

# *International Costumer*

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May - June 2018



*Convention Time!*

*Photos courtesy of Vicky Assarattanakul*

## President's Message

By Marianne Pease

With Costume Con only a few days away, I'm delighted to write the 'last' President's address of the year before elections are held at the annual members meeting. It's been quite the learning experience this past year but I'm also very proud of what we've done and the direction that we're heading in.

I do intend to run for office again this year, and our existing slate of officers except Tonya Adolfson will be running for office again. I'm pleased that Vicky Assarattanakul from MACS in Madison, WI has agreed to run for Corresponding Secretary. She's done a fabulous job on the newsletter and isn't even editing in my enthusiasm and praise for her work while putting this edition of the newsletter together!

While we have no other nominees made in advance of the annual meeting, I would encourage everyone to attend the annual meeting or give their proxy vote to someone they trust who is attending. The International Costumers' Guild is not my organization or those who originally founded it. It is our organization and we all have a say in how it's run and what we do. Please do not forfeit your voice. Please also consider volunteering to help on one of our many committees.



Marianne Pease and Alicyn Drew taking on the end of the world together, photography by James Hennigan or Greyloch Photography  
<https://www.facebook.com/greylochphotography/>

- Technology and Web

If you have technical and computer talents, please consider donating your time and talents. We have many different projects and upgrades we'd like to make but all of them require knowledgeable people to help make them happen!

- Publications

Our Pubs committee has been doing a marvelous job and I fully expect they'll continue to do so. Please consider volunteering to help with the work- they have many opportunities to serve whether

it's editing, helping solicit articles from our membership, or creating content directly. Chapters should consider electing a representative to serve on the Publication committee the same way each chapter has a representative on the Board of Directors.

- Budget and Finance

Our Finance committee does a fabulous job preparing and overseeing our finances. Chapter treasurers are welcome to participate in the Budget and Finance discussions even though local budgets do not fall under the committee's authority.

- Communications and Public Relations

This committee has been rather inactive in recent years, and that's something that needs to be changing. The Committee is meant to oversee communications within and without the ICG, to promote the ICG to the public and the press, and establish and maintain relationships with other costuming and related communities. I would highly encourage each chapter to elect a public relations officer to participate in the Committee and help get it on its feet again.

One of the most difficult challenges we face as an organization today is a sense of institutional apathy and I believe that part of the problem is a lack of transparency in

how the ICG is currently being run. Few members on the chapter level really see how things are done at the ICG level- and I would like to see that changed. Perhaps if we have more engagement between chapters and the ICG committees we will see more members being willing to step up and run for office each year as well.

In other news, I am pleased to announce the passage of three motions by the Board of Directors.

First, tradition was formalized with an addition to Standing Rules of the ICG:

No new motion can be made at any type of electronic, e-mail or Internet meeting 30 days or fewer before the date of the Annual Meeting, and no vote on a motion can begin 15 days or fewer before the date of the Annual Meeting. If the President determines that debate on a motion will not conclude 15 days or fewer before the date of the Annual Meeting, or if there is no business before the board 30 days or fewer before the date of the Annual Meeting, the President may declare an adjournment of the meeting until the Annual Meeting.

Secondly, and far more fun, the Cosplay Photo Shoots group has been formally approved as a Special Interest Group of the

ICG! The group is physically based in the DC metro area but has a ton of expertise in photography- and being photographed! They will be an enormous asset to the ICG as a whole and I'm delighted to have the SIG as a part of our organization.

Last but certainly not least, we have also approved the Gulf Coast International Costumers' Guild as a chapter in the New Orleans area. They are a large, enormously talented bunch with many members coming in from the Krewe of Joan of Arc- check out some videos of their parades here: [http://joanofarcparade.org/photo-gallery/2018\\_photos/](http://joanofarcparade.org/photo-gallery/2018_photos/)

*Editor's note: On Page 6 of this issue, you will find the proxy statement form for the annual ICG meeting which will take place at Costume-Con 36. Please use this form if you need to designate a voting party for your chapter.*

## Surviving Con Crunch

*By Melina Chestley*

Con crunch; the time before a con (or multiple cons) that sneaks up on you so very quickly when you realize how much of your project list still needs to get done. It's the feeling when you go from "I have plenty of time" to "how do I have so little time left?" Most of us have experienced this in one form or another so I thought it would be good to hear from fellow ICG members about their strategies for making it through con crunch intact and still be able to enjoy the event you've spent so long preparing to attend.

*Jennifer Old-d'Entrement (Kansas City Costumers' Guild; approx. 12 years surviving con crunch);*

Have an understanding (or come to one) with your spouse/family with regards to how much of your usual household/family/relationship responsibilities you're going to be able to keep up with. Then make an agreement on how it's going to be covered while you're otherwise occupied with con prep. Doing something extra to balance the scales once the con is over goes a long way towards making this work a second time.

*Lisa Ashton (member of the Sick Pups of NY/NJ, although close with the*

[GCFCG, and I am the Founder of Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show. I've been going to cons since 1987 and costuming since about a 1988\):](#)

How many years of con crunch? I've been going to multiple cons/year about 30 years. May is my hardest month, because Costume Con, the big one, is in May, as is Balticon, My home con in Baltimore, for which I try to have a new costume because I like to support the crew there, having been on the Concom many times previously.

My tip is to have a written template (I prefer it to electronically) of what I need to accomplish way before the con, and what and how to pack. My personal strategy is: "If it's not done and able to be packed without rush, it's not going to the con." Also make a repair kit with scraps to take, make sure I have replacement batteries or needs, etc.

Another tip is to have some things ready to go, like hall costumes, or workshop materials, all in one place and put together before its crunch time.

