



Volume VII, Number 6

June 2000

SouthWest Costumers Guild

meets generally on the last Sunday of the month, 1:00PM at members homes or someplace fun. The Guild dues for our chapter are \$10 per year, an optional additional \$1 for membership in the International Costumer's Guild, and \$8 to receive the International Costumer's Quarterly. \$8 to receive only our chapter newsletter. Send money to Frances Burns, she will notify the Editor. SWCG Webpage:

<http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/guild.html>

International Costumers Guild Webpage: www.costume.org

For further information write to SWCG, PO Box 39504,

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June 25, 2000, 1 PM - Victorian Swimsuits Swim

Meet at Tasha's place, then head for a water park in our new Victorian Swimsuits, get wet and mess with some people's minds.

INTERNATIONAL COSTUMERS' GUILD Report of the president for 1999-2000 May 26, 2000

On October 3, 1994, the State of Maryland declared the ICG's Articles of Incorporation forfeit for failure to file a "Personal Property Return as of January 1, 1993," that had been due on April 15, 1993.

The ICG did not learn of that action until last fall, when our webmaster, John O'Halloran, decided to browse Maryland's web sites to see what they had to say about us. When John discovered this, he phoned me in Albany, New York, from California, on October 11, 1999, to let me know.

The reason we had not heard before last fall was that the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation still listed Kathryn Condon as our local contact at her old address in Fredericksburg, Maryland. Kathryn, of course, had moved out of the state long before then, and Jeannette Holloman has been the ICG's Vice-President, Maryland, since 1992. We failed to notify the Department of Assessment and Taxation at the time because none of the officers that year had any knowledge of such a requirement.

Still, ignorance of the law is no excuse. I was one of the Guild's officers that year, so I hold a share in the responsibility for this.

Fortunately, we did not owe any money to Maryland, so all we needed to do was file the delinquent returns and petition for revival of our Articles of Incorporation. I filled out the missing six years, worth of forms and notified the Department that Jeannette now was our local representative. Sharon co-signed the petition and enclosed a \$30,00 filing fee. On January 22, 2000, the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation notified me that it had accepted our petition and restored our status. We will remain in good standing with Maryland as a corporation so long as we file a Personal Property Return annually. It will be incumbent on the Officers each year to see to it that we do so.

That was the big news of 1999-2000. Beyond that, there is some good news, some interesting news, and bad news. The good news first.

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CALENDAR

NOTE: Information in this calendar is provided as a service to our guild please contact the individual organizations for verification of information.

July 14-16, 2000 - Hexacon 10, a fan-run Gaming Convention, will be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year's con features several live Action Role Playing games that encourage garb. Check out <http://www.casfs.org/hexacon/hex10.html> for details.

July 30, 2000 - TLC for the P&D* Guild Meeting/Workshop at Randall's place. We have some new curtains for the portable "Pipe and Drape" stage curtain unit used at masquerades. We'll make the necessary alterations and install the new parts. Click here for directions.

August 27, 2000 - CopperCon Preparation* (tentative topic) Finish and test your costume for the CopperCon 20 Masquerade.

September 8-10, 2000 - CopperCon 20, a Y2Decade-ready fan-run Science Fiction convention, will be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year's con features Authors Poul Anderson, Jennifer Roberson and Adam Niswander; Artist Vincent de Fate, and Musical Guest Cecelia Eng. Check out www.casfs.org/cucon for details. The con features a masquerade directed by SWCG VP Jean Palmer

September 24, 2000 - The Cloaking* Guild Workshop at Jean's place. We will build some velvet capes as our semi-annual fundraiser.

October 22, 2000 - Pre-Halloween Halloween Party* Guild Social, location to be announced. Everyone else will be doing their Halloween parties next weekend. Play-Test your costume with us!

November 10-12, 2000 - TusCon 27, the third of Arizona's triangle of annual fan-run SF conventions, will be held at the Executive Inn in Tucson, Arizona. This year's con features Artist Guest of Liz Danforth and Toastmaster Ed Bryant. Check out www.azstarnet.com/~basfa/ for details.

November 24, 2000 - Photo Shoot* Guild Workshop/Picnic, location to be announced. We will gather at a local park with interesting backgrounds and shoot some portraits in our favorite costumes. Bring some munchies to share, a costume or two, and maybe your camera.

December 17, 2000 - Glendale Glitters* Guild Walking Tour. We will see the sights of downtown Glendale, Arizona during their annual "Glendale Glitters" holiday event. Features include a chocolate factory, a doll museum, and antique shops. Should we do this in Victorian attire?

