

International Costumer

Volume XX Issue 3

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Carl Gottlieb Venig. *Julius Caesar and Cleopatra*. c. 1875 -1900. Narva Museum. [Wikipedia](#)

From the President's Desk

Kevin Roche

I would like to share the report I gave at the 2021 ICG Members Meeting and some other business conducted during the meeting. View all the meeting docs at <http://costume.org/wp/bod-meeting-minutes/>.

2021 ICG President's Report

As you are all aware, the last year has been challenging on many fronts.

My predecessor's protracted resignation process, combined with the abrupt cancellation of last year's scheduled Annual Meeting and the lockdowns from the pandemic certainly made my transition into the ICG President role more complicated than anyone anticipated, and I appreciate your patience and forbearance as we untangled things and found new ways to conduct our business.

It has also been hard on individual chapters, as the lack of opportunity to meet and share our art sometimes proved an insurmountable barrier, and

we have lost some. With the launch of our new (paid license) ICG Zoom venue as a resource available to all chapters, I hope it may offer a new opportunity for gathering. I also hope that as the pandemic restrictions ease, our chapters will reinvigorate, and, perhaps, some of those closed or separated chapters will reform and/or rejoin the ICG.

In recognition of the many difficulties the pandemic shutdown has caused, the Board of Directors voted a dues forbearance policy for members facing financial difficulties renewing their memberships. Please contact your local chapter to take advantage of this offer; we want you to stay in the ICG!

We also lost our Vice President, my dear friend Jan Price, who lost her ongoing battle with cancer, as well as numerous other friends and members during this pandemic. They will all be deeply missed.

Communications has been a particular challenge this year, especially with the final demise of the Yahoo Groups system, and there were definite

growing pains implementing the Google Groups replacements. We do, however, now have a functioning Board of Directors meeting group and finally launched ICG Costume Chat, a publicly available replacement for the old ICG-D Yahoo Group. Now that we have a template, we can add more chapter or SIG groups as desired!

There are many other resources available to chapters and members via our Google Suite cloud services, including data storage and file sharing; I encourage you all to discuss in your chapters and SIGS how you might use them. Silicon Web is moving ahead as an early adopter to try them out.

(A side note: the use of Slack for official business proved unworkable using the free version; while it could certainly be usable as a social media, my predecessor has been intransigent about transferring ownership to the ICG, and thus it can't be supported as an official instrument of the Guild.)

Some of the changes my immediate predecessors proposed were in the interest of speeding up our processes, a

sentiment I fully understand, but as I am sure many of you are aware, experience also instructs us that it can be unwise to rush. This is especially true when dealing with the legal requirements protecting our tax-exempt status. One place we can speed up some things is the adoption of a modification to standing rules for online board meeting, for motions where consensus is reached quickly.

For all its challenges, this year has had some notable accomplishments and celebrations. Significant among them is the return of the ICG Gallery, due in major part to the heroic efforts of Leslie Johnston. Friday I presented Leslie with the ICG President's Award for her work restoring their accessibility, recognition that is well-deserved.

And finally, yesterday I had the privilege of announcing Philip and Kathleen Gust as the recipients of the 2021 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award; their art and service to our community is so greatly appreciated.

We look forward to a healthier and spectacularly costumed year to come!

Other Meeting Business

Here are several other items of business at the meeting. First was the election of ICG officers: Kevin Roche: President, Leslie Johnston: Vice President, Jeanine Swick: Treasurer, and Anne Davenport: Recording Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary position remains vacant.

Second was adoption of the 2020 revision of the "ICG Guidelines: Ensuring Fair Competition" created by an ad-hoc ICG Guidelines Committee. The 2010 Revision was only 2600 words, mostly dedicated to the Skills Division system and implementing it in a masquerade. The ICG is not the only authority on this topic, but it has a wealth of experience on all aspects of masquerade, especially with an eye to making it an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for all parties involved.

The revised Guidelines approved by members at this meeting is our way to more comprehensively share that insight. It reflects input from many people both on this committee and off, and has been extensively reviewed by additional readers. View the document

at <http://costume.org/wp/icg-guidelines-ensuring-fair-competition/>.

Third, the Guidelines committee also recommended establishing an ICG Guidelines Standing Committee which is authorized to continue revisions and publication of the Guidelines going forward, along with necessary infrastructure (standing committee, email, etc.) to enable that mission. A proposal to adopt a standing rule to form the committee was adopted.

Guest Editor's Letter

Philip Gust

Kathe and I are so grateful to the ICG for presenting us with the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being such a supportive community and for the opportunity to serve.

In addition to the LAA and President's Award, this issue reports on a virtual Costume-Con 39 event for its members in late April as a lead-up to the in-person event in 2023. It also included a virtual 2021 ICG Annual Meeting.

