



SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume VII, Number 10

October 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, Phoenix AZ 85069 or contact:

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(Deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month)

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MEETING: OCT 22, 2000 at 1PM - Pre-Halloween Halloween Party* Guild Social, at Jean's place. Everyone else will be doing their Halloween parties next weekend. Play-Test your costume with us! e-mail Randall for a map.

**International costumers' guild
 President's Message
 october 3, 2000**

Hello, everyone -

Effective immediately, I have suspended publication of The Costumer's Quarterly, until further notice.

I have taken this step on an emergency basis, because the ICG does not have the funds to continue the Quarterly's publication. We have printed and mailed Volume 13, issues 1 and 2, the first two issues for 2000. We also have printed the special 1999 issue. To make up for four individual issues, it is about 100 pages. It is ready now to be mailed.

However, we cannot pay the cost of printing that issue, nor of mailing it to subscribers and chapters. To meet demand, we reprinted extra copies of the first 2000 issue; that cost \$127.25. The cost of printing the 1999 special issue is \$2,946.67. Carl Mami, the Quarterly's editor, has paid the printer with his personal credit card, so that sum is a debt of the Corporation to him. The cost to mail the issue is \$500. Those expenses add up to \$3,573.92.

However, there is only about \$1,200 in the ICG treasury (including \$200 in Quarterly advertising revenue), leaving us short \$2,373.92, even if we use every penny on hand.

The bottom line is, we're broke! We need to raise \$2,500 in revenue immediately. To publish the remaining two Quarterly issues for 2000, we need to raise a further \$3,000. At this point, it appears that it would be cheaper for us to make pro rata refunds to subscribers than to print those issues.

In the U.S., contributions to the ICG are deductible from income for federal and state income tax purposes. I intend to make a contribution; I hope other members will, too.

What happened? To begin, the ICG has been subsidizing the Quarterly's publication. The subscription price for ICG members, \$8.00 per year, does not cover the per-copy cost to print and mail four issues, which currently is \$13.00. We needed, but did not request, a \$1.00 per year increase in the subscription rate
 (cont'd on page 2)



CALENDAR

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

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 18-19, 2000 - Devonshire Renaissance Faire The annual renaissance fair hosted by Phoenix Parks & Recreation at Los Olivos Park, on 28th Street, one block north of Indian School Road. Food, Music, Merchants, all in an Elizabethan theme. Look for SWCG Member Randall Whitlock's "MoiRandall's" costume pavilion.

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?

May 18-20, 2001 - LepreCon 27, A fan-run convention emphasizing the art of Science Fiction, will be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year's con's confirmed guests of honor include: Artist Guest of Honor: Stephen Hickman Author Guest of Honor: Michael Stackpole Music Guest: Echo's Children (sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle) Local Artist Guest of Honor: Robert Ross Check out www.leprecon.org for details.

June 29-July 1, 2001 - DarkCon 2001, A Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Gaming convention, will be held in central Arizona, location to be announced. Check out www.darkcones.org for details as they develop. A masquerade will be featured.

September 7-9, 2001 - CopperCon 21, A fan-run Science Fiction convention, will be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year's con features Author Julian May and Musical Guest Heather Alexander. Check out www.casfs.org/cucon for details. The con features a masquerade directed by SWCG Webdude Randall Whitlock. Randall has put up a masquerade information page at <http://members.aol.com/cumask/>.

* Indicates a SWCG-sponsored event.

ICG President (cont'd from page 1)
for ICG members. I judged that the members would not stand for it, given our poor record of publication. However, for 1998, the ICG generated \$2,227.89 more in revenue than we spent. For 1999, at my recommendation, the Board of Directors adopted a budget that projected \$265.00 more in revenue than expenditures. Had revenues from ICG dues come in at the projected level and subscriptions continued, the Guild could have continued to subsidize the Quarterly's publication.

As you know, however, that was not the case. Some chapters decided to withhold subscriptions en masse. In addition, ICG membership plummeted by over 50 percent between February 1999 and May 2000. That resulted in \$583 less in revenue from dues than we had budgeted. I understand that the last four months have seen no change in membership.

I did not know about this shortfall until early this May. I had failed to inquire either about memberships or about revenues before Sharon Trembley brought the problem to my attention then. I assumed revenues were about on target, and authorized expenditures at budgeted levels, rather than requiring cutbacks.

As a result, at this year's Annual Meeting the Board adopted austere budgets for 2000 and 2001, but ones that continued to project annual operating deficits. We believed that the treasury balance of more than \$3,000 could support three years of deficits. We were wrong. The money's gone already.

It was not my intention to run the ICG into the ground, but apparently I have done so.

For me, the most perplexing question is why so many costumers have decided to terminate their ICG memberships. As you know, Costumer's Guild West, formerly our largest chapter, had only eight ICG members in good standing in May. The Australian Costumers' Guild had no ICG members, nor did South Bay.

I doubt that these chapters have so few members; these costumers must have decided to be local members only, rather than members of the International Costumers' Guild. I am acutely aware that this took place during my presidency and, frankly, I wonder whether there is something I did to offend so many costumers. On the other hand, I know of no member who opposed my re-election in 1999 and 2000, let alone who asked for my resignation. Have I simply scared everyone away? If I have, I apologize, even though I have no idea what I may have done.

At this point, however, in my judgment the International Costumers' Guild as it now stands is no longer a viable organization. Do costumers still want it or has it outlived its purpose? If the Corporation is to survive, we need a radical reorganization strategy. Frankly, I'm fresh out of ideas. Do any of you have any? All suggestions will be cheerfully accepted.

If we don't come up with something, at the next Annual Meeting I will introduce a motion directing the Board of Directors to take all necessary steps to dissolve the Corporation.

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

Yours,

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

