

International Costumer

Volume XIX Issue 1

Jan – Feb 2020



Acting President's Message



Winter Belle. Photo by Shade Doe

The sun is setting earlier in the evenings, and as the familiar nip of winter sets in and the crisp air fills with holiday scents, I hope everyone is enjoying their winter and holiday projects. This is my favorite season for crafting, especially presents, with all of the rich fabrics and textures that help me get into the spirit of this season of giving.

Winter is a season of reflection and a good time to look at all that has occurred over a year. This year has been difficult for the guild in many ways, but with spring revitalization just around the corner, I think the work

being done by our board is essential to smooth the rough edges and mend the tears that have been worn.

Kevin Roche has been elected as Vice President, and has been made the sergeant at arms for our online board meeting to ensure that we stay on task and on target in creating a policy committee and working to create a policy and procedures manual. We began a 2019 survey and took it for a test run, and the initial data has given the board a direction for the work to be done. That survey will be reopened on December 13 and remain open to the members until January 31. Please let your opinions be known so that we can consider them in the board's work before the 2020 annual meeting. We're also preparing to move communications to Google Groups from Slack so that email lists can continue and online forums can be created on our website.

We also have a new chapter to welcome! The Ohio River Valley Chapter "Cosplay United" was accepted in November. It's also the season for officer nominations and

Lifetime Achievement Award nominations, so please send those before January 20 to icg-president@costume.org

Thank you to all of our members and chapters for your patience during these transitions. Join us on Facebook, Slack, or Google Groups and share your holiday projects! May your fires be warm, your seams be straight, and your projects be received with the spirit that you used to make them. Happy Holidays!

Cordially,
Mera Babineaux, Acting President

Outgoing Editor's Message

By Vicky Assarattanakul



Photo by Jamie Butler

Greetings fellow costumers! I hope you are all well and that the new year has a great deal of fun costuming in store for you.

As you may have already been aware, Mera appointed Melina as the newsletter editor on 11/21/2019.

In late 2018, I asked Melina to take charge of the January-February 2019 issue, as I was expecting my second child any day and I feared a repeat of what happened with my first, which resulted in a delay of the newsletter.

Melina has been doing a stellar job of soliciting articles and getting the newsletter together out on time. I have chosen to take a step back from the editor position and leave the newsletter in Melina's very capable hands. I will be focusing on my other roles within the ICG, and I am hoping to do some work to promote the organization in the coming year.

Please join me in thanking Melina for her hard work. I look forward to the future issues that she will be creating!

Editor's Message

By Melina Chestley



Disco Wampa. Photo by a friend.

I have received and read through the answers regarding the newsletter from the survey that went out before the holidays.

1. Do you have suggestions for content you would like to see in the newsletter?

Some of the suggestions provided were already on my radar and I'm hoping to get that going with the next newsletter. I admit that the end of the year snuck up on me quickly and one of my ideas about focusing on an individual

chapter or specialty group won't get off the ground until the next edition.

If you are at any cons, masquerades or costuming related events, I would love to add your experience or review to the newsletter. If you are unsure about writing up content but have a bunch of photos, contact me and I'm more than willing to help you put together a submission.

If you are wondering whether or not people are interested in the costumes (techniques, the process, the work-in-progress), they very much are and this interest was pointed out more than once. I would love to highlight individual costumers and their work. If there was a costume or a costumer that you would like to see in the content but don't feel comfortable approaching them, send me the information and I'll contact them. If you have a costume you're happy with or proud of or one that failed and lessons were learned but were not sure anyone would want to see that work, then know that they do.

2. Have you submitted content for the newsletter? If not, what stops you from submitting?

Unfortunately, I can not add more time to everyone's day so that we can all get all the things done that we'd like to achieve. If someone ever does figure out how to do that, please let me know because that does seem to be a popular obstacle in the answers I've received. The process to submit content or to ask questions is to contact me via email. Currently it is the best practice. icg-newsletter@costume.org

I am on Facebook and you can poke me through the ICG group but please be aware that FB does not always have the best algorithms for making sure that all the content is seen and that can cause things to get missed. You can also message me via slack. I am still learning that system so I may be a bit slow.

3. Are you happy with the format of the newsletter? Do you have suggestions for the newsletter format?

There were a number of "no comments" to this question and the remainder seemed to be a split between happy with the current pdf format and requests for an interactive format or a blog format.

For now, I don't have any further information or direction as I'm going to have to do some research in order to see what the possibilities are, how feasible some of those options are and what direction we want to go with the newsletter. Please bear with me as I look into the options.

For now, if you have any questions about the newsletter, how it's put together or whether your idea would work as content, feel free to contact me at; icg-newsletter@costume.org Your input is both welcomed and appreciated. Suggestions for content are also welcome.

The next newsletter will be published March 1st, 2020. If you have any content you would like to submit, please send it to me via email (text or word is preferable) by February 15th.

Thank you to Leah O'Connor, Manu Henault & the CC38 team for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

About the Cover Photo:

"Venice" Image by Ruth Archer and taken from pixabay.com

Conventioneering While Deaf

By Leah O'Connor

At CostumeCon 35 the Chicagoland Costumers' Guild competed in the SciFi Masquerade. It was a lot of fun, but for me it posed an unusual challenge. My character was Wondering Woman and I came out and wandered around the stage with the other characters and my "line" was "I wonder why I'm here?" Because I am deaf, I could not hear the audio track of our presentation, so I had to count out the timing and make sure my back was to the audience when my line came on the audio track. It worked and the CCG got an award. Being deaf did not stop me from sewing up a costume and participating in the masquerade. Being deaf did not

stop me from seeing all the costumes at the con, but being deaf did make the con a lot less enjoyable. I could not hear the master of ceremonies as he announced the other contestants and I missed all his jokes. I sat through opening ceremonies and had no idea what was said. I skipped most of the panels because I could not understand the panelists and spent most of the con with small groups of friends, in quiet places, where I could better hear things.

