

# The International Costumer

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The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

*Vol XXIV Issue 2 - April 2025*



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## 2025 ICG President's Report

By Kevin Roche

ICG President Kevin Roche reports on the state of the International Costumers' Guild at its 2025 Annual Meeting on April 12, 2025.

### Members and Chapters

As noted in our Treasurer's report, membership is slightly up (15%) from last year. While we do not have any new chapters, we did have one start to form (stymied by life chaos for the members, alas), and serious inquiries about the process from a second group. I hope they come together in the year to come; I know several of us did reach out to encourage them to join an existing chapter of ICG in the meantime.

Real-life costume activities are definitely on the rise, though the "classic" fan-run conventions many of us love to attend are definitely under duress as the hotel/hospitality industry tries to make back all the income it lost during the worst of the pandemic – as we obviously know well, since that is why we are holding this year's meeting here on Zoom rather than at Costume-Con 43.

I do want to encourage you to attend the virtual Future Fashion Show and Single Pattern Contest this evening at 8PM CDT. The event will include announcement of the 2025 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award and this year's annual ICG Archives Memorial video. I'd also like to acknowledge the very recent passing of longtime ICG member, costumer extraordinaire, and friend Elaine Mami.

### Board Action

The board had no major actions to deal with in 2024, and did approve our 2025 budget on time.

### Officers Selection

Four of our five incumbent officers, myself included, are willing to stand for reelection for another year. Our Corresponding Secretary Merrily Wolf has expressed a desire to utilize her talents elsewhere in the ICG, and our Recording Secretary Anne Davenport is willing to serve in the dual role of both Corresponding and Recording Secretaries. This combination of offices is allowed within our bylaws (and the proposed new bylaws) without requiring any amendments to the documents.

### Committees

As all our standing committees are also submitting reports for this meeting, I am not going to steal their thunder in this report by quoting all of them. I do wish to congratulate the Publications Committee on its successful launch of the ICG Press on with the publication of the *ICG Masquerade Guidelines*, *Myrtle R Douglas: Mother of Convention Costuming*, and the wonderful re-publication of *The Masquerade Handbook*, long a dream of numerous ICG members.

### Documents Review Committee

I also wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Documents Review Committee. They accomplished the herculean task of restructuring and revising our governing documents over the last year, which is why we are able to consider re-issuing our Bylaws and Standing Rules today.

For that reason, I am recognizing Chair Leslie Johnston and the members of the Documents Review Committee with a President's Award today, for their patient and diligent work on rewriting the ICG Bylaws and Standing Rules with clarity and in contemporary corporate structure, while maintaining the unique nature of the International Costumers Guild.

This has been one of my long-term goals as ICG President, and I am very pleased with the result. I hope you will support their

efforts as we work through that part of today's agenda, including fixing some accidental elisions we discovered after the required advance publication date for today's meeting.

I will note that this process requires some rather specific parliamentary procedures, and thank you for your patience as I walked us through them while chairing the meeting.

In addition, there is a new SR based on a matter of Maryland corporate code regarding how the Board of Directors makes decisions via the online Board GoogleGroup. The issue was brought to my attention by an attorney specializing in non-profit governance, and I will explain it at that point in the agenda.

## **Participation in your ICG processes**

Repeating myself from 2024:

The ICG by its very nature relies on volunteers to keep running, and it seems the pool of people willing to do the work has shrunk to several handfuls of dedicated but also exhausted people. PLEASE consider getting involved as a chapter officer or in one of the corporate-level projects! Again, while chapter events are how most of us gather for fun and celebration of costume, our ICG-level projects are significant and important. There is no other collection of experience and talent like the ICG.

## **A Personal Note**

I stepped into the role of President in 2020 when requested to at a moment of executive crisis in the ICG, and I thank you for all the support (and argument) you have given me over the past five years. We've made some significant modernization changes in how we conduct business over those years, with revision of the governing documents a much needed step. We are however, at our core, an organization rooted in our art of costume, and I am beginning to find the president's role interfering with the joy I take in (and the time I need for) costuming. For that reason, I do not intend to stand for re-election in 2026. I am announcing this

now, so there is time to search for a qualified and interested nominee and arrange a smooth succession.

