

International Costumer

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Change, Celebration, and the Future

Photo from <http://pixabay.com>

Incoming President's Message

By Marianne Pease

As I write my first Presidential message I am both excited and incredibly humbled. The Guild has been such an important influence in my own life. The shoes that I am stepping in now have never felt larger. I started cosplaying thirteen years ago by coercing my roommate with a sewing machine and skills to help me put together a Witch Hunter Robin dress for Halloween and the small science fiction and fantasy writing symposium my university hosted. I found the ICG around this time but didn't have any local chapter and sort of forgot about it for a few years until I moved to the DC area. There were anime conventions to go to but it was my first Balticon and getting in touch with the GCFCG was what cemented my love of costuming.

I spent months working on a Warhammer 40K dress, and went on stage at Balticon as a raw novice with very little confidence in what I was doing. I poured my heart and soul into that costume and was quite anxious through the interminable wait as the Judges made their decision. At the time, I had no idea who were the Novices and who were the Masters but there were an awful lot of very intimidating costumers backstage. I had hoped to win some sort of recognition for the work I did. When Marty Gear stood on stage and started announcing the awards my name wasn't called where I



Marianne Pease at CC35. Photo courtesy of Marianne Pease.

expected it to be. I stopped paying close attention and I actually missed it until my husband nudged me with a "Hey, they just called your name!" I must have still looked a little poleaxed because when I got to the stage, Marty asked, "You didn't think we'd forget you, did you?" I *had* thought I'd been forgotten, actually. No one except my ever-supportive husband had ever acknowledged and appreciated my efforts the way Marty and the Judges did in that one moment.

While I hope I got to talk with many of you at Costume-Con 35, there are even more that I haven't had the opportunity to meet

yet. I urge you to get in touch and let me know who you are and what your concerns, hopes, and ideas for the Guild are. I volunteered to serve as president because I believe in this organization, and I believe that we can do so much more for the cosplay and costuming communities. A year ago in Madison I sat down in the business meeting and made a personal resolution to get more involved in the guild on an international level. I thought about joining a committee or writing a few things for the newsletter. (which I guess I'll be doing after all!) When Mr. Philip Gust stood up and announced that he wouldn't be running for President again, but that he would be happy to help mentor someone else, I took it as a sign that I should either stand up or shut up.

Costuming has exploded in popularity since I was the only one not in jeans and t-shirt at that writing symposium. 30,000 people attended Otakon last year, 17,000 were at Katuscon, and 40,000 went to Awesome Con- and that's in the DC area alone. While not all convention goers are costumers, a significant number are. We as a guild have such a wealth of knowledge, history, and expertise among our members, and I have a passionate desire to see that it's shared. I want us to reach out to the rising generation of costumers and be able to ask, "You didn't think we'd forget you, did you?" We have a lot of room to grow and, with your support, I am excited to get to work.

Outgoing President's Message

By Philip Gust

The annual ICG Members Meeting and ICG Board of Directors meetings took place at Costume-Con 35 in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada on the morning of Friday, 21 April. Outgoing Recording Secretary Kathe Gust will post minutes of the meeting to the ICG website and send out an announcement when they are available.

Treasurer Jeanine Swick was unable to attend the meeting due to a horseback riding injury, but sent a written report that Kathe Gust read into the record. We wish Jeanine a speedy recovery. Other offices and committee chairs made their reports at the meeting.

Three officers did not stand for re-election this year. Rae Bradbury-Enslin served one term as Vice President. She was also on the ICG Guidelines revision committee whose work continues this year.

Kathe Gust served five terms as Recording Secretary. On the Communications and Public Relations Committee, Kathe created all the ICG PR brochures, business cards, and postcards on the website. She also created the chapter/SIG brochure and postcard templates, and the "PR Tips and



Philip and Kathe Gust as the 1967 "Summer of Love" tribute group, "Honey and Bear"

Media Guide," and "Events and Ideas Bank" articles for the Chapters and SIGs Resource Center. She contributed to the Publication Committee by finding, digitizing, and indexing back issues of the ICG newsletter and all ten years of the *Costumer's Quarterly* magazine.

This was also my final term as ICG President. I have served five terms, and two terms as Vice President before that. The ICG is in very good condition, so this is an ideal time for someone to bring their ideas and enthusiasm to the position. ICG founder Marty Gear served five terms as our longest-serving president, and I would also like his record to stand as a mark of my high esteem.

