

Cactus Needles

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume VIII, Number 10

October 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

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Editor's Note

If you did not receive your September newsletter please let me know and I will send another one with the November newsletter.

MEETING: October 21, 2001 at 10AM - 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.



International Costumers Guild ICG President's Message October 2, 2001

First, a few words about recent events. The ICG Officers and BOD wish to express our sorrow and grief over the recent tragedy that has befallen the United States and the world. We can only suggest in this dark time that you hold your loved ones near, remember those we've lost, and pray for justice. Remember, you're not alone in these days of sadness. May you and yours all be safe and heal as quickly as your hearts will allow.

On another note, the following is my final report on the minutes of the 2001 ICG Annual Meeting. This is a summation of the report produced by the ICG special committee on membership that was staffed by Ken Warren, Darla Kruger, Sharon Trembly, and Dina Flockhart.

The goal of the committee was first to determine what problems the ICG is facing, and second to try to come up with solutions to those problems. The committee used the ICG insolvency as a starting point, but after some analysis they realized there is only one real problem that the ICG has to deal with at this time. That problem is apathy. The committee felt that ICG members question the relevance of the ICG to their lives. This is especially true as the ICG is sometimes perceived as non-communicative and does not really care about its members. The committee recognized that there are many people who obviously do care, however it seems that a general malaise is affecting all levels of the organization to one degree or another. Other, more obvious problems all have their beginnings in this one. Lack of timely information, unwillingness to forward information or respond to questions, dues that may not have been forwarded —

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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.

November 9-11, 2001 - TusCon 28, the eldest of Arizona's trilogy of annual fan-run science fiction conventions, is hosted by the Baja Arizona Science Fiction Association (BASFA). This year's incarnation will be held at the InnSuites Hotel and Resort in Tucson, Arizona. The Author Guest of Honor will be Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. The Artist Guest of Honor will be Newton Ewell. Visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/> for details.

November 17 - 18, 2001 - Devonshire Renaissance Faire at Los Olivos Park in Phoenix, Arizona. (One block north of 28th Street & Indian School Road) This annual faire is hosted by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department. Music, Costumed Entertainers, Shopping! Look for SWCG Webmaster Randall's MoiRandall's costume pavilion.

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.

Bits n Pieces

There will be a second SCA/SF GARAGE SALE in December at 3112 N 26th Place, Phoenix (Rosehaven) 9AM to 6PM. There will be a Saturday only sale of SCA and science fiction related items including, but not limited to: garb, costume books, trim, material, posters, figures and more. For more info contact millymcc@earthlink.net



ICG

(cont'd from page 1)

all can be traced back to this apparent apathy.

The committee did suggest some remedies. They rejected structural fixes (e-chapters, reorganizing the ICG as something other than a loose federation of chapters, and the like). The committee did not believe that structural remedies would correct the identified problem. Instead, they chose to examine ways to reach the ICG members and potential members. The committee decided it was important to remind its members that the ICG has value and relevance. There were six recommendations to this end that the committee felt should all be implemented. They strongly felt that these "fixes" would not work individually, but only successfully handle these issues as a complete force. The following are the committee's recommendations:

1. The ICG President should continue to write a "President's message" every month to the chapters.
2. There needs to be a concerted effort to promote the CQ and to get that up and running since it is the ICG's best connection with the chapters. The CQ is the sole regularly provided way for the ICG to communicate with its members. It is essential that it be healthy. The CQ's health helps to defeat the appearance of apathy by providing relevant information in a timely fashion.
3. ICG BOD members should be required to write three articles per year for the CQ. This will support the health of the CQ by ensuring a constant flow of articles. Board members are singled out because they are officers of the ICG, or chapter presidents, and as such are already known to the members of the organization. Also, as officers, they have taken responsibility for the organization.
4. The ICG Annual should be rolled into one issue of the CQ for the next two years (i.e., instead of two ICG publications, they become one). It is also recommended that the two not be separated until the CQ is on better footing. This will also support the health of the CQ. Administration of the ICG Annual issue of the CQ should be a cooperative effort between the CQ editor and the Annual editor, until the two are separated.
5. A "tickler" system should be created/continued to remind the chapters of deadlines (i.e., membership, dues, CQ submissions). However, instead of these reminder duties being performed by the interim "Guido" appointee, they should be completed by the corresponding secretary of the ICG. The tickler will help combat apathy by providing another avenue of communication, reminding chapters that the ICG is not an organization separate and distinct from the chapters; instead, it is the chapters.
6. A committee for member relations should be established. That committee's task should serve to examine how the ICG currently relates to its membership, and how it can improve those relations.

Those were the recommendations of this special committee. I have already implemented a few of these suggestions and will be working on the rest. This won't be an instantaneous turn around, but we will eventually reap the benefits of this plan if we stick to it.

Sincerely,
Darla Kruger
President, ICG