That is all I have to say this year; I do hope in 2026 we can instead have our Annual Meeting in person again, as esoterically garbed as is our wont.

And, again repeating myself from every year since 2020: here's to a healthier and more spectacularly costumed year to come!

Kevin Roche  
President, International Costumers' Guild

## **Revision of ICG Governing Documents Approved at 2025 ICG Annual Meeting**

By Leslie Johnston

There was a long recognized need for a restructuring of both the Standing Rules and the Bylaws, as well as some revision to bring both documents in line with best practices for governing documents. As allowed by the laws of Maryland where the ICG is incorporated, new versions would be submitted in place of the existing documents, rather than continuing to annotate the current versions.

I led a Documents Review that included participation over time by Byron Connell, Anne Davenport, Betsy Marks, and Jeanine Swick, who each provided conceptual and actual edits. Thanks are also due to Kevin Roche and Pierre Pettinger who reviewed and provided edits for the penultimate drafts which resulted in the final versions. The team completed the work in February 2025 and the proposed new documents were distributed to the membership for a vote at the April 2025 meeting.

A ballot by email and postal mail in advance of the ICG Annual Meeting did not receive sufficient responses by the time of the meeting to pass, however all votes cast were in favor of the proposed revisions, with one abstention. ICG President Kevin Roche used a specific parliamentary procedure to bring the

matter before the 2025 Annual Meeting. This provided an opportunity to fix some accidental elisions in the revised Standing Rules that were discovered after the required advance publication prior to submitting them for a vote.

The final version of the revised ICG governing documents were unanimously approved at the at the 2025 Annual Meeting. The next step before they take effect is to submit them to the Maryland Secretary of State's office for final approval.

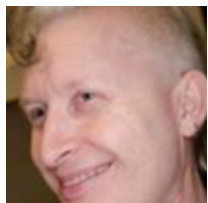
Thanks again to everyone who participated in creating these restated ICG governing documents. This has long been a goal of ICG President Kevin Roche, and I am happy to see the process nearing completion.

## ICG Officers Elected at 2025 Annual Meeting

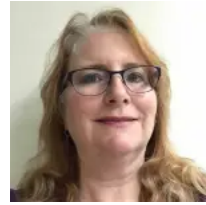
By Philip Gust

At the 2025 ICG Annual Meeting, a slate of officers was elected to serve for the 2025-2026 term. The meeting was held virtually on April 12, 2025 via ICG's Zoom corporate account. All current officers except Corresponding Secretary Merrily Wolf stood for re-election. Recording Secretary Anne Davenport agreed to also stand as Corresponding Secretary. ICG President Kevin Roche thanked Merrily for her past service to the ICG and wished her best of luck in her new role working with the ICG Press. The slate of offers was approved unanimously at the meeting.

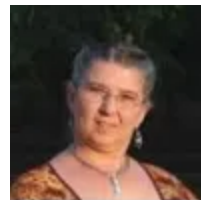
Here is information about the 2025-2026 elected officers.



**Kevin Roche – President** (*Silicon Web Costumers Guild*) is a sci-fi/fantasy and historical costumer with extensive experience entering, judging, and running masquerades. He was Chair of Costume-Con 26 in 2008 and Worldcon 76 in 2018. Kevin received the ICG's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007. He is a past ICG vice-president, and past president of the Silicon Web Costumers Guild.



**Leslie Johnston – Vice President** (*New Jersey – New York Costumes Guild*) is the Director of Digital Preservation at the U.S. National Archives. (NARA). Leslie has been costuming since the 1970s, making both fantasy and historical competition and hall costumes. She has won many awards at many masquerades over the years, including at Balticon, BayCon, Costume-Con, Westercon, and Worldcon. She loves to learn new techniques with every costume she builds, and particularly enjoys working with unusual materials. She is the Webmaster of the ICG Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives, and the 2022 recipient of the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Jeanine Swick – Treasurer** (*Silicon Web Costumers' Guild*) is ICG Treasurer and former SiW Secretary. Her grandmothers and mother taught her to make clothes for dolls and school at an early age. In Home-Ec, she made 3 piece suits while others figured out 3 piece patterns. She costumed in high school for theater, and later for her own teens. Her work is "period inspired" rather than historically accurate, incorporating her own creativity. She sells at regional renfaires, cons, SCA, and belly dance events. Jeanine is the 2024 recipient of the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Anne Davenport – Corresponding and Recording Secretary** (*Silicon Web Costumers' Guild*) has been costuming for 40 years since sewing and wearing a Starfleet uniform for Senior Class Dress-up Day in high school. Most of her costuming energies are aimed at convention hall costuming, but she also participates in Masquerades at the Master level from Costume-Cons to Worldcons. She is a long-time member of the Rebel Legion (a Star Wars costuming group), and has been a member of the ICG for at least twice as long.

