



SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume VI, Number 1

January 1999

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.

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Odds & Ends

If you've been to Tucson in the last few years, you may have noticed the Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch on the west side of I-10, just south of Picacho Peak. Passers-by (including myself) often follow the frontage road south from the Picacho State Park Exit for a close look at the birds. Earlier this year, the ranchers finally caught on to the tourist potential and put up a souvenir tent.

At the souvenir tent you can buy corn and feed the ostriches (it's a hoot), hollowed-out ostrich egg shells, t-shirts and hats, and feather dusters. What makes this of interest to us costume-types is that they have (drum roll please)

OSTRICH FEATHERS!

Big plumes with a good black or white color (or an interesting variation with white fuzz around a dark center) are a dollar apiece. Large bundles of smaller brown craft feathers go for \$7.50 as of 12/30/98. Their idea of craft quality is more like Michael's or Old America Store's idea of the good ones. I stocked up for hatting. The proprietrix commented that these have been very popular among renaissance fair people. I can see why.

Jim and Tonya DuVal greeted the New Year by bringing forth their son:

Lochlan Alexander DuVal was born at 7:34am on 1-1-99. He weighed in at 8lbs. 2oz. and measured 21 inches long.

Both Mommy and baby are doing great!



CALENDAR

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

Flashing Lights January 31, 1999

Guild meeting at Jean's place. Pete will demonstrate how to construct some basic LED circuits for costume applications.

Estrella War February 10-15, 1999

Schnef Farms Festival Site, Queen Creek, AZ

Costume Con 17 February 12-15, 1999

Philadelphia, PA For more information contact CC17 c/o Imagination Design, PO Box 13238, Philadelphia, PA 190101

Buckram Fans February 28, 1999

Guild meeting & workshop at Frances' place. Frances will demonstrate how to build a basic fan and how to generalize the technique to other applications. Bring a 12 by 24-inch piece of fabric with a pattern or design you would like see on a fan. \$7.50 materials fee for non-members.

How to Fake a Cavalier March 28, 1999

Guild meeting at Randall's place. Randall will demonstrate how to create basic cavalier boots, gloves, and hats from garage sale materials.

Celtic Shirts April 25, 1999

Guild meeting at Debbie's place. Frances will demonstrate how to build an elaborately gathered Leine Croitch. Bring about five yards of a 36 to 45-inch wide lightweight fabric that drapes well.

LepreCon 25 May 14-16, 1999

One of Arizona's three annual fan-run Science Fiction conventions. This year's con will be held at the Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale. Guests of honor include author Larry Niven, artist Michael Whelan, artist Robert Peacock and filker Lynn Gold. E-mail Mike Willmoth for more information.

Chainmail May 23, 1999

Guild meeting at Jean's place. A demonstration on the basics of chainmail for armor and ornamentation. If you've made chainmail yourself, bring along some of your work to show off.

DarkCon 1999 June 25-27, 1999

San Marcos Hotel, Chandler, Arizona Special Writer
Guests of Honor: George Clayton Johnson and William F. Nolan, Music GoH: Gary Siler. Memberships \$25 until 1/1/99, \$30 until 4/1/99, \$35 at the door. VIP memberships \$199 (includes room). Rooms \$55 S/D, \$65 T, \$75 Q (800) 528-8071; Info: DarkCon, PO Box 5833, Glendale, AZ. 85312, phone: (602) 978-9314, Email: DarkCon@darkones.org

Costume College 1999 July 23-25, 1999

Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA Two full days lectures, workshops and demonstrations on costuming techniques and topics, taught by experienced costumers, including class series on the following subjects: Our Focus, Science Fiction and Fantasy Costuming, Regency and Victorian Costuming, General Techniques and more. Attendance limited to 250 Memberships \$40 for ICG members, \$60 for non-ICG members thru 6/1/99 Contact Costumer's Guild West, PO Box 3052, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 or Email to msjess@earthlink.net

CopperCon 19 September 10-12, 1999

Another one of Arizona's three annual fan-run Science Fiction conventions. This year's con will be held at the Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale. Guests of honor include author David Weber and artist Brett Bass. The con will include a masquerade directed by SWCG member Randall Whitlock. Watch this space for more information. A masquerade information web page should be up on the SWCG site in January, 1999. E-mail cucon@casfs.org for more convention information or visit the CopperCon 19 web page at www.casfs.org/cucon.



To the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Members of the Staff: The 1999 Annual Meeting. Dec 27, 1998

This is a fairly long message to prepare for the Annual Meeting at CC 17 that I am sending by both regular mail and e-mail. Please respond to it as quickly as you can. Please let me know which Officers of the Corporation intend to be at the Annual Meeting and who will be representing each Chapter.

Draft Agenda for the Meeting.

Below is my draft of an agenda for the 1999 Annual Meeting at CC 17. Please review it and make your suggestions for additions, deletions, and other changes as quickly as possible. I would like to include it with my next President's Message (early January) and post it on our Web Site.

Article IV, Section 2, of our By-laws provides that "an annual meeting shall be held at the annual CostumeCon at such time as the Board of Directors shall set. . . . The members shall conduct such business as may properly be brought before the meeting and they shall receive the president's annual report. Members shall be in good standing to vote at the annual meeting." In putting this draft together, I looked at the pattern of previous Annual Meetings, as well as the things that have happened this year and some things I hope to accomplish at the Meeting. Article V, Section 8, of the By-laws says that "The Board of Directors shall hold a regular annual meeting <concurrently> with the annual meeting of the members of the Corporation [emphasis mine]." The draft therefore contemplates the BoD meeting convening at the same time as the Annual Meeting of the Members and continuing after the Annual Meeting adjourns. That's what the By-laws call for. We did it that way once, but have not done so in recent years.

Reports. While the only required report at the Annual Meeting is mine, traditionally we have received reports from virtually all officers and staff. Therefore, I have included a full list of reports. In addition, under Old Business there are reports needed from the special committees created in 1998. If an officer, committee chair, or staff member scheduled to make a report will not be attending the Meeting, please provide a written report that one of us can read on your behalf. These generally may be brief, except for the reports of the Treasurer and the CQ Editor. If you feel that a report from you is not needed, please suggest deleting that item from the agenda (that doesn't apply to Jana or Pat).

Interestingly, Article VI, Section 6 (b), of the By-laws says that "The President shall annually prepare a full and true statement of the affairs of the Corporation, <including a Balance Sheet and Operating Statement>; submit it at the annual meeting of the members of the Corporation, and file it within twenty (20) days thereafter at the principal office of the Corporation in the State of Maryland, with a duplicate of it at the principal office outside the State, if any [emphasis mine]." To my knowledge, no President's Annual Report has ever included a Balance Sheet and Operating Statement; these have been presented in the Treasurer's Report, which is appended to the minutes of the Annual Meeting. I guess my report ought to reference the Treasurer's Report to keep things legal. The option of amending the By-laws is something I do not care to contemplate; we'd have to file the amendment with the US Internal Revenue Service. (We don't have to do that for changes to the Standing Rules.)

That reminds me; once again, does anyone know who the Vice-President, Maryland, is? That staff member is in charge of the "principal office of the Corporation in the State of Maryland." If anyone has a record of the name of the person last appointed to that position, please let me know.

Old Business. Under Old Business I have listed actions related to the Committee on the Sale of Masquerade Videos and the Special Committee on the Future Direction of the Guild. The Masquerade Video Committee will report whatever Ken, Darla, and Steve decide. At this time, I expect that the action with regard to the Special Committee will be to extend its life for another year, since it apparently is not ready to make a report.

New Business — 1999 Budget of the Corporation. I am still working on this. I will get it to you to review in advance of the Meeting — substantially in advance, I hope. I'd like to float it in the next President's Message but, realistically, I don't think I can. After you've reviewed it, I will send it out and post it officially.

New Business — Standing Rules Amendments. Between now and my next President's Message I will draft the changes to the Standing Rules shown on the agenda under New Business. I'll send them to you as quickly as I can (both snail mail and email). Please comment on them ASAP. However, we can walk into the Meeting amendments to the texts if necessary. At this time, however, I'd like to get your views on some aspects of the Budget and Finance Committee proposal:

1. Should the Treasurer chair, or merely be a member of, the Budget and Finance Committee?
2. Are there other Officers of the Corporation who should be ex officio (voting) members of the Committee?
3. Should the non-Officer members be limited to members of the Board, or opened to any ICG member in good standing? (I favor the latter.) How many members should there be, overall? (I favor small, myself.)
4. Should the annual budget proposed by the Committee be adopted by the members at the Annual Meeting or by the Board of Directors, either before the Meeting and reported to it, or after the Meeting adjourns, reflecting changes the members wish?
5. Are there any other elements we ought to consider in the structure, composition, and procedures of the Committee?

If you have any suggestions in advance on the other Standing Rules amendments, please let me know.

Election of Officers (and Appointment of Staff). As you'll recall, I recently asked which Officers would like to serve for an additional year. I know that Jana does not want to serve another year as Treasurer. I have received one and one-half nominations for the job. (The one-half is thinking about it.) I am willing to serve another year as President if the members can stand me. Steve has indicated that he is willing to serve another year as Recording Secretary (since he has yet to exercise the duties of the job). I need to hear from Ken and Zelda. I also need to hear whether Pierre, JohnO, Carl, and whoever is Vice-President, Maryland, will continue to serve in their staff positions.

Board of Directors and Committee Meetings at CC 17.

At CC 17, I would like to schedule a meeting of the Board for about an hour prior to the Annual Meeting so that we can review the agenda and see if we have any questions or concerns before the Meeting opens. I'll let Board members know the time and place at CC 17. Committee chairs may schedule meetings of their committees at CC 17 prior to the Annual Meeting if they feel a need to do so. Pat, I strongly recommend that you schedule such a meeting for the Editorial Board.

If you have any suggestions relevant to the Annual Meeting, let us all know.

Happy Holidays!

Byron P. Connell, President