[Carole Parker \(Silicon Web Costumers' Guild\):](#)

Remember to drink actual water and not just caffeine soda or coffee. Remember to eat \*real\* food. Try to get some sleep. Yes, it's crunch time, but bleary eyes will make it

so you commit more mistakes, which will cost you time to correct. Prioritize your tasks, so that you don't forget important items but can let go of less important ones.

[Mera Babineaux \(Silicon Web Chapter Member, VP – ICG\):](#)

As a costumer/Con-goer/Masquerade Maven since 1996, I think the three most important things to remember in Con Crunch season are to plan your projects so that you have plenty of time to finish them, never take an unfinished project to Con with the intention of missing Con to finish it, and practice good self-care so that you're not over-stressed or end up getting sick before, during, or after Con.

[Craig Cummings \(Silicon Web Chapter, Attending come since 1981\):](#)

I organize my stuff into complete sets and pre-package it to make sure nothing is forgotten in the rush to get out the door. This includes accessories and repair kit items. This leads to some redundancy but it pays off when you are not looking for some critical item that is still next to the sewing machine.

[Kathe Gust \(Silicon Web Costumers' Guild\):](#)

I always make a list to help me prep and pack. List the costume (or clothes) I'm

taking. List all the parts, props and makeup and check off as they go into the bags. That way when I start panicking, I can check the list to make sure I did indeed bring the thing I'm looking for and can cross it off again as I pack things up to go home so nothing is forgotten in a closet or drawer.

[Marianne Pease \(GCFCG & NoVA. 10 years of con crunch survival\):](#)

There's no trick for getting work done besides just sitting down and doing it but I make it through crunch time with a few strategies.

Set personal deadlines well in advance! Anything not finished does not go to the convention.

No scissors after midnight. Don't make irreversible alterations when you're tired!

Sleep. Being completely exhausted will not make the convention more fun.

I think the great advice from our members can be adapted to many stressful situations. The prime message from our pro crunch survivors centers on planning ahead and taking care of yourself. Now with these sage words to guide you, go forth and make!

## Vice Admiral Holdo Collar Tutorial: Part 2

By Marianne Pease

*Editor's Note: This article is adapted from Marianne's tutorial. The full text and pictures can be found at <http://mariannepease.com/vice-admiral-holdo-collar-tutorial/>*



*Collar back assembly. Photo by Marianne Pease*

Set the collar front piece aside for now.

**Collar back assembly:** Use the spray adhesive on the interfacing and baste the FASHION fabric pieces together with it. Put the right sides of lining and fashion fabric (and attached interfacing) together. Stitch ONLY the top edges together.

Trim the top corners for bulk management and flip the collar back pieces right side out. This will give you a single finished edge along the top. Baste the bottom edge down. You do not actually need to trim the corners of the bottom basted edge for bulk.



*Photo by Marianne Pease*

The collar back is almost ready to sew to the collar front. The lining sides of each layer are going to face each other. Baste along one edge that is going to be sewn down. This may seem like an excessive amount of basting but with a jersey like this it's easy to wind up with puckers when you're sewing if you're not careful.



*The collar is taking shape. Photo by Marianne Pease*

Baste your drape's side seams. Match up the top seams and stitch it down (don't sew over the collar back pieces!) Gather up the sides!



*Gathering up the sides. Photo by Marianne Pease*

A few tips before you stitch down those lovely gathers. (A)Fold the last half inch of the fashion fabric up. It should match where the finished edge of the collar front is and ensure that the raw edge of the jersey drape isn't visible on the finished collar. (B)If you don't have a walking foot (I didn't use mine for this) I found it helpful to make sure the gathered jersey is facing down into the feed dogs. This is the back side of what you just sewed together, trim the corners to reduce bulk when turning and flip inside out.

Press. Watch your iron temperature. Under stitch the top edge of the collar. This will help keep the top edge looking neat and prevent your lining layer from peeking out.

Press the entire thing some more and the collar is done.



*Collar back. Photo by Marianne Pease.*



*Completed collar. Photo by Marianne Pease*

## From the Editor

*By Vicky Assarattanakul*

Spring has (finally) come to my neck of the woods, just in time for me to do some spray painting in preparation for Costume-Con 36. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Melina has done a fantastic job of soliciting articles for this newsletter. Thank you to all who have contributed! After the con crunch of Costume-Con, please consider writing an article to share with the rest of the ICG.

Anything and everything related to costuming is acceptable. Convention reports, local events, book reviews, and tutorials are all things that we love to see.

Although I typically loathe winter, this one was full of costuming activity. I managed to get a lovely photoshoot in during a



*My unfinished, but awesome crown*



*Vicky as Princess Ovelia from Final Fantasy Tactics.  
Photo by Sajja K Photography.*

snowstorm. The precarious drive home was worth it.

In January, a friend of mine organized a “mermaid crown making” workshop. It was quite a success! We had members of Madison Area Costuming Society attend, as well as a few other members of the community who had never met us before. Most of the attendees finished their crowns, but sadly, I had another engagement that afternoon, so I have yet to complete mine.

This event turned out to be an excellent way to provide costuming education and outreach in our community. We hope to host a similar workshop again this summer.

I hope that all of you have finally seen an end to this exceptionally long winter, and that the signs of spring are coming to your area. See you next issue!

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 2018 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 business coming before the 20\_\_\_ 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**

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>

Amazon Smile link:

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

Send comments and suggestions to:

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### **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>

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 change or verify your preference, contact your local chapter.

If your postal or e-mail address changes, notify your local chapter promptly, or send your updated information to [icg-membership-corrections@costume.org](mailto:icg-membership-corrections@costume.org). 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://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter>. The user name is "costumer" and the password is "CC36Spring18"