## President's Award Presented to Documents Review Committee at 2025 ICG Annual Meeting

By Kevin Roche



During my President's Report at the Annual Meeting of the International Costumers Guild on April 12, 2025, I announced my President's Award for 2025 to Leslie Johnston and the Documents Review Committee:

*I also wish to acknowledge the hard*

*work of the Documents Review Committee. They accomplished the herculean task of restructuring and revising our governing documents over the last year, which is why we are able to consider re-issuing our Bylaws and Standing Rules today.*

*For that reason, I am recognizing Chair Leslie Johnston and the members of the Documents Review Committee (Anne Davenport, Betsy Marks, and Jeanine Swick) with a Presidents Award today, for their patient and diligent work on rewriting the ICG Bylaws and Standing Rules with clarity and in contemporary corporate structure, while maintaining the unique nature of the International Costumers Guild.*

Kevin Roche  
President International Costumers Guild

## Maral Agnerian Receives 2025 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award

By Kevin Roche

On April 12, 2025, ICG President Kevin Roche presented the ICG's highest honor, the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award, to Maral Agnerian. The award was announced during the virtual Single Pattern Contest and Future Fashion Show streamed at 8PM Central Daylight time.

The award is made in recognition of the formidable role she has played for over 15 years in both the International Costumers' Guild and in the wider costuming community.

For her her costuming skills, many years of service to the ICG and the wider costuming community, Maral Agnerian was selected by the LAA electors to receive the 2025 Award.

View [her LAA award page](#) to learn more about her.

Below is the text of Kevin Roche's announcement, which was released on the [ICG YouTube channel](#).

*Hello! I'm Kevin Roche, President of the International Costumers' Guild.*

*One of the unique responsibilities and privileges of being president of the ICG is administering the selection process for and presentation of the International Costumers Guild Lifetime Achievement Award.*



*The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community. Candidates for the award:*

- *Shall have been active in the costuming community for at least 10 years.*
- *Shall 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.*
- *Shall have made significant contributions in service to the costuming community.*

*Any ICG member, chapter or special interest group in good standing may nominate candidates; the selection is done by the Chapter Presidents and elected ICG officers via secret ballot administered by the President.*

*This year we, again, had several deserving nominees, and it is my privilege tonight to announce the 2025 recipient.*

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*This costumer and cosplay legend has had a career spanning longer than some con attendees have been alive.*

*They have been costuming since 1999, compete at the Master level, and their work has been widely recognized in costuming communities world-wide. They have won numerous awards at local, national, and international competitions, including their most recent triumph as the winner of the U.S. National Crown Championships of Cosplay.*

*Well-known for their deep and abiding love of beautiful fabrics, beads, and all manner of shiny things, this year's honoree relishes the challenge of bringing a 2-D design to life, but also loves the creativity inherent in original designs. They are always looking for, and sometimes creating, new sewing and construction techniques to learn and experiment with. In*

*addition to execution with stunning craftsmanship, their creative presentations onstage bring her costumed characters to life.*

*On the community front, our honoree strongly believes in spreading knowledge and information throughout the greater costuming community. They are in high demand as a teacher, and regularly offer courses and workshops at conventions and other venues. They also author articles and present webinars highlighting their work and the techniques they have developed.*

*In addition to teaching and presenting, they have served our costuming community for many years by running conventions, serving as a masquerade director, and judging costume competitions in North America, such as at Costume-Con and Anime North, and internationally. In October 2024, They were invited to serve as a judge for masquerades, the Variety Show, and the World Cosplay Summit qualifiers at Comic Con London.*

