

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">20.03 - March 2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Southwest Costumers Guild</b>  <b>PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069</b>  <a href="http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org">http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>
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### **Recent Events**

February is re-enactment Month – Single Action Shooting Society (the real 1880sish west), SCA Estrella War, Renaissance Fair and Wild West Con (Steampunk) in Tucson. The guild made it to three of the four.

SWCG Activity

#### **Winter Range, March 1, 2020**

Tale told by Randall

Paula, Sharan and Randall carpoled to the AZG&F Ben Avery Range north of Phoenix to attend the Single-Action Shooting Society’s “Winter Range” event. This is an annual tournament of cowboy action shooting, which involves using six guns, lever action rifles and other wild west weaponry in timed target shooting competitions. Gotta admit, we were there mainly for the sutlers’ row, where Buckaroo Bobbins, Cloak Drummer and some of our other favorite wild west costume merchants set up shop.

The weather was perfect, but the event seemed smaller than usual this year. We visited on the last day of this week-long event, so the sutlers were a bit tired, ready to pack it in and head home. The sarsaparilla booth had run dry. I suggest visiting on Saturday or earlier next time. Nonetheless, Randall scored a new linen duster.

The food wagons were excellent, with Mexican, Barbecue and Chinese all together with ice cream and funnel cakes.

**Estrella War 2020**  
Comments by Tasha

Tasha went out to help Merchant at Alter Years, and to have a place to sell out hats as our annual fund raiser. The forecast looked great. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were lovely – but not that many people. We did make some hat sales. Friday it started to rain, and Saturday was a nasty, muddy, wet day. Sunday was slow and damp and muddy. Kind of like last year, but a shorter span of bad weather. The guild lost one hat to mud.

There seemed to be more dogs around than I'd seen before. It seems like there would be a market for doggy accessories. I can see a chihuahua in a costume with wings that says "My persona is a dragon", or some "WARDOG" collars.

**Arizona Renaissance Festival 2020**  
Random Musings by Randall

Do costumers put out a body language or some kind of "vibe" that other people can pick up on, even when we are not actively costuming? I am beginning to think so.

I visited the Arizona Renaissance Festival last weekend for the first time in several years. It was an impulse decision and I was traveling alone, so I chose to go in my mundane clothes. For me, that is tan cargo pants, hiking boots and a broad-brimmed panama hat for sun protection. My ginormous hip pouch with camera and phone cases is sometimes mistaken for a weapons belt by less-experienced gate security personnel, so I crammed my social necessities into a photographer's vest instead.

The lady in line ahead of me was convinced I was cosplaying John Hammond from "Jurassic Park" and asked me where my raptors were.

I had a good time at the fair. As noted, I had skipped a few years, so I was conscious of changes. Most of the fair is familiar, with my favorite merchants and food booths still in business. My major shopping goal was to find replacements for the cavalier gloves stolen from my truck a couple of years ago. Sadly, the attendant at New Pterodactyl Leather informed me that the craftswoman who used to make them has retired.

At least two merchants were running escape room puzzles with individual booths set into the usual rennie buildings. That's new. It made me think of my own idea for an escape room. – You are at JoAnn Fabrics. You have thirty minutes to figure out if your online coupon can be combined with the shelf markdown and your ICG discount card. Lotsa luck!

My favorite show at the fair this year is "Cirque du Sewer." A talented slack rope walker and ballet dancer performs with trained rats and trained cats (yes, trained cats!) She has appeared on America's Got Talent and the revived Gong Show. Look her up on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tArwZqx9VGw>



**Briefs**

**SEND ME MORE!!!**

### **Celebration of Bob LaPierre's life.**

As many of you know, we lost Bob Lapierre to complications of Diabetes on Sunday 03/01/20.

Bob was a friend, longtime member of the CASFS Board of Directors and chair of several local cons.

We will be having a celebration of his life on Sunday 03/29/20. Celebration will begin @2:00 and may go as late as 10:00 The place is going to be in the clubhouse at 625 W. McKellips, Mesa.

Food will be potluck style. Bring whatever you like. Water, juices and soft drinks will be available.

### **ICG STUFF**

Do we know someone who will be attending CC in Montreal who would be willing to vote proxies for SWCG members? – Also see minutes at end of this newsletter.

### **Minutes**

The March meeting was the outing to Winter Range

### **Calendar**

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. **Red text and an asterisk\*** designate an SWCG-sponsored event. *Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.*

### **The Countess of Melbury's Ball March 14 2020**

I'm the organizer of [The Countess of Melbury's Ball](#) coming up in Walnut Grove, CA this March 14, 2020 and wanted to spread the word to your talented members if possible! I understand your events calendar is primarily for events near you, but we currently have attendees coming from 7+ states (and we're not too far away!).

Here's a brief description of the event (more info at the link above):

Hosted at a beautiful estate in Walnut Grove, CA, our first annual 18th-century ball will be an unforgettable evening of historic immersion. The setting is 1789 in Georgian Era England and the guests will be invited to a private ball and evening hosted by the Countess of the estate.

Arriving in full costume, guests will be taken by horse and carriage up to the estate before they enter an enchanting candle-lit evening featuring a multi-course Georgian meal and beverages, card games and billiards, English Country Dance called by a British Dancemaster, and surprise live performances by skilled artists.

Please let me know what you might need from me to make spreading the word possible. I greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely thanks,  
Shannon  
Shannon Portnyagin  
Sartorial Events  
<http://www.countessofmelburysball.com>  
P.O. Box 671  
Roseville, CA 95678  
Cell: 916-741-2414  
[shannon@sartorialevents.com](mailto:shannon@sartorialevents.com)

**Verde Valley Comic Expo – March 21 – 10am – 5pm**

Run by Cottonwood Public Library – entry \$5, \$3 with 2 non-perishable food products for St. Vincent DePaul

**Experience Africa / Africa Fest – March 28th**

11am – 6:30pm Kiwanis Park, Tempe. Culture and entertainment focuses and features fashions.

**\*SWCG Meeting – April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Contact us for details

**LepreCon 46 APRIL 10-12, 2020**

a general science fiction/fantasy convention in Phoenix AZ. Artist Guest **James A Owen** Author Guest: **Robert McCammon** Local Artist Guest: **David Ayres**, Science Guest: **Dr David Williams**, Music Guest: **Margaret & Kristoph** Toastmaster / Author: **Weston Ochse**. Venue: Crowne Plaza Phoenix Chandler Golf Resort (formerly the San Marcos) at 1 S San Marcos Pl, Chandler AZ. There will be a charity auction and we welcome donations. Please contact our Charity Auction Director thru the website. More info at [www.leprecon.org](http://www.leprecon.org)

**Cosplay Swap Meet – Sat April 11 – 4pm**

KEI collective, 2303 N 44<sup>th</sup> St #11, Phoenix – Spaces \$10

**\*SWCG Meeting – May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Contact us for details

**\*SWCG Meeting – June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Contact us for details

## Westercon 73, July 2-5, 2020, Seattle (SeaTac) WA

Seattle is the site of the 73rd Westercon. It will be held from July 2-5, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport. It is organized under the auspices of SWOC [the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee]. With the year being 2020, the theme for Westercon 73 must be “Perfect Vision.” Attending memberships are available for \$70, with supporting memberships at \$20.

<https://westercon73.org/>

### \*SWCG Meeting – July 5<sup>th</sup>

Contact us for details

## CoKoCon, September 4-7, 2020.

a traditional science fiction convention in Phoenix, AZ to be held We'll be hosting guests of honor, an art show, merchant room, gaming, filk, parties, you name it! Author GoH: **Steven Barnes** Local Author GoH: **Linda Addison**, Filk Guest: **S.J. Tucker** more guests to be announced! Venue: Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Tempe, 2100 S Priest Drive, Tempe AZ NOTE: **This is a DIFFERENT Doubletree than we have been at for the past two years.** . Rooms \$92, Suites \$102. **Memberships limited to 500.** There will be a charity auction and we welcome donations. Please contact our Charity Auction Director thru the website. More info at [www.cokocon.org](http://www.cokocon.org)

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Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>.

Better yet, send us some content for the next issue. We're always open to costuming news, how to and other feature articles, reviews of events, books, film, television and web, and calendar items of interest to Arizona costumers. Send your submissions to [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org).

## Subject: [ICG-D] Annual Meeting Agenda, Recess, and Final Thoughts

Dear Members and Board of Directors,

Attached to this email you will find a link to the Google Doc for the annual meeting agenda. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/10EDOGwzXs2YUwtLTMKI5KKraEMbM3oWbqblfoijTur4> Please contact Kevin Roche with any additions or changes that you feel should be made. As there are discussions to be had on changes to Standing Rules and Bylaws, with possible votes occurring on changes or additions to the Standing Rules, it is imperative that each chapter's Board member is either present to vote, or assigns their proxy to someone who can vote in their stead for the annual meeting. Members who wish to have someone carry a proxy for their vote may do so as well. The proxy form is available at <http://costume.org/wp/about-the-international-costumers-guild/icg-annual-meeting-proxy-form/>

At this time, the online Board meeting is recessed. No motions may be made or voted on, or new business brought before the Board for consideration until the Annual Meeting at CostumeCon 39, March 13, 2020 on or about 9am (date and time subject to final scheduling confirmations from the CC39 ConComm). If any so choose to attempt to attend through online communications, via Skype, Zoom, Slack, etc., please contact Kevin Roche to determine what platforms and methods may be available.

Your current slate of candidates for elected officers at the 2020 Annual Meeting are:

President: Kevin Roche

Vice President: Jan Price

Treasurer: Jeanine Swick

Corresponding Secretary: Ann Ware

Recording Secretary: Anne Davenport

There will be discussion at the Board of Directors' Meeting, and a possible vote, on whether the Standing Rule regarding candidate nominations should be amended to take nominations from the floor. If the Standing Rule is amended, please be prepared to make any additional nominations at the time that they are called for in the Meeting of the Members, and also let Kevin know in advance of anyone you may wish to nominate so that he can prepare a contested ballot in advance of the meeting, should the Standing Rule be passed.

Please also bring copies of any materials that you wish to discuss during the meeting in sufficient number for the expected number of attendees.

As I am unable to attend CostumeCon this year, and my ICG membership expires on 2/29/2020, Kevin Roche will assume the role of President Pro Tems. Please treat him with all the respect that you would give the office of the President normally.

While I know that there will be much discussion of what has occurred over the last year, I hope that everyone will fight the urge to scapegoat individuals or gossip over rumors that have been created during this most tumultuous time period. I would strongly urge that the members and Board of Directors focus on a path for the future of the organization and address those issues that require updating to ensure the solvency of the guild moving forward in its educational mission.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served the organization. May your seams be straight, your designs be inspired, and your costumes be perfect reflections of your creativity.

And to the candidates running for office, buy some flame retardant Kevlar, get out your cat herding wands, and may the odds be ever in your favor.

Cordially,  
Mera Babineaux  
Former VP/Acting President/Target Practice