

The International Costumer

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

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2024 ICG General Member and Board Meeting

By Kevin Roche

The annual General Meeting of the membership will be held at Costume-Con 42, in Aurora, Colorado on Friday, March 29, 2024. The Board of Directors meeting will be held at 9:00AM MT and recess at 10.15AM. The General Meeting starts at at 10:30AM. Afterward, the Board meeting will briefly re-convene no later than 11:45 AM to elect the members' selected officers to Board, as we must vacate the room by noon. (The Board meeting is in its 30-day hold on new business in the online meeting effective February 28, 2024).

At the time of this announcement, the meeting is scheduled to be held in Conference Room 3 at the facility. Any change in location will be prominently posted on site.

We shall endeavor to have a [Zoom simulcast of the meeting](#), but doing so is dependent on the available bandwidth in the conference room. If you cannot attend in person, please [submit your proxy online](#) so your voice may be represented in questions placed before the membership. Board decisions may *not* be voted on by proxy, in accordance with corporate code, but can be voted on via Zoom.

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

If you have items to place 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.

Kevin Roche
President, International Costumers' Guild

Focus on ICG Membership

By Jeanine Swick



The ICG is an affiliation of local and regional organizations who have joined the ICG as chapters. Anyone who joins one of these chapters can also become an ICG member by paying the ICG membership dues. Many chapters support the ICG by including ICG membership in their chapter membership. A few chapters make ICG membership optional.

As a volunteer driven non-profit, the ICG vitally depends on individual memberships to support its operation, which provide significant benefits to chapters and the greater costuming community. ICG members also receive direct benefits such as invitations to annual and online ICG meetings, voting for ICG officers, participation in the ICG online chat group, and receiving ICG announcements and notices of newsletter posts and new issues as they become available. We hope that you will support the ICG and its mission by becoming an ICG member.

Managing ICG memberships

ICG memberships are managed by the ICG Treasurer, and whoever is responsible for membership in each chapter, usually the chapter treasurer or secretary. The ICG website includes a "[Resources for Chapters and SIGs](#)" section with a wealth of information on starting and running a chapter or SIG. The "[Reporting Membership](#)" page provides detailed information for chapters on managing and reporting ICG memberships.

Reporting memberships to the ICG

By the 7th of every month, each chapter should send records to the ICG Treasurer for ICG members who have joined or renewed, who have expired, and whose contact information or role has changed. The ICG Treasurer uses these records to

update the master ICG membership list. Chapters should send records in the required format to avoid delays and ensure that the ICG Treasurer can accurately update the master membership list. By the 7th of each January, chapters should send a full membership list to the ICG Treasurer in the required format. The ICG Treasurer will send a reminder in December. The [“Reporting Membership”](#) page includes template spreadsheets.

It is important for ICG members to keep their information up to date with their chapters, and for chapters to report this information promptly by the 7th of every month to ensure full benefits for members. There is no need for members to report changes to the ICG Treasurer.

Joining multiple ICG chapters

An ICG member may belong to multiple chapters, but only their “primary chapter” collects and forwards dues to the ICG Treasurer. Other chapters that members belong to are known as “non-primary chapters.” If a member joins another chapter, it is important to let the other chapter know that you are already an ICG member and your ICG membership renewal date. This also becomes the renewal date for non-primary chapters. Chapters should include non-primary members in their monthly reports.

Most ICG members are “individual members.” If multiple people live at the same address, they can join as a “household.” One member joins as the “head of household” at the same rate as an individual member, and the others join as “household members” at a reduced rate. All members of a household have the same expiration date. If an ICG member joins another chapter, let that chapter know whether you are an “individual member,” “head of household,” or “member of household.”

ICG membership payments

Primary chapters collect ICG membership payments and sending them to the ICG Treasurer. Chapters should send payments each month for new or renewing members by check, using the chapter bank’s bill pay service, or by PayPal. There is

no extra fee for sending a check or using a bank bill pay service. The ICG Treasurer (treasurer@costume.org) will provide bank information to set up direct bill pay on request. However, PayPal charges the ICG a fee for each payment (currently \$0.50 plus 2%). Contact the ICG Treasurer for help calculating the fee for your transaction. Chapters must add the PayPal fee to their payments to cover the fee. Memberships cannot be processed unless the full amounts are received. To avoid fees, chapters can use one of the other payment methods.

For more information

For more information and suggestions on managing ICG memberships, chapters should visit the [“Reporting Membership”](#) page on the ICG website, or contact the ICG Treasurer at treasurer@costume.org.

Jeanine Swick
ICG Treasurer

Focus on Miss Lizzy’s Traveling Historical Fashion Show SIG

By Lisa Ashton



Miss Lizzy’s Traveling Historical Fashion Show is an ICG Special Interest Group (SIG) that was begun to study and preserve authentic Victorian and Edwardian clothing and artifacts, including photos and everything related to dress and sewing. It’s intended to help us get a more immediate idea about Victorian domestic life. I founded the SIG and am its Chairman.

