

**Minutes of the 2015 International Costumers' Guild Annual Board Meeting  
May 15, 2015 – Charleston, South Carolina**

Convened: 9:04 AM  
Recessed: 10:40 AM  
Re--convened : 11:46 AM  
Adjourned: 11:48 AM

**In Attendance**

Philip Gust (Pres.), Aurora Celeste(V.P.), Jeanine Swick (Treas.), Kathe Gust (Rec. Sec), Pierre Pettinger (Parl.), Henry Osier, Vicky Assarattanakul, David M. Kinneman, Bruce Mai, Elaine Sims, Sarah Richardson, Judy Mitchell, Vicki Warren, Byron Connell, Jennifer Old-d'Entremont, Emanuel Henault

Parliamentarian declares quorum. Ratified by the President

There were no emendations or error corrections proposed for the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada by Henry Osier. Seconded – Byron Connell. Passed with no opposition or abstentions.

**President's Report on the State of the ICG**

This focus for the progress and direction of the ICG remains providing value, and tools for our members and chapters. We hope to increase outreach to various costuming genre communities and to costumers of all ages.

Highlights of the previous year include creation of the Marty Gear Fund, which has made a second grant. I hope that chapter representatives will remind their members that grants can be for a local or regional project as well as one that serves the global costuming community.

A new chapter has formed. The Time Traveler's Costume Guild is based in the Portland, Oregon – Vancouver, Washington area. There are ongoing discussions with two to three other possible chapters at this time. One area of concern is the onboarding of large established groups that may want to affiliate with the ICG. We will be addressing this issue.

There is also a new Special Interest Group (SIG) on Props and Special Effects forming, and interest has been expressed in the formation of a few others.

Two additional chapters have also joined the Group Exemption Letter (GEL) which grants them 501-3c non-profit status on a local chapter basis.

The ICG Website has been somewhat reorganized in navigation, and a Resources page and Benefit page have been added. A Public Relations page is expected to be the next addition. The PR committee has come up with some templates and other items to assist with outreach. Those will be hosted on that page, available to all members.

Proof of personal membership, which is sometimes required in order to obtain discounts, is now provided 6 times per year via the newsletter notification mailings. Membership expiration dates are part of the information included.

## **Officer Reports**

Jeanine Swick (Treas.) ICG has 17 chapters with 449 members at the end of 2014. There is approximately \$18243 in the treasure and \$5000 in the archive fund.

Kathe Gust (Rec. Sec'ty) - requested board members and chapter representatives to remember to check in to the Board Yahoo Group at the beginning of each month and to be sure that the listed representative on the website is the correct person. Byron Connell stated that lack of checking in can be an early warning sign of troubled chapters. The President stated that he also noted it may simply be a change in chapter governance with not enough information being passed to new leaders during hand over.

Tonya Adolfson (Corres. Sec'ty) – unable to attend but wished to inform chapters and SIGs that she can provide the affiliation letters that may be needed for bank accounts and other identification. Please contact her if you need one of them.

Aurora Celeste (VP) – Commenting on the social media focus that she has taken over the past year, our Vice President says that the FaceBook site has a good “like” rating, but could use more diversity in posters to the site. She would like more people to do that.

She is also compiling a “how to run a masquerade” knowledge bank and is wondering whether a wiki or blog might serve better than the current web pages model she is using. She solicits feedback on this. Judy Mitchell referred her to “Cat” Deveraux as a possible source on producing such a resource.

Pierre Pettinger commented that he would like to see the retrieval of old Costume-Con websites via the Internet Archive Wayback Machine and that he would also love to have a way to put up information on those masquerades such as the director, tech lead, host/MC, entrants and winners.

Philip Gust remarked that there might be a way to use an open source masquerade planning software and set it to auto-deposit the desired information into a database, if such software existed and could be hosted by ICG for the community.

Aurora, Bruce Mai and Byron Connell said they have some knowledge of the existence of such software.

Technical and Web Committee (Philip Gust) – still needs a chair. The switch to WordPress has been delayed, but is still being planned to occur. Two more chapters have decided to take advantage of the free ICG hosting benefit.

Bruce Mai reminds Chapter and SIGs that the