivists (various roles)
- Several chapters have started leveraging our online resources (Zoom and Google workspace). Consider how they might make be useful to you!

As we come up on the winter holiday season, I hope you and yours stay healthy and happy, and find frequent opportunities to dress to the nines during any celebrations you attend. I'm looking forward to Further Confusion in January, and Boskone (where I am honored to be attending as this year's Hal Clement Science Speaker) and Gallifrey One in February. Stay safe and wear silly clothes!

Kevin Roche
ICG President

SiW Member Richard Man Receives 2023 Hugo Award

By Philip Gust

On October 21 at the 2023 Worldcon in Chengdu China, Silicon Web Costumers' Guild member Richard Man received the "Best Fan Artist" Hugo award for his "Worldbuilders of Science

Richard Man

文復明



2023 Hugo Award Winner
Best Fan Artist



Fiction and Fantasy” photography project. According to Richard, he is the first photographer nominated for this award.

Starting in 2015, Richard set out to photograph SF&F genre creators: writers, artists, occasionally editors, etc, using a traditional large-format 4"x5" film camera. This painstaking photography process captures the essence of the person in front of the camera; a picture that tells a thousand-word story. Richard has also been

photographing portraits of costumers with a similar setup and intent.

Richard talked about his project during a “Silicon Web Costumers Guild Presents” webinar on September 10, 2023, including his goals for the project and the equipment he uses. He also showed some of the photographs he has taken of sci-fi/fantasy authors. A recording of the webinar is available on the SiW website (<https://siwcostumers.org/webinars>).

Congratulations, Richard!

ICG Board Commendation for Richard Man

By Kevin Roche

On October 24, 2023, the International Costumers Guild Board of Directors unanimously voted to commend and congratulate photographer Richard Man for his [winning the 2023 Hugo Award for Best Fan Artist](#):

The International Costumers’ Guild extends its warmest congratulations to Richard Man, noted photographer of costumers and cosplayers, on being awarded Best Fan Artist by the World



Richard Man giving his acceptance speech for the 2023 Hugo Best Fan Artist Award. Photo (c) 2023 by Helen Montgomery, used with permission

Science Fiction Society at the 2023 world science fiction convention, in Chengdu, China

Richard is a member of the Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild, and has long been documenting costumers and cosplayers as well as SF genre creators. He has been official photographer at many conventions, and including heading the visual archives department for Costume-Con 26.

Richard will be presented with a commemorative copy of the resolution by ICG President Kevin Roche.

The Future of the ICG: Rewriting our Governing Documents

By Kevin Roche



The Bylaws and Standing Rules of the International Costumers Guild (our Governing Documents) dictate how the ICG operates as a corporation and define the relationship between the corporate executive component (ICG Board and Officers) and its chapters and members.

We have been tweaking and tuning our Governing Documents since the ICG’s inception in 1989, and as the Guild approaches its 35th anniversary, their patchwork nature is starting to fray and make it harder for us to keep things going. With that in mind, I have launched a Governing Documents Review Committee charged with the goal of

revising, restating and reorganizing those documents to present for ratification by the Guild, I hope by our Annual Meeting in March 2024.

The intention is *not* to restructure the Guild, but to clarify our operations in a way consonant with contemporary non-profit business practices. This article will, I hope, explain what I mean by that, encourage you to support the process, and ratify the result when the committee returns their proposal.

So, what's wrong with our existing documents? If you've read them, you'll notice that the bylaws document's organization bounces back and forth between corporate (board), chapter, and member level directives, and the standing rules are organized mostly chronologically (when each rule was established). This makes them confusing, difficult to check for contradictions, and harder to extract definitive answers to some of our process questions. In short, I would sum this up by saying our current documents are *structurally defective*.

More standard practice in governing documents is to make them hierarchical. Generally speaking, items in earlier sections apply to all sections which follow them. The most global information (e.g. corporate identity and location, terms and definitions) appears first, and then more specific comes later. This makes for a much clearer and readable document, and, in particular, avoids the need of defining terms multiple times with the subsequent risk of contradiction in those definitions. In general, you can imagine this pyramid, for the ICG, as going from Corporation -> Board -> Officers -> Chapters -> Members.

Right now, our bylaws leap almost immediately to Members and Chapters, and then return to the corporate structure. This is an artifact of our focus during the founding of the ICG on leaving intact the relative independence of our member chapters. *That independence would not change by reorganization of the documents*. It can and should remain our governing principle, but we *do* have corporate-level assets and obligations which should be clearly laid out in the documents, and reorganizing them can dramatically clarify them.

Similarly, the mostly historical (chronological) statement of our Standing Rules leads to a lot of back-and-forth searching through the documents. We've made some significant improvements over the last few years, but I have suggested to the committee that we renumber and re-sort them to match the sections and numbering in the bylaws themselves. (If you are not used to dealing with corporate governing documents, the bylaws lay out the fundamental, more constant, structure and principles, and the Standing Rules are more easily-changed and flexible instructions on how to execute processes in that structure).

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild, which had bylaws based on the ICG bylaws, recently rewrote and adopted new documents in this new hierarchical structure, including a set of Standing Rules. I encourage you to visit their website and take a look (<https://siwcostumers.org/organization.html>). I think you will see how this format can make things far less incomprehensible.

My thanks again to the members of the Committee taking on this task; I hope we have something to present for ratification at the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con 42.

Kevin Roche
ICG President

Share Your Chapter and SIG Activities

By Philip Gust



If your chapter or SIG is doing things that you want to let ICG members know about, please contact me and I will set up an account for you to create blog posts that will also appear in the *International Costumer* newsletter.