Miss Lizzy’s has had no planned events over the past year. Soon after Costume-Con 39 in San Jose I sustained a catastrophic ankle fracture, requiring hospitalization and surgical interventions, thus effectively cancelling my summer. I had planned flea market searches and working on Miss Lizzy’s tiny

museum. It was constructed over the summer, but I have been unable to start filling it and organizing. I will certainly need help carrying boxes and furniture out to the museum. I have been unable to go to any local or regional conventions, nor show any of my Victorian finds, except via Miss Lizzy's [Facebook page](#) and my personal page.

I usually give out a "Miss Lizzy Award" at Costume-Cons, to the costume in the Historical Masquerade that is "the most Victorian". Remember that the Victorian and Edwardian periods span the years from 1837 through WWI (which ended in 1918), so it includes the Industrial Revolution, the beginning of sewing machines for home use, the rise of photography, the discovery of aniline dyes, the American Civil War, the Gilded Age, the Russian Revolution, the Titanic era, and Art Nouveau, to name just a few of the movements during that time. I usually give nice reference books about the era. I honestly don't recall who has received it in the past.

Anyone interested in Victorian dress is welcome and encouraged to visit Miss Lizzy's museum in Pennsylvania and examine authentic garments and artifacts. I'd be delighted to host you. And anyone interested in helping to get the tiny museum up and running, I'd be more than thrilled.

Lisa Ashton

Chair, [Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show](#)
lisa58@juno.com

Chicagoland Costumers' Guild's Cement Overshoes Award

By Patrick O'Connor

The Chicagoland Costumers' Guild gives an occasional award at Masquerades for Outstanding Achievement in Costuming. Its inspiration dates back to the gangland days of Al Capone and the Chicago Mob and is composed of a Barbie, in a flapper outfit, with her feet embedded ankle deep in a cup of plaster-of-Paris. In the '20's (the Roaring ones, not the present decade) Chicago

was pretty much run by the Mob. The staccato burst of a Thompson machine gun was called the "Chicago typewriter" and rival gangs fought for 'turf' using this weapon so prolifically that it became synonymous with our city. — So synonymous, that when I visited Crimea in 1999, a kid in Yalta saw our group, asked me (in Russian) if we were Americans (I said "Da. Amerikanski!") and he asked me what city. When I said "Chicago" he made the ratatat noise and mimed mowing down enemies with a tommy-gun. Our reputation precedes us—



Photo: Michele Jay Solomon

One of our founders, Barbara Wright, thought the Roaring-20's MOB theme (our group is known as the Masters Of Bravado, or MOB) would fit well with our location, and her idea for the local award was in keeping with the way the Outfit disposed of the bodies of their victims. Putting the feet of the intended disposee into a bucket of wet cement, letting it harden, and then dropping the victim into the Chicago River or Lake Michigan was the preferred method of disposal. Whether dead or alive, the person thus dispatched was a message that you would be "in over your head" if you messed with the Chicago Mob.

The official pronouncement upon presentation is "This award is given in recognition that your work is so good, we'd be tempted to send you on a long walk off a short pier in cement overshoes, so we could STEAL YOUR STUFF." Our CCG logo is a fedora hat. My Mom was a flapper in the '20s and said she would see Capone at Cubs games, always wearing a pinstripe suit and white fedora, sitting in the front row near home plate. He was a regular fan of the Cubs. Visit our [website](#) and check us out!

Michele Jaye Solomon, who fabricates the trophy for all of the events where it is awarded, is usually the official presenter. I have misquoted the exact wording she uses, but it was what I announced the one time I presented, at the Montreal Worldcon in 2009. (Sorry I mis-remembered that, M J !)

Spazzy Award of the New Jersey – New York Costumers' Guild

By Byron Connell



The Spazzy is the Sick Pups' award for the sickest humor in a masquerade. It is named for Spaz, our mascot. It takes the form of an award certificate and an award ribbon with three tails and an image of Spaz at the center of the rosette. Two of the tails have canine paw prints. We do not use a trophy.

Seeking to award humor as sick as we are, the Pups began plotting to award the best sick humor in a masquerade in around 1987 or 1988. That means we're guilty of setting forth the avalanche of chapter-specific awards that began in the early '90s. Sorry 'bout that! However, unlike most chapter-specific awards, which are awarded at every masquerade, Spazzies are rarer birds dogs. They're awarded only if a consensus of the Pups in the audience decides that an entry deserves one. Originally, we conceived of the Spazzy as an annual award for the very sickest and funniest masquerade entry of a year. We quickly recognized that this idea was impractical and turned to awarding them masquerade by masquerade.