*And on a purely personal note, this year's honoree brought me tears of joy with her rendition at Costume-Con 39 of a design I also once recreated and presented, in drag, at Costume-Con 23: the Le Jazz Hot dress from Victor/Victoria.*

*It is my honor and privilege to announce that the recipient of the 2025 International Costumers' Guild Lifetime Achievement Award is Maral Agnerian*

## **Elaine Mami – In Remembrance**

By Tina Connell and Byron Connell

When Elaine Mami passed away in 2025, the Sick Pups lost one of their founders. Elaine and her husband, Carl, were among the eleven weird but talented costumers who banded together to create the Sick Pups, more formally known as the New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild, Inc. Elaine served for many years as our founding president, and later as our corresponding secretary, a job she loved because it gave her little to do that would keep her from costuming.



Elaine's house in NJ was the Sick Pups most common venue for meetings and workshops, until she and Carl moved to Arizona. And she didn't just costume at cons; she and Carl were also involved in her local theater group, as costumers and prop manufacturers. For at least a couple of years, their garage

shared a lot of space with the huge Egyptian sarcophagus they created for a production of 'The Man Who Came To Dinner.'

She was one of the members of the Royal Court of Amber, an entry in the masquerade at Torcon III, the 2003 World Science Fiction Convention in Toronto, which won Best in Show for both workmanship and stage presentation.

Elaine ran all the masquerades at Costume-Con 5! She was director of programming at Costume-Con 7, in charge of exhibits at Costume-Con 17, and director of the Single Pattern contest at Costume-Con 33. She chaired Costume-Con 30. She ran the costume exhibit at Noreascon 4, the 2004 World Science Fiction Convention in Boston. Over many years, she participated in panels and made presentations on a broad range of costuming topics.

In addition to helping found the Pups, after moving to Tucson, Arizona, Elaine went on to found a second International Costumers' Guild chapter, the Lower Arizona Costume Enthusiasts (LACE). Yes, she costumed the ICG in lace! At the time, she was the only person to found not one but two ICG chapters.

In 2018, the ICG honored Elaine with the Lifetime Achievement Award. See her [LAA award page](#) on the ICG website.

## ICG Press Titles Now Available in Digital Formats

By ICG Press



The International Costumers' Guild Press announces that its titles are now available directly from the ICG Press in digital formats for viewing on ebook readers, computers, and tablets. The [ICG Masquerade Guidelines](#) and [The Masquerade Handbook](#), are available in both ePub format used by ebook readers, and PDF

format for viewing on computers and tablets. The commemorative book, [Myrtle R Douglas: Mother of Convention Costuming](#) is available in PDF format to preserve its full-color layout.

To purchase ICG Press books in these digital formats, go to the "Purchase Information" area of the book webpage, and select "eBook" from the "ICG Press" option. From there, you can select the digital version you want, and complete your purchase using either PayPal or a debit/credit card. Once you complete the purchase, you can download the digital file immediately. These ebooks can also be purchased as gifts using the "Give as a Gift" option on the checkout screen. An ebook makes a thoughtful gift you can send immediately to friends or family who are interested in costumes and costuming.

For more information, visit the International Costumers' Guild Press [home page](#) on the ICG website.

# 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](mailto:president@costume.org))
- **Vice President:** Leslie L. Johnston ([vice-president@costume.org](mailto:vice-president@costume.org))
- **Treasurer:** Jeanine Swick ([treasurer@costume.org](mailto:treasurer@costume.org))
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Anne Davenport ([corr-secretary@costume.org](mailto:corr-secretary@costume.org))
- **Recording Secretary:** Anne Davenport ([rec-secretary@costume.org](mailto:rec-secretary@costume.org))

## Helpful Hands

- ***The International Costumer:*** ([newsletter-editor@costume.org](mailto:newsletter-editor@costume.org))  
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**Print Edition:** Patrick O'Connor
- **Webmaster:** Philip Gust ([webmaster@costume.org](mailto:webmaster@costume.org))
- **Archivist:** Pierre E. Pettinger, Jr. ([archivist@costume.org](mailto:archivist@costume.org))  
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