

Cactus Needles

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume VIII, Number 6

June 2001

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 \$4 for membership in the International Costumer's Guild, and \$18 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:

President Frances Burns (520) 284-9360
francesb@sedona.net

Vice President Jean Palmer (623) 876-1848
j194@phnx.uswest.net

Treasurer Kim Martin (623) 773-1816
kimlmartin@mindspring.com

Secretary Paula Lary (520) 868-5702
Paulal@cactus.cac.cc.az.us

Newsletter Editor Stephanie Bannon (602) 973-2341
leigh@doverkeep.org

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

Members:

John Autore John.Autore@asu.edu (480) 967-4537

Tasha Cady TashinkaC@aol.com (623) 582-0540

Becky Lee Evans beckylee_00@yahoo.com (775) 664-4045

Marilyn Greene (602) 952.0598

Sharan Hoyle sharanmanymoves@cs.com (623)842-0409

Peter Manly petemanly@bix.com (623) 876-1848

Debbie Smith debs133522@aol.com (602) 788-3628

Randall Whitlock Randwhit@aol.com (602) 995-7514



MEETING: June 24, 2001 - Organizational Meeting* Guild business meeting at Kim's place. We are considering incorporating the guild. We need to discuss bylaws, structure and other legal stuff.

The house is at 6419 W Monte Cristo. Take Greenway Road to the light at 63rd Ave (you can also take Bell Road, but the traffic to Arrowhead Mall is heavy). Turn north at 63rd Ave. Turn west at Monte Cristo, the last road on the left before reaching the stop sign at Paradise. We are on the south side of the street, after the road makes a bend; there is a cul-de-sac on the right just before you get to our house. It is a beige house, with a basketball hoop on the garage and a ramp to the front door. Also, the purple pick-up truck and white van will be in the driveway.

International Costumers' Guild

President's Message

May 20, 2001

Hello, all -

This is my final message as ICG President. Thank you for letting me serve the Guild in this office for the past three years.

I have enclosed the Agenda for next week's Annual Meeting in Calgary. I hope to see many of you there. I want to use my final message as an opportunity to talk about the future of the International Costumers' Guild and what I see as the principal issues we have to address. It has taken me the whole of my three years as President to recognize them.

The three most pressing issues are:

1. A stagnant or declining membership,
 2. Factionalism among chapters and an unwillingness to work for the good of the entire Guild, and above all,
 3. An absence of a vision for the International Costumers' Guild.
- If we had a vision of the ICG, I believe we could overcome the other two problems.

1. Membership. While I do not have the current count of members in good standing, it is evident that our numbers have not increased. They may well have declined further from last year's low point. Certainly, this year saw the loss of two chapters - Portland, which seceded, and South Bay, which apparently dissolved. From what I have heard, it would not surprise me to see the loss of at least two more chapters in the near future.

(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.

July 22, 2001 - Coppercon Preparations* Guild Workshop at Randall's place. We'll build some prizes for the upcoming Coppercon 21 Masquerade. Bring sewing tools. Click Here for directions to the meeting.

August 26, 2001 - Pool or Beach Party (tentative)* Guild party, location to be announced. Truck out your Victorian swimsuit from last year's project or come up with something new!

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/>

September 30, 2001 - Housewarming* Guild Road Trip to Sedona. The prez's new place should be up and running by now. Let's break in her sewing room!

October 28, 2001 - The Cloaking* Guild Workshop at Jean's place. We'll build some capes and other ren gear to sell at the Devonshire Renaissance Fair as a fundraiser to support our other activities.

November 25, 2001 - The Cloaking 2* Guild Workshop at Jean's place. We'll build some more capes and hats to get ready for the Estrella War in February.

* Indicates a SWCG-sponsored event.



ICG

(cont'd from page 1)

At the same time, we have seen no expansion, either in North America or elsewhere. In North America, there are costumers, but no chapters, in the southeastern U.S., in the mid-west outside the reach of the St. Louis and Chicago chapters, and in Canada east of Alberta. There are costumers on the European continent. How do we reach these potential members?

How can our existing chapters build their own memberships and what can the ICG do to assist them?

2. Factionalism. That's an ugly word, but it exists. As President, I have seen it all the time, especially among our U.S. chapters, pitting eastern, mid-western, and west coast chapters against each other in destructive ways, not in healthy competition. At the same time, members of chapters in the rest of the world seem reluctant to take an active hand in running this Guild. In the recent balloting on the Lifetime Achievement Award, for example, there clearly were eastern, midwestern, and west coast U.S. candidates, while no non-North American member of the Board even bothered to vote. One consequence is that we are not training future leaders of the Guild.

