

The International Costumer

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

Vol XXII Issue 1 - January 2023



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From the President's Desk — January 2023

As of today, January 27, 2023, we still do not have an editor for the International Costumer, so as I intimated in my November column, we are for now switching to a simple series of occasional blog posts on the ICG website rather than attempting to hold a formal, scheduled newsletter together any longer with baling wire and chewing gum and toil by a massively overworked guest editor (thank you again, Phil Gust). This is the first of my President's columns to be posted this way, and will not be the last. We expect to feature assorted articles here in the blogroll under the International Costumer category in lieu of the formal newsletter as material comes in and the Pubs committee has time to post them.



Having survived the holidays (photo is of me performing at a holiday fundraiser hosted by the Imperial Star Empire in Oakland) and the end-of-year deluge here in California, which actually shut down my worksite's access roads for nearly 2 weeks, things are kicking off again. Andy and I attended Further Confusion two weeks ago (Rainbow Dash was a hit), will be at Gallifrey One in about 2 and a half weeks from now, and costume construction (and improvisation) is furiously underway for Costume-Con 39 in April.

That said, the remainder of this column is practical: board business, nominations for the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award, nominations for Officers of the Board, and notice of the General Meeting in April.

Board Business

The ICG Board of directors approved the budget for 2023. Thank you to officers and chapter reps for approving it well before the deadline!

As I mentioned last issue, assisting Silicon Web with review of their bylaws has revealed significant structural deficiencies in the ICG bylaws on which they are based. There is a logical hierarchy in how corporate bylaws are structured and organized, and ours are dramatically malformed by contemporary standards. This is not intended as a criticism of the original authors (I was one of them), but mostly an artifact of how they were developed forty-odd years ago and have accreted revisions since them. It is past time to fix them; we have had a committee authorized to do so for some time, but the public health situation delayed my appointing committee members. Armed with my notes from the SiWeb review process, i now feel better enabled to do so and we can get things moving this year.

Nominations for 2023 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award

2023 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations are due by February 20, 2023

It is that time of year again, so I remind our community that any ICG member, chapter, or SIG in good standing may submit nominations for the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award. Nominations may be submitted at any time (see below) to laa-nomination@costume.org.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, the ICG's highest honor, recognizes a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community. Candidates must have been active in the costuming community for at least 10 years, have achieved significant recognition for their costuming skills (which may be in the form of, but not restricted to, competitive awards, professional accomplishments, teaching of skills, and/or

media recognition), and have made significant contributions in service to the costuming community.

Full nomination criteria are at <http://costume.org/wp/icg-lifetime-achievement-award/>

While nominations may be submitted at any time, the deadline to be considered for a given year is no later than 60 days before our annual members meeting. That is been scheduled for April 21, 2023 (at Costume-Con 39) which makes the 2023 nomination deadline Monday, February 23 at 11:59PM Pacific Time. I look forward to reviewing your nominations! The first ones have already arrived.

Nominations for Board Officer positions

Nominations for Officers of the Corporation shall be made in writing (that includes email) to the President of the Corporation at least 30 days in advance of the annual meeting. That means advance nominations are due by Wednesday March 22, 2023 at 11:59PM Pacific Time. Address nominations to president@costume.org. Additional nominations may be accepted by writing or voice at the Annual Meeting.

I *do* request that current Officers indicate to me whether they are willing to stand for re-election, preferably well before that March 22 deadline.

Notice of Annual Meeting, April 21, 2023

The annual General Meeting of the membership will be held at Costume-Con 39, in San Jose, California, the morning of Friday, April 21, 2023. At this time, I expect the Board of Directors meeting to be held at 9:00AM Pacific Time, recessed to hold the General Meeting at 10:00AM, and a brief re-convene of the Board to confirm and elect the members' selected officers to Board, I hope at 11:00 AM. In conjunction with this, no new motion may be made on the Board of Director's online meeting after Wednesday, March 22.

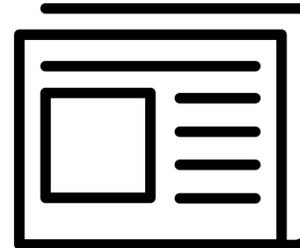
If you have items you wish placed in advance on the agenda for either the Board or the General Meeting please notify either your chapter board representative, the ICG Recording Secretary (rec-secretary@costume.org) or me (president@costume.org) by Wednesday, March 22. Please note that if your proposed business requires discovery (review of information), providing documents in advance that can be shared with the Board and/or membership will speed the discussion in the meeting.

At this time I am not aware of any major items of business being proposed for the General meeting.

That's it for now. **Still looking for an editor!**

Kevin Roche
President, International Costumers' Guild

From the Publications Committee



As ICG President Kevin Roche said in his January 2023 "From the President's Desk," *The International Costumer* is now publishing individual articles as blog posts on the "[International Costumer](#)" page of the ICG website. This change came about out of necessity because we are still working without an editor.