* Indicates a SWCG-sponsored event.

ICG President

(cont'd from page 1)

Good News. - The period from last year's Annual Meeting to this one saw the acceptance of two new chapters. At last year's meeting, the members approved recognition of the Greater Portland Area Costumers' Guild as an ICG chapter. In December, the Board of Directors voted to extend recognition to The Greater Sacramento Area Costumers' Guild, too. So, we now are 18 chapters in number.

Interesting News. - I have continued my custom of sending a President's Message to all the chapters about once a month. They have provided in-formational updates as reminders of tasks to be accomplished. We have accomplished some of them. Some still need to be done.

On March 21, 2000, I accepted Pat Ritter's resignation from the position of Editor of The Costumer's Quarterly and gave the job to Carl Mami. As Carl will tell you in his report, an issue of the Quarterly will be ready at the printer on Thursday and he will mail it immediately. Carl also will, I believe, explain his plans to complete publication of the issues for both 1999 and 2000 by December 31.

A few weeks earlier, Janet Wilson-Anderson found and sent to me the ICG's missing financial records. These were from Betsy Delaney's years as Treasurer. They now are in the ICG Archives.

Also during the spring, John O'Halloran posted on our website (www.costume.org) the ICG Guidelines for International Level Masquerades and Competitions. Chapters and Costume Con and Worldcon masquerade directors can access them there (as can anyone else who might be interested in them). The "Guild Guidelines" are NOT rules. They are guidelines intended to assist Worldcon and Costume-Con masquerade directors and entrants only. Directors of other masquerades use them at their own peril. We do not have masquerade rules; those are set by masquerade directors. "It's not a rule unless the director says it is."

Bad News. - The good news aside, I have to characterize 1999 - 2000 as a debacle. At the time of last year's annual meeting, February 15, 1999, the ICG had 1,162 members. As of May 19, 2000, there were only 579 members, for a one-year decline of 583, or just over half the membership. As I expect that Sharon will explain in her Treasurer's report, virtually all the decline can be attributed to the failure of two large chapter to report their members. Nevertheless, this year's budget had been based on a membership of 1,000, not 579, and we have seriously over spent both the 1999 budget and the one for 2000. The budget for this year assumes a membership of 600.

I must take responsibility for a large piece of this disaster. Things went so very well last year that perhaps it was the effect of hubris on my part, but let me explain.

Last year, we adopted the first formal budget the Guild ever had in its 20-year history. Under the new Standing Rule the members adopted at last year's meeting, I was to appoint a Budget and Finance Committee that would oversee execution of the budget as well as plan a budget for each upcoming year. The committee is supposed to consist of four ICG members in good standing who are not chapter presidents, plus the Treasurer. I appointed Bruce MacDermott and Brenna Sharp to the committee but have never been able to find two other volunteers.

The Standing Rule calls for the Treasurer to make quarterly reports on ICG revenues and expenditures to the committee and the Board of Directors. As President, I failed to insist that the Treasurer make those reports. Had I made sure that the reports were made, we would have discovered the revenue shortfall much earlier than May 19th and could have taken steps to

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ICG President

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generate revenue and cut or delay expenditures. I am an experienced manager and I know better. I'm sorry; there simply is no excuse for my failure to insist that the Treasurer make the required reports.

However, the blame does not rest wholly with me. The chapters share it. The Standing Rules require every chapter to make annual reports of membership, with quarterly updates. The chapters' responsibility to do so is perfectly clear. Yet, getting such reports is always a struggle. Last year, Jana Keeler developed a standard report format for the chapters. I sent to all chapters. It is posted on the website and can be downloaded by any chapter. Nevertheless, chapters continue to fail to discharge their responsibility to the Guild, even as they complain that we're not doing our job.

After a similar mess just before the last Annual Meeting, John Syms made a motion to separate ICG membership from chapter membership, with ICG membership to be overseen directly by the Board of Directors. Later in this meeting we'll have a report by a special committee I appointed to consider that motion and you will have the opportunity to vote on it as the first item under Old Business. I don't want to prejudice the reception of the committee's report, so I am not going to say anything in this report about the Syms motion, but I intend to speak on the motion when it comes up under Old Business. The motion would fundamentally restructure the ICG but, if we decide not to adopt it, we may need some other means of making certain that the chapters do their job.