3. Lack of a vision. That is the problem that underlies everything. No one cares about the ICG because we have no vision for it. As a result, chapters politick against one another, membership declines, no efforts are made to develop new chapters, and no one wants to help run the Guild.

But, this is just a hobby, people cry! Costuming is the hobby, not running the ICG. That's work. It's essential work, however, in support of our chapters and their members, the advancement of the costuming art, if we believe that the ICG has a role to play in supporting the chapters and advancing the art. Do we believe that, or do we want the Guild to go away and stop bothering people? That is a question that the chapters and members must answer in order to know whether or not the International Costumers' Guild has a future. I ask them to do so.

As a first step in addressing the question of whether or not we ought to continue to exist, the Board of Directors has discussed a mission statement for the ICG. It will be put to the members at the Annual Meeting next week. If they adopt it, it will help to shape a vision for the ICG and the work of the Board over the next several years. The current draft reads as follows

The International Costumers' Guild, Inc.,
is an affiliation of amateur, hobbyist, and professional costumers dedicated to the promotion and education of costuming as an art form in all its aspects.

However, if we agree that the ICG ought to exist, building a vision for it must go beyond a statement of its mission to address the role it ought to play in advancing the art of costuming. For example, ought the ICG to continue its current role as an overall sponsor of Costume-Con? That role predates Costume-Con's present constitution and comes from a time when Costume-Con was very much seen as an ICG function. It no longer is an ICG function. Perhaps, then, we should repeal the Standing Rules related to it and amend the by-laws to eliminate the requirement that the Annual Meeting be held there. This is one example of the

(Cont'd on page 3)

ICG

(cont'd from page 2) VII. Selection of Officers

sought of issues the chapters and members need to address if they want the Guild to continue to exist. An obvious next question would be, if we cut our ties to Costume-Con, what should we be doing?

I hope that these thoughts will spark consideration and discussion of the role and future of the International Costumers' Guild. I leave it to my successor to decide how, or whether, to continue this inquiry.

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

**2001 Annual Meeting, International
Costumers' Guild, Inc., and Concurrent
Meeting of its Board of Directors
Westin Hotel, Calgary, Alberta, Canada,
May 28, 2001**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order of the Meeting
- II. Determination of a Quorum
 - A. Members Present
 - B. Members Represented by Proxy
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the 2000 Annual Meeting
- IV. Reports
 - A. Report of the President
 - B. Report of the Vice President
 - C. Report of the Treasurer
 - 1. Finance
 - 2. Membership
 - 3. Chapters' recognition terminated
 - D. Report of the Corresponding Secretary
 - 1. Correspondence
 - 2. Public Relations Committee
 - E. Report of the Recording Secretary
 - F. Report of the Editor, ICG Annual
 - G. Report of the Editor, The Costumer's Quarterly
 - 1. The Editorial Board
 - 2. Publication and Other Matters
 - H. Report of the Archivist
 - I. Report of the Parliamentarian
 - J. Report of the Webmaster
 - K. Report of the Chapter Liaison (Guido)
 - L. Report of the Special Committee on ICG Membership
 - M. Report of the Fundraising Committee
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
 - A. Adoption of an ICG Mission Statement
 - B. Action to make permanent the position of Chapter Liaison
 - C. Amendments to the Standing Rules

- A. Nominations Made in Advance
- B. Nominations from the Floor
- VIII. Adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the Members
- IX. Election by the Board of Directors of the Officers Selected by the Annual Meeting
- X. Any Other Business to Come Before the Board of Directors
- XI. Adjournment of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

**2001 ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COSTUMERS' GUILD, INC.**

New Business

Be it Moved that the International Costumers' Guild adopt the following statement of its mission:

The International Costumers' Guild, Inc., is an affiliation of amateur, hobbyist, and professional costumers dedicated to the promotion and education of costuming as an art form in all its aspects.

**2001 ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COSTUMERS' GUILD, INC.**

Selection of Officers

The following members in good standing have been nominated for the offices indicated:

President: Darla Kruger (Costumer's Guild West)

Vice President: Carl Mami (New Jersey/New York Costumers' Guild)

Treasurer: Sharon Trembley (New Jersey/New York Costumers' Guild)

Corresponding Secretary: Laura Rico (Costumer's Guild West)

Recording Secretary: Dora Buck (New Jersey/New York Costumers' Guild)

Members in good standing may make additional nominations from the floor.