That was 2017 and there was no hearing assistive technology at the convention or in the hotel. This weekend was WindyCon 46 in Chicago and it was the first time in 5 years I have been able to actually hear the opening ceremonies at a convention. I could hear everything coming through the PA speakers in the main hall. My hearing has not improved, but the technology has. WindyCon is the first local SciFi convention in Chicago with a telecoil hearing loop. It may be the first SciFi convention in the US with a hearing loop. If anyone else in the ICG has a cochlear implant or a hearing aid, they

may know what a t-coil is. I say “may” because some audiologists don’t bother to tell their patients that their hearing aid has a telecoil, because there are so few places in the US that have hearing loops. A few churches have them. Even fewer live theaters have them. Now one SciFi convention in Chicago has a hearing loop and I have been told that our other local SciFi convention, CapriCon, will have TWO! Since both conventions use the same audio engineer, next year there will be two hearing loops at WindyCon too... two rooms where I can understand what is being said on stage or at a panel. A hearing loop is like magic. It is just a loop of wire connected to a PA system by something called a loop driver. It “broadcasts” the PA signal to any telecoil equipped hearing aid or cochlear implant within the loop. I have a remote control with a “T” button to turn on the telecoil in my cochlear implant processor. When I press that button every word spoken over the PA system goes straight to my processor and instead of noise, I hear words. That “T” button also turns off the mike on my processor, which means all the background noise is gone

too. It lets me understand. It is magic. Maybe someday a US World Con and/or Costume Con will have hearing loops too.

I was told the WorldCon in Ireland had loops in every panel and presentation room, because the European equivalent of the USA ADA requires conference centers to have loops. Installing permanent loops in existing structures can be expensive, but temporary loops installed on the floor under gaffers tape costs less than a good stereo. The loop driver used at WindyCon to loop a couple dozen seats only cost about \$300.

The CCG is starting to plan for the masquerade at the next WorldCon in Chicago, assuming Chicago wins the bid for 2022. A loop on the stage would be nice, but as I learned at CostumeCon 35, I don’t need to hear the audio tape to count out the timing.



*News from Costume-Con 38
by Manu Hénault and the CC38 Team*

Bonjour! / Hi!

Guests

We are proud to announce the following guests:



Cynthia Jones. Costume Designer, Fashion Historian, Conservator, Collections Manager and Lecturer who enjoys a good audience. She has been sewing since Lyndon B. Johnson was president.



Natalie Dupuis, teacher in Metalwork and surface embroidery! She has trained part-time at the Royal School of Needlework in London and has taught for the San Francisco School of Needlework and Design and Canada's annual Embroidery Seminar. Her work features in Embroidery Canada Magazine and Australia's Inspirations Magazine. Come at her workshops at CC38!

More info about our guests at :
<http://costumecon38.org/en/programming/guests/>

Hotel

Our hotel block is now **over 70% full.** Hurry up, you have until February 11th, 2020 to reserve a room. More hotel and reservation details on our page at

<http://costumecon38.org/en/location/hotel/>

At anytime you can reach us at

admin@costumecon38.org

Follow us here :

www.costumecon38.org



<https://www.facebook.com/CC38MTL/>



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Guild Highlights

I'm using this section as a spot to highlight some of the resources available to ICG members. This issue I want to remind you about the Marty Gear Costuming Arts & Sciences Fund. Marty Gear (1939-2013) was an ICG founder and a Lifetime Achievement award winner, as well as a long-standing participant and supporter of the costuming community. In 2014 this fund was established and given his name to honour Marty's work and to continue to encourage costumers.

The grant is available to any member of the ICG and is given for the following:

Any project or activity that advances the art and science of costuming and benefits the costuming community as a whole or a local costuming community will be considered. A few examples include:

- Development of educational courses in costuming techniques
- Local outreach programs that promote or raise awareness of costuming
- Creating an online library of hard-to-find costuming resources
- Use of costuming to aid seriously or terminally ill children.

A grant is not free money that benefits only the grant recipient. Your proposal should benefit the costuming community as a whole or a specific locale. It should identify the community that it will benefit, and describe how it will benefit that community and how the impact will be

assessed. Be as specific as possible in describing:

- what the results are
- what effect they will have
- how the effect will be measured
- the size of the community who will benefit
- the time frame over which the benefits will happen

For more information please check out the ICG webpage which has a FAQ section, as well as links to apply.

<http://costume.org/wp/marty-gear-costuming-arts-and-sciences-fund/>

Discount Reminder 10% off

Just in time for the winter sewing months in preparation of the 2020 con Season, here is a reminder of how to access the fabric.com ICG members' discount.



Click on the Business Program button at the top of the page. Input your information and upload a PDF or JPG copy of your proof of membership found in the email with the newsletter. Elected and Chapter officers can use the link to the ICG webpage listing their position instead of uploading proof of membership. An email will be sent to you within 3 business days with your special code. Your code works only with your account and cannot be used on another account.

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:

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

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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. 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 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. 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

"Roaring20s"