Reporting membership is not the only problem area. I have heard one Quarterly editor after another bemoan the failure of chapters to provide news and information about activities, let alone features. I'm sure that Carl will speak to this in his report at the Quarterly's new editor, but I have heard the same thing from Pat Ritter, Sally Norton, Cat Devereaux, Jim Kovalcin, and Kelly Turner! The single biggest reason you have not been receiving the Quarterly once each quarter is that there isn't anything to publish!

The members are the ONLY source of material for the Quarterly to publish. The ICG is a federation of chapters. It has no members of its own; costumers become ICG members by joining one of the chapters. Therefore, the responsibility to provide material for the editor to publish in The Costumer's Quarterly rests solidly on our chapters. But, what do we get? Do we get articles, reviews, news, or reports of chapter activities? No. Instead of receiving material to publish, so we could get the Quarterly out four times a year, we receive notices that chapters are withholding their subscription funds until issues are published. The best way for the members to kill The Costumer's Quarterly is to continue to withhold, not money, but the information we need in order to print something other than 32 blank pages.

In accordance with our By-laws, the Balance Sheet in the Treasurer's report is incorporated as an integral part of my report.

This concludes my report for 1999-2000. It was a very unsatisfactory year and I am very dissatisfied with my own performance as President, as well as with the cooperation we are receiving. As you know, I am standing for reelection at this meeting, for the third AND FINAL time. However, right now, I wouldn't vote for me again and, if any other member wants this job, I will be happy to step aside.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron P. Connell, President - International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

**International costumers' guild
President's Message
June 11, 2000**

Hi to all -

This month, I'm reporting on the Annual Meeting and covering a couple of other items. I'll take the latter up first.

Lifetime Achievement Award.

I am delighted to report that the Board of Directors has conferred the International Costumers' Guild's 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award on Sandy and Pierre Pettinger for their contribution to the costuming community. Sandy and Pierre are master costumers; they've been costuming actively at least since the early 80s. They were among the founders of the Midwest Costumers' Guild and co-chaired Costume-Con 10. They have actively taught other costumers their knowledge and skills for 20 years.

Costume Guild UK.

CGUK has a new mailing address:

Costume Guild UK

c/o Marion Byott (Membership Secretary/Treasurer)

64 Frith Road

Croydon CR0 1TA

UNITED KINGDOM

2000 Annual Meeting.

About 25 members attended the Annual Meeting on May 29, in Hartford, Connecticut. This report does not follow the agenda strictly.

After reviewing, correcting, and approving the minutes of the 1999 meeting, the members received the reports of the Guild's officers and committees. I've enclosed a copy of the President's Report for 1999-2000.

Membership and Finances. On behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Treasurer reported that the number of ICG members reported by the chapters stood at 508 as of May 19th. (I've enclosed a copy of the membership report.) This was a 56 percent drop in reported members since the 1999 meeting. Much of the drop was caused by two large chapters that did not report all (or in one case, any) members. Consequently, for 1999 the Corporation's general account ran a deficit of \$285.16, and for the first half of 2000, a further deficit of \$925.11. The deficit was caused largely by a budget that assumed 1,000 members when only 508 members were reported. I have enclosed the 1999 and 2000 statements of income and expenditure and the balance sheet as of May 29, 2000. Please see the President's Report for 1999-2000 for a further discussion of our financial situation.

For 2000 and 2001, The Board of Directors has adopted austere budgets, as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. They were reported to the members. (I'm now paying for my President's Messages out of my own pocket, for example. The Webmaster is continuing to pay for the website out of his pocket.) However, both budgets project continued deficits. The budgets for 2000 and 2001 will be posted on the web site.

At this time, the Corporation is still solvent. However, if we continue to post deficits, that will change. Several chapters owe unpaid dues, however, and payment will help to ameliorate the financial picture. Nevertheless, in my opinion the only way for the International Costumers' Guild to return to the surplus of revenues over expenditures that we enjoyed in 1998 is to grow into it. The budget for this year is based on 600 members. That for 2001 assumes a 10 percent membership growth, to 660. Virtually all continuing expenditures will be associated with

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ICG President

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services that will retain the present membership and support efforts to attract new members.

There having been no communication from the South Bay Costumers' Guild for over 12 months, the Treasurer was directed to send the chapter's president by certified U.S. Mail a warning that the chapter will be dissolved unless it submits its dues and membership lists, with a copy to the chapter treasurer. **The Costumer's Quarterly.** The Editor reported that the next issue would be ready at the printer on June 1st. As of today, copies are in the post. The 1999-2000 President's Report discusses the Quarterly's current circumstances.