Kathe and Phil Gust Receive 2021 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award

ICG President Kevin Roche presented Kathleen and Philip Gust with the 2021 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award during the CC39 virtual event. (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UY0z1nK_CI)

It is my happy duty to announce that the 2021 recipients of the International Costumers' Guild Lifetime Achievement Award are Philip and Kathleen Gust.

Phil and Kathe Gust made a splash in the San Francisco Bay Area costuming community 18 years ago, with "Lord of the Rings" costumes featuring King Théoden of Rohan and Eowyn of Rohan. After winning a "Rising Star" award from the GBACG (Greater Bay Area Costumer's Guild), a tie-award for a best-of-workmanship title in the Novice category, and the winner of the Best Fantasy Costume in the Masquerade at BayCon (a large regional convention) in 2006, their rising star was certainly the one to watch!

Both singly and as a couple, Phil and Kathe descended upon the costuming community with glitter, knowledge, and a desire to serve.



Philip and Kathleen Gust as Julius Caesar and Cleopatra in their CC 33 historical masquerade entry, "Entrance to Rome." Photo: Ken Warren

They have each taught classes at multiple conventions, and for the annual GBACG Costume Academy, on a variety of topics. They have run masquerades at the regional level, and judged at both regional and international competitions.

They have also ably served as officers in multiple roles within the ICG.

I am both pleased and proud to add Philip and Kathleen Gust's names to the roster of Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.

Congratulations, Phil and Kathe!

Leslie L. Johnston Receives 2021 ICG President's Award



ICG President Kevin Roche presented Leslie L. Johnston with the 2021 ICG President's Award during the CC39 virtual event for her work on the new ICG Gallery.

Leslie Johnson generously donated her time, technical experience, and expertise in the field of digital preservation to complete moving the ICG Gallery to a modern digital preservation platform, and making the ICG Kennedy Archives vast store of costuming photos available once again to the costuming community.

Her leadership in the selection of technologies will also enable the ICG Kennedy Archives to create custom exhibitions of photos in the gallery. The ICG is extremely grateful to Leslie for her dedicated service.

A Tale of Two Costume-Cons

With COVID-19 restrictions in place CC39 moved to the year after CC40.

After COVID-19 restrictions forced the cancellation of Costume-Con 38 in Montreal, Canada the day before its opening in 2020, the committee for Costume-Con 39 were faced with some difficult decisions about whether to bet on restrictions being lifted in time for the 2021 event in San Jose, California.

As time went by it became clear that that the restrictions were likely to remain for at least another year. The committee briefly considered a purely virtual conference but decided against it because it did not provide the kind of in-person social interactions that members value, and because of the many costume competitions that would have been difficult to put on virtually.

That is when CC39 co-chairs Jennifer Wiley and Christine Doyle contacted Costume-Con trademark-holder Karen Schnaubelt to discuss options. As a result of their discussions, they came up with an unusual but pragmatic plan

to reschedule CC39 for 2023 and to hold CC40 as planned in Bethesda, Maryland in 2022. This was possible because there was no firm bid for CC41, which would have taken place in 2023. It was a win-win situation that enabled CC39 to move forward and filled an open year for Costume-Con. As a result, the following Costume-Con will resume with Costume-Con 42 in 2024.

Luckily, the hotel where CC39 was originally scheduled was available in 2023, so all the logistics and planning simply shifted forward two years, and all of the important relationships that the CC39 staff had built with the hotel staff were preserved.

Knowing that CC39 members would be disappointed by the two-year delay, the CC39 committee decided to put on special a multi-day virtual event from April 23-25, 2021, at the same time that CC39 was originally scheduled, as a way of maintaining visibility and as a bonus for CC39 members. The event was called “Things That Go Bump ~~in~~ the Night on the Net”, a play on the CC39 theme.

The virtual conference was held using the Zoom conferencing platform. It was organized much like a regular Costume-Con, with a Friday evening opening session, a single-track of hour-long sessions on Saturday on a range of costuming topics, and the ICG Annual Meeting and a presentation by the CC42 bid committee on Sunday morning, ending with a session of Jackbox Games (multi-player party games often played at a variety of social events).

CC39 members who participated in the virtual event were enthusiastic about having costuming activities available again and being able to participate in the virtual sessions.

For more information on the virtual CC39 event, and the sessions and their presenters, visit the CC39 website at <http://costumecon39.org/2021/04/15/things-that-go-bump-on-the-net/>.



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:

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Writing for the *International Costumer*

Are you working on a new costume for a convention? Do you know a sewing technique that would be useful to others? If so, why not share your project or skill with the costuming community by writing an article for the *International Costumer*? Articles by new as well as by long-time costumer are welcome. For information or to submit an article contact the editor at icg-newsletter@costume.org.

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 "**ICG Meeting**"

Editorial Board

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