ICG members selected a new slate of officers, including Tonya Adolfson who will be serving her fourth term as Corresponding Secretary, and Jeanine Swick who will be serving for her ninth term as Treasurer. Joining them will be Anne Davenport as ICG Recording Secretary, Mera Babineaux as Vice President, and Marianne Pease as President. Their candidate statements are in the 2017 annual meeting agenda on the ICG website. Please join me in thanking the officers who have served in the past, those who continue to serve, and those who are beginning their

first terms. I am confident that the ICG is in very competent and capable hands.

On Saturday evening of 22 April, during the Sci-Fi/Fantasy Masquerade, I presented six President's Awards for service to the ICG. Recipients include: Vicky Assarrattanakul and Tonya Adolfson for their work in forming the ICG Press, Jacalyn Stanley and Merrily Wolf for their work on the new ICG website, Pierre Pettinger for his service as ICG Parliamentarian, and Andrew Assarrattanakul for his work publishing the online edition of the *International Costumer* newsletter. See the President's Awards page on the ICG website for details.

It was also my privilege to present the Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA), the ICG's highest honor, to Eric Cannon and Sue Kulinyi. Eric and Sue are well known videographers who have made it their mission to make costumers look good onstage for future generations to view. They are also active in procuring old videos of past convention masquerades, preserving this footage, and making it available to help preserve the history of our craft.

The major contributions that Eric and Sue have made to the costuming community and the continuation of the art form are worthy of the ICG's recognition and thanks. See their full citation on the Lifetime

Achievement Award page on the ICG website.

Please join me in congratulating all of this year's award recipients.

I will provide a written version of my final President's report to include with the meeting minutes, but since this is my final column, I hope that you will allow me just a minute to look back. My focus has been on financial stability, growth, educational outreach, and providing value for our affiliated chapters and their members. It is surprising to realize just how much the ICG has accomplished in the last seven years. Here are 10 things, in no particular order, that I'm especially proud of:

1. The ICG's finances are strong, enabling us to fund existing programs and institute new ones that benefit members and the costuming community.
2. Membership and chapters have increased, and existing costuming organizations are increasingly interested in the benefits of affiliation.
3. The *International Costumer* has gone digital, with high-quality articles in full color, published bi-monthly with a searchable index.
4. More U.S. chapters participate in our GEL program to become 501(c)(3)

non-profits, and now receive free financial management software.

5. The ICG Archives has gained international recognition for its continuing work in preserving the history of costuming and being an educational resource.
6. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were chartered, enabling costumers across the ICG with common interests to come together and share their knowledge.
7. The Marty Gear Fund was established to award grants to projects that benefit the costuming community.
8. The ICG Press was founded as a publisher of books and monographs on topics of interest to the costuming community.
9. Chapters and SIGs can now receive free web hosting and domain names through the ICG.
10. The ICG website now offers extensive online resources to help chapters and SIGs get started, operate, and grow.

I look forward to even more amazing accomplishments for the ICG in the coming years under the leadership of the current officers, and I ask the members and the ICG Board to give them your full and unqualified support.

Behind the Scenes with the ICG's Lifetime Achievement Award

By Philip Gust

Most members know that the Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) is the ICG's highest honor, and that it is presented annually at Costume-Con. However, many are not familiar with what the award represents, who is eligible, how candidates are nominated, and how the recipient is selected. Here is a behind-the-scenes look the award, and the months-long process of selecting this year's recipients, videographers Eric Cannon and Susan Kulinyi.

The ICG has presented the LAA every year since 1990. Recipients are not required to be ICG members. The Award recognizes a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community.

Recipients must have gained significant recognition for their costuming related skills, whether design and construction, competition, teaching, or technical areas like masquerade production, or costume photography or videography. They must also have a significant record of service to the costuming community, such as volunteering, administration, committee



Sue Kulinyi and Eric Cannon, 2017 LAA Recipients

work, or other services over an extended period of time.

As ICG President for the past five years, I was responsible for managing the nomination and selection process. Sometime around mid-January each year, I send an announcement, soliciting nominations for that year's LAA from ICG members, chapters, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The nomination period is generally four to six weeks, depending on the date of Costume-Con that year.

Once the nomination period has ended, I compile the nominations into a ballot document with voting instructions and each candidate's nomination on a separate page. I distribute these ballots to the chapter Presidents and the ICG Officers who vote on the nominees.

There are usually three to six nominees; this year there were five. Eric and Sue were nominated as a team. Occasionally, a candidate receives two nominations. Depending on how different they are, I either carefully edit the nominations into one - if those making the nominations agree, or run the individual nominations as a group.

Preparing a nomination requires considerable time and effort. Those who vote are often unfamiliar with many, if not all of the nominees, so a "good" nomination gives them a full understanding of candidate's qualifications and accomplishments.

I recommend starting with a one- or two-paragraph "executive summary" with the nominee's qualifications, and following that with some notable accomplishments that support the "executive summary." A few examples are usually enough. When describing costuming skills, I suggest including links to photos in the ICG's

International Costumers' Gallery or other photo sites as examples. Nominations typically run from several paragraphs to a full page (200-500 words). Quality is more important than quantity.

After emailing the ballots to the Chapter Presidents and ICG officers I gave them at least two weeks to make a decision, and I send several follow-up email reminders during that time. In the last several days, I also phone to encourage them to vote. After I started doing this, we achieved close to 100% participation.

According to the LAA rules, the LAA recipient must receive a majority of votes. With three to six nominees, that is seldom possible. Other Presidents have tried different ways to resolve this. My solution was to use a form of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), where voters rank candidates from highest to lowest. This is increasingly popular for state and local elections to avoid an expensive run-off election. Worldcon also uses this method for their "Hugo" award voting. I used IRV software that supports several styles of IRV to tabulate votes, so I can make sure the results are consistent.

Once the results are tallied, I notify a long-time member who has ordered the LAA

plaques for many years, and the plaque is brought to Costume-Con for presentation.

During the LAA presentation ceremony, I asked past LAA recipients to join me on stage to help present the award and welcome the new recipient. It is a special moment for the audience and the participants when the new and past ICG LAA recipients are presented at the end of the ceremony. In the last several years, the recipients have also posed for a group portrait for the website and the ICG Archives.

This year's recipients, Eric Cannon and Sue Kulinyi, have made it their mission to capture costumers' stage performances on video for future generations to enjoy. They are also active in procuring old videos of past convention masquerades, preserving this footage, and making it available to help preserve the history of our craft.

The major contributions that Eric and Sue have made to the costuming community and the continuation of the art form are worthy of the ICG's recognition and thanks. See their full citation on the Lifetime Achievement Award page on the ICG website. Please join me in congratulating Eric Cannon and Sue Kulinyi.

Meet the 2017 ICG Officers

The ICG members selected five members who will serve as officers for the 2017-2018 term. The five officers, and the 21 chapter representatives make up the ICG Board of Directors. The three new officers and the two long-time officers who are serving another term would like to introduce themselves and tell you why they're excited about serving the ICG and its members.



Marianne Pease (VA) – President. I started cosplaying in college thirteen years ago when I coerced my roommate to sew a Witch Hunter Robin dress for me. I

went on to sell blood plasma twice a week so I could afford my first sewing machine. By the time Marty Gear swept me up in my first Balticon masquerade and I joined the GCFCG, I was absolutely in love. Since then I've served in my local guilds here and there. I'm currently the Treasurer of the NoVA chapter.

I've watched the enormous explosion in popularity that cosplay and costuming has received, and the vast numbers of people fall in love with costuming just like I did. While not all convention goers are

costumers, we clearly have a lot of room to grow. My primary goal is to reach out to the rising generations of costumers and cosplayers and offer them the same home and sense of community among the ICG that I found.



Mera Babineaux (VA) – Vice President. I'm half of the creative duo behind Shimmer and Shade Family Cosplay, and Prop House 42 Productions. I am a makeup artist, have

been actively costuming since high school theater where I was the costume mistress for three years, and also build sets and props.

I inadvertently entered the Con community through the DragonCon Masquerade in 1996, and have been very involved ever since. In addition to attending conventions, judging costume contests and running panels, I have also been a board member, Director of Costuming and Con Design, and general member at large for several east coast conventions, most recently serving on the Mysticon Board and as their costuming director and Masquerade maven.

My passion is for education and outreach with children and teens and I actively

volunteer in my community to promote sensory friendly costuming, disability friendly costuming, anti-bullying efforts, after school programs, and social and life skill building through costuming and cosplaying. I'm very interested in being active in the ICG and helping in any way that I can.



Anne Davenport (FL) – Recording Secretary. I have been costuming for 40 years since sewing and wearing a Starfleet uniform for Senior Class Dress-up Day in high

school. Most of my costuming energies are aimed at convention hall costuming, but I also participate in Masquerades at the Master level from Costume-Cons to Worldcons.