This was one of the options that the ICG Publications Committee presented in a report to the ICG Board of Directors in November 2022, based on input from a member survey that we conducted earlier in the year. It is the only option that enables the ICG to continue providing news, information and content to its members.

There are some benefits to publishing content this way. First, it allows content to become available to members sooner because it is published immediately, rather than waiting for the next issue of the newsletter to come out. Timeliness was one of the things that members said they valued in the survey. This is known as

“continuous publication” and it is the new direction in the publishing industry.

Second, the blog format allows content to be read on more devices because its layout adapts to the screen size. The newsletter is based on a fixed letter-size page format that does not adapt to mobile devices. This is something that many members who use mobile devices asked for in the survey.

Third, it does not require a skilled newsletter editor to solicit, receive, and format content. In many cases authors can edit their own articles using a familiar visual editor. The web team can help out if an author needs it. This streamlines the publishing process and makes it more accessible everyone.

If an editor steps forward in the future, we may resume publishing issues of the *International Costumer* newsletter, but we will also continue making content available in the new blog format because of the benefits I just outlined. We are also investigating ways to automate aggregating articles published in a particular timeframe into issues and making them available for download.

The ICG Publications Committee would like to thank ICG President Kevin Roche for his invaluable guidance, and help during this process. We would also like to thank ICG members for your continued support.

Philip Gust
Chair, ICG Publications Committee

An Unusual Masquerade Stage

The masquerade at the Astronomicon 13 science fiction convention, Henrietta NY, November 4-6, 2022, was scheduled for 8:00 PM on the Saturday of the convention. Scheduled in the same room for 9:00 PM was a Cosplay Ball, with a dance floor and DJ. For weeks we wrestled with a schedule that would let the hotel reset the room for the ball. That required removing the rows of audience seating, laying down a 16-foot by 16-foot



dance floor in the middle of the room, setting up seating at the sides of the room, and adding some tables. How could we accomplish this?

I recognized that the room would be vacant for some hours before the masquerade, during which hotel staff could set the room for

the ball. Who needs a raised stage? Who need an audience seated in rows in front of the stage? I decided that we would use the dance floor as the stage, eliminating the hazard of falling off a raised stage and eliminating the need for any wings at all, with the audience seated to each side of the floor and the judges at a raised table on the third side. The entrants would enter the room from the hall by one door and exit by a second door. The MC would have a lectern with mike at floor level.

We had seven entrants. They had already been told that there was no lighting other than the room lights and no provision for recorded sound. When they checked in, I briefed them on the room layout and advised them to play to all three sides, the audience left and right and the judges straight ahead. No one found that unworkable. In fact, one entry's large wheeled prop could be used more easily than if we had a raised stage. The room was small enough that the audience had pretty good sight lines and all the entrants made good use of the three-sided setup.

There had been no workmanship judging prior to curtain time but we had four judges who could consider workmanship as well as performance and who included some very experienced costumers. They wanted to play, too! They had the mikes used for panels at the table. Could they ask questions of the entrants? Estimating that our seven entrants would take less than half an hour but that we had a full hour to kill, I agreed and told the entrants they'd have an opportunity to answer the judges' questions following their presentations. They all were game. This spaced out the show time nicely, leaving only a few minutes following the presentations for the audience to leave,

the DJ to get ready, and the ball-goers to arrive. The judges were quite prompt in making decisions and we were able to delay the beginning of the dancing a bit to make the awards.

I felt that the stage arrangements worked extremely well, especially for a smallish masquerade with no large groups. Had we had the ability to offer lights and sound, they would have fit the size and location of the stage with little difficulty.

Most of all, the entrants had no problem adjusting to the room set-up and the audience enjoyed the show! Entrants may be more flexible in their ability to make presentations than some of seem to think.

Byron Connell
New Jersey/New York Costumers' Guild

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)
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Merrily Wolf (corr-secretary@costume.org)
- **Recording Secretary:** Anne Davenport (rec-secretary@costume.org)

Helpful Hands

- **International Costumer Editor:** Philip Gust, acting (newsletter@costume.org)
Print Edition: Patrick O'Connor
- **Webmaster:** Philip Gust (webmaster@costume.org)
- **Archivist:** Pierre E. Pettinger, Jr. (archivist@costume.org)
Assistant Archivists: Bruce Mai, Nora Mai
- **Gallery Administrator:** Nora Mai (gallery-admin@costume.org)
Gallery Webmaster: Leslie Johnston
- **GEL Administrator:** Bruce MacDermott (gel-admin@costume.org)
Assistant GEL Administrator: Elaine Sims
- **Parliamentarian:** Pierre E. Pettinger, Jr. (icg-parliamentarian@costume.org)

About *The International Costumer*

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.

Annual Meeting Proxy Form

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con. 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. You can also submit your proxy online at <https://forms.gle/e3EBj4HchvKFiwDE8>.

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.