Groups sharing their activities and experiences with other members is one of the benefits of belonging to the ICG; please take advantage of it! Just a few paragraphs and a photo is all it takes. Here are 10 ideas about things to share:

1. a museum exhibition that members visited
2. a community event that your group attended
3. a local convention that your group helps run
4. a community service project your group participated in
5. a recent costume photo shoot
6. how your group promotes itself locally
7. a summer picnic that your group held in a park
8. costumes for a recent movie that members discussed
9. costume projects from a members show-and-tell
10. a technique that a member demonstrated at a meeting

Philip Gust
 ICG Publications Committee
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Writing the History of Convention Costuming

By Bruce Mai

In addition to my other ICG Archives activities, I've been writing a series of posts on the International Costumers Gallery Facebook page for the past two or three years about the history of convention costuming. This is a personal interest of mine, as well as a focus of the ICG Archives.



The posts start with events in 1939, and I'm currently all the way up to 1966. My most recent post on October 4 was about several events of significance in 1966, including the creation of the Society for Creative Anachronism, and "Star Trek".

When I decided to do research for these posts, I started by finding all the old fanzines that I could. In the early days, a lot of

these fanzines included reports about masquerades and the people who participated in them. This was an invaluable source for documenting the history of these events.

Fortunately, the University of Iowa has the Rusty Hevlein collection (<https://diyhistory.lib.uiowa.edu/collections/show/18>), which was especially useful for the things about the first decade or so. They also house the M. Horvat collection (<https://aspace.lib.uiowa.edu/repositories/2/resources/703>), which was actually the most useful, but I had to travel there to look at it. Other collections I use include FANAC: the Fan History Project (<https://fanac.org/fanzines/>), and the J.K. Klein collection at the University of California Riverside (<https://sfts.ucr.edu/galleria/jk-klein-photography-collection>), which is all 1960s black and white photos that are wonderful.

I include links in my posts that refer to these sources, as well as to images in the ICG Archives, so that you can actually see the list of the winners of the masquerade, and the actual costumes that were made and who wore them.

There are still many years to go, but it has been a lot of fun and I'm looking forward to continuing the project. I also plan to do side features about specific costumers, or events, or significant things in costuming like the first cosplay video, which the ICG Archives also collects.

To read my posts on the history of convention costuming and other posts from the ICG Archives, visit the International Costumers Gallery page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064519521169>.

Bruce Mai
 Associate Archivist
 ICG Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives

ICG Archives is Looking for Fan Photos!

By Nora Mai



Anime costume by Alex Hegel at now defunct event from 2007.

we don't frequent.

If you have older print photos, we will scan them and return them to you along with the digitized images. That way you can pop them onto your computer, enjoy them, and share them with your friends, rather than having them stuck in albums that you haven't looked at in years.

So we want your photos! Contact us at icg-archivist@costume.org, and we will let you know how to get them to us.

Nora Mai
Associate Archivist
ICG Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives

The ICG Archives is looking for fan photos. What do we mean by that?

Our artform is so much more than just what you see on stage. We often get official photos from masquerade events but that is only a fraction of what shows up at a con or other event.

What we'd love to have is your personal photos of hall costumes or alternative views of stage costumes, and pics from events that don't have stage events – fairs and get-togethers. And there's many events we never see anything from because they're in a geographical area

Reenactress: Discovering the Women Warriors of the Civil War

By Philip Gust

On Sunday, Dec 10, 2024 at 1pm PT, 4pm ET, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild presents the webinar "Reenactress: Discovering the Women Warriors of the Civil War" with documentary director J.R. Hardman



Over 250 Civil War soldiers were actually women disguised as men. The number is so vague because the historical record is incomplete due to these heroines' amazing ability to pull off their disguises.

In her first full-length documentary, *Reenactress* (<https://reenactress.com>), J.R. Hardman reveals the history of women warriors who fought bravely in the service of their countries during the Civil War, both Confederate and Union, and the history and experiences of female Civil War reenactors and living historians who dress as soldiers to fight on the battlefield. In this webinar, She. will discuss how she was inspired to make the documentary and talk about the process of bringing these historical figures to life through reenactment.

Registration is open now. There is no fee for this event but the number of attendees is limited, so register soon.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAKc-gqrDsuHddMMeWCbl38Jb9XZeJyQMYe>

The chapter acknowledges the International Costumers' Guild Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund for a grant to help develop this webinar series, and the ICG for making Zoom available to chapters and SIGs.

Philip Gust
SiW Webinar Coordinator

About the International Costumers' Guild

The International Costumers' Guild (ICG) is an affiliation of hobbyist and professional costumers, dedicated to the promotion and education of costuming as an art form in all its aspects. The ICG is a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization.

Benefits

Member benefits include participation in local Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs), voting rights, eligibility for grants, online forums, social media, learning and volunteer opportunities, and announcements about ICG business and activities. Chapters and SIGs are eligible for tax-exempt status, Quickbooks, web hosting, Zoom, and Google Workspaces.

ICG Officers

- **President:** Kevin Roche (president@costume.org)
- **Vice President:** Leslie L. Johnston (vice-president@costume.org)
- **Treasurer:** Jeanine Swick (treasurer@costume.org)
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The International Costumer is published by the ICG Editorial Board. We welcome short costuming articles, book reviews, event reports, and news items. For the latest content, visit the [International Costumer webpage](#).

ICG Editorial Board: Kathe Gust, Philip Gust, Betsy Marks, Patrick O'Connor, Kevin Roche, Jeanine Swick, Randall Whitlock.