I have experience editing a very tiny SF club newsletter and serving on a couple of fan club boards in the 1990's. I am currently helping the Rebel Legion (a Star Wars costuming group) revise their club charter, which currently has significant organizational difficulties. I am confident that I can also do some good for the ICG, which I have been a member of for at least twice as long as I have been with the Rebel Legion.



Jeanine Swick (MA) – Treasurer. My work is "period inspired" rather than historically accurate, incorporating my own creativity. I

costumed in high school for theater, and later for my own teens. I sell at regional renfaires, cons, SCA, and belly dance events. I have been ICG Treasurer for 8 years, and am happy to continue in that position this year. I also serve on the Budget and Finance Committee, and the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund administrative committee.



Tonya Adolfson (ID) – Corresponding Secretary. I have done costumes for stage and screen as well as private collectors, charities,

schools, and non-profit organizations. I am well-versed in everything from wigs to shoes to packable props. Most recently, I participated on the ICG Publications Committee to help form the ICG Press. I served as Corresponding Secretary for the past three years, and am looking forward to continuing in that role this year.

From the Editor

By Vicky Assarattanakul

Costume-Con 35 has come and gone, and I hope you all had a fantastic time. It was great to meet some new costumers and catch up with old friends.

The ICG board recently voted to approve a publishing arm of the ICG, the ICG Press. The publications committee is currently seeking an Editor-in-Chief, as well as people to serve on the selection committee. If you have any additional skills, such as editing, converting to digital format, cover art, etc., and would like to volunteer your time and talent, we would love to have you! Please contact me at icg-newsletter@costume.org if you would like to learn more.



Vicky and Catherine Cherwin at CC35.

For those of you in the full swing of convention season, let us know where you're going! Please consider writing an article for *International Costumer* summarizing your experience at the conventions you attend.



Costume Society of America is a membership organization devoted to the study and appreciation of dress and appearance. We are a varied group of professionals and informed enthusiasts representing museums, libraries, theaters, academia, apparel and merchandising programs, private collections, and re-enactment organizations.

CSA promotes personal connections and collegial discovery about clothing, fashion, and costume—its history, design, construction, merchandising and preservation. Members benefit from numerous opportunities. As a member, you can:

- Connect with leading experts
- Keep up to date with new developments in the field
- Learn from and publish in our bi-annual journal, *Dress*, and our book series from Kent State University Press
- Share research at annual national and regional symposia
- Attend specialized events and programs in your region
- Collaborate with your colleagues
- Seek funding through CSA grants and awards



To learn more visit

www.costumesocietyamerica.com

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

Visit the ICG website for current information and resources:

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

Join us on Facebook:

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

Join the ICG-D Yahoo! group for lively discussions on costuming-related topics:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icg-d>

Send comments and suggestions to the ICG board and standing committees:

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

Editorial Board

Vicky Assarattanakul, Betsy Marks Delaney, Kathe Gust, Philip Gust, Bruce Mai, Patrick O'Connor, Jeanine Swick, Randall Whitlock.

Officers 2017-2018

President: Marianne Pease

icg-president@costume.org

Vice President: Mera Babineaux

icg-vice-president@costume.org

Treasurer: Jeanine Swick

icg-treasurer@costume.org

Corresponding Secretary: Tonya Adolfson

icg-corr-secretary@costume.org

Recording Secretary: Anne Davenport

icg-rec-secretary@costume.org

Helpful Hands

International Costumer Editor: Vicky

Assarattanakul

icg-newsletter@costume.org

Webmaster: Philip Gust

webmaster@costume.org

Website Assistant: Susan Toker, Andrew

Assarattanakul, Jacalyn Stanley

Archivist: Pierre Pettinger

icg-archivist@costume.org

Gallery Admin: Nora Mai

gallery-admin@costume.org

GEL Administrator: Bruce MacDermott

gel-admin@costume.org

Assistant administrator: Elaine Sims

Parliamentarian: Pierre Pettinger

icg-parliamentarian@costume.org

The Kennedy Memorial Archives and Gallery

The ICG's Pat & Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives is the world's largest archive of photographs, video and paper ephemera of costuming. Exhibits include an online photo gallery (<http://www.costume.org/gallery2/>) and the ICGArchives YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ICGArchives>).

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 International Costumer editor: 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

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