The Pups awarded the very first Spazzy to some guy named Kevin . . . Roche (I think). Yes, that's right: Kevin Roche! Our most recent Spazzy went to Anastasia Holt and William Kennedy for "Chaos of the Sugar Plum Fairy" in the Costume-Con 40 Science Fiction and Fantasy Masquerade. (The judges awarded it Best in the Master Division and a gave it a Workmanship Award for Best



Photo: ICG Cosplay Photo Shoots SIG

Original Design.) Occasionally, entries in a Historical Masquerade have earned Spazzies.

We're bringing Spazzies to Costume-Con 42, so we'll be ready should an entry meet our high standard. Be prepared!

Byron Connell,
President, New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild, Inc.
(aka The Sick Pups of Greater Monmouth County)

Fibre Fantasy Artists of Canada's Moosie Award

By Eric Cannon and Jacqui Ward



It all started at Costume-Con 11 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when a number of first-timers from Canada attended the convention. After the Science Fiction and Fantasy Masquerade awards ceremony, a number of the first-timers asked why the funniest entry didn't win the New Jersey

/ New York Costuming Guild (the Sick Pups) "Spazzy" award. It was explained that a member of that group is not allowed to win the award.

After Costume-Con 11, a couple of Canadian members who were regular Costume Con attendees (Barb Schofield, Martin Miller and Eric Cannon) decided that they need a Canadian version of the Spazzy. The original rules would be the same as for the Spazzy, except that the Sick Pups would be eligible to win the award but Canadians members could not.

The next thing was to design the award and come up with a name. Some of the designs we thought of included a beaver (Canada's National Animal), a Canadian goose, a loon, a polar bear, a buffalo, a moose, and a bottle of maple syrup. In deciding a name, we wanted our award to rhyme with "Spazzy". Well, Beavery, Goosie, Loony, Polar Beary, Maple Syrupy, and Buffaloy didn't work, but Moosie did, so the Moosie was born!

The Spazzy is a glittered dog biscuit, so the Moosie should be of the same caliber. Following in the steps of the Spazzy, the Moosie became a can of hair mousse painted brown with antlers, eyes, nose and mouth,

The first Moosie was presented at the Costume-Con 13 Science Fiction and Fantasy Masquerade. The original judges were Barb Schofield, Jacqueline M. Ward, Penny Lipman, Gordon Rose, Martin Miller, and Eric Cannon. The winner of the very first Moosie was Toni Lay. The first historical Moosie was presented at the Costume-Con 13 Historical Masquerade. The Winning entry was “The Ding-A-Ling Sisters” presented by Laurie (last name unknown), Zelda Gilbert, Sandy Pettinger, Ann Gilbert, Bridget Landry, and Pierre Pettinger.

After its introduction, the Moosie was awarded sporadically, depending on the availability of chapter members. Eric recalls that the original Moosies were presented at Costume-Con 13 through Costume Con 16, where he was the presenter, but he does not know about awards presented at Costume Con 17 onward. The only change to the rules came after Costume-Con 14. The new rule states “An entry cannot win a Spazzy and a Moosie at the same event.”

The award has become more prevalent recently. The award itself has varied as well, evolving from the original can of hair mousse, to a moose figurine, to its current form, a 10 in x 12 in (25.4 cm x 30.4 cm) moose-themed quilted wall hanging, made by chapter members. Award criteria has also changed. It is now presented to the non-Canadian costumer (SF&F and Historical Masquerades) who we would like to see come up North and join in with our costuming community.



We are working on a complete list of winners from the Archives and guild members' memories.

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild DRaMMA Award

By Kathe Gust and Philip Gust

In March 2022, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Board voted to reconstitute the “[Dreamcatcher](#)” award and rename it to honor the life of Dana Rae MacDermott, a founding member. The award is now known as the “[Dana Rae MacDermott Memorial Award](#)” (DRaMMA). It recognizes innovation in costume design, construction and presentation.



The recipient receives a medal, a certificate, and a one year membership in the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild. The certificate was designed by then Silicon Web Vice President Betsy Marks, and depicts the comedy and tragedy masks; a symbol widely recognized to represent the creative arts.

Three non-competing, non-judging members of Silicon Web must be present at the particular Masquerade for an award to be presented. There may be times when the members present decide that no entry in that particular masquerade merits an award.

The first DRaMMA awards were given to three entries in the SF&F masquerade in 2022 at Costume-Con 40 (see “First SiW DRaMMA Awards Presented” in the [May 2022 issue of The Virtual Costumer](#) magazine). In 2023, Silicon Web presented DRaMMA awards to two entries at Costume-Con 39, one in the historical masquerade and one in the Single Pattern competition (see “SiW DRaMMA Awards at CC-39” in the [May 2023 issue of The Virtual Costumer](#) magazine). Silicon Web is looking forward to the opportunity of presenting DRaMA awards at Costume-Con 42 in April 2024. Stay tuned...

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 including cosplay 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

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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.

Printable ICG 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/e3EBj4HchvKFwDE8>.

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.