Special Committee on Membership (Dina Flockhart, Darla Kruger, Brenna Sharp, Sharon Trembley, and Ken Warren). Ken Warren reported for the special committee that I appointed to recommend action by the members on a motion made at the 1999 meeting that had been tabled to this meeting. The motion, made by John Syms and seconded by Ken Warren, was "To separate ICG membership and Chapter membership, ICG membership to be overseen by the Board of Directors." On the committee's behalf, Ken pointed out that adoption of the motion would sever all ties between the ICG and its chapters; therefore, the committee unanimously recommended that the motion be defeated. As the first item under Old Business, the members defeated the motion unanimously.

At the committee's recommendation, the members created a new staff position of "Chapter Liaison." The purpose of the position is to improve communication between the chapter and the ICG. (Its nickname is either Guido or Moishe.) The position reports to the Board of Directors. It was established only for one year; if it succeeds, it may be made permanent. With the Board of Directors' concurrence, I appointed Darla Kruger as Chapter Liaison. Darla is the current president of Costumer's Guild West and this year's dean of CGW's Costume College. Chapters will be hearing from her. They may reach her by e-mail at devinedwk@aol.com

Fundraising. Under New Business, the members adopted a motion by Betsy Delaney to create a standing Fundraising Committee. The Board directed me to request interested members with some fundraising experience to submit resumes to me. Members interested in improving the ICG's revenues should send resumes or statements of their fundraising experience to me at the address at the end of this message.

Officers. The members selected the following officers for 2000-01 and the Board of Directors duly elected them to their posts:

President: Byron P. Connell

Vice-President: Kenneth T. Warren

Treasurer: Sharon Trembley

Corresponding Secretary: Jess Miller

Recording Secretary: Dora Buck

The members thanked Steve Swope for his work as Recording Secretary.

Costume-Con 18. The members voted their thanks to the Costume-Con 18 committee for making our meeting room available for an extra hour beyond our scheduled time of adjournment by moving to another location the program item scheduled in the room for that time. We specifically extended our thanks to Robert Sacks, the CC 18 program coordinator, for relocating the program item.

Of course, this is just a brief summary of the Annual Meeting. The complete draft minutes will be distributed as soon as Steve completes them.

Members may reach me by e-mail at either

bconnell@nysed.gov (work) or BP.Connell@worldnet.att.net (home), or by regular post at 50 Dove Street, Albany, NY 12210-1811, USA.

Sincerely,
Byron P. Connell, President
International Costumers' Guild



CopperCon 20 Masquerade Info

The 2000 CuCon 20 Masquerade will take place in the Navajo Room on Saturday, September 9.

Randall Whitlock has agreed to handle the stage pipe and drape and the lighting set-up.

Frances Burns has agreed to run the backstage area.

Sharan Hoyle will be the kids den mom.

This is a good beginning, but we still need more Den Moms, a photographer with a polaroid camera, and catchers and pushers, and gophers, and someone to run sound, and, and....all of us are needed to bring off a great Masquerade. We will need lots of help.

If IF did I say if- I know you have a costume, how about getting on stage??? You know you belong to the Guild so you can play dress-up, this is your big chance!! To help call me, my number is on the front page of this newsletter.

Masquerade Registration will be near the Con Registration area. We will have stage lights. They will be on or off, sorry nothing fancy.

The stage entrance will be by steps. The stage will be 12' deep x 24' wide with a 6' wide, 24' long runway as exit with steps at the end. Stage will be 24" above the spectator area. You will have 10' of headroom when on stage.

Masquerade Green Room will be the Kachina Boardroom. There will be Den moms to take care of you before the masquerade.

And we will have a repair box for emergency repairs. There will be Polaroid photos taken of each costume for use by the judges.

ADVICE: in general, you may surprise the audience, but NEVER SURPRISE THE CREW!!

Very few RULES:

1. No fire or flame allowed on-stage — ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!

2. No messy substances (wet, dry or oily) that might damage the costume of another.

3. This masquerade is rated PG-13.

4. No smoking in the green room or the masquerade hall.

5. No flash photography while participants are on stage.

6. All weapons must be cleared and approved by the Masquerade Director!

7. The masquerade director has full authority to eliminate anyone from the competition on the basis of bad taste, danger to the contestants or audience, violation of the above rules, or any other reason deemed sufficient. There will be no appeal. This rule is intended to protect you and the convention from the real "loons" and will not be invoked frivolously.

Jean Palmer

CuCon 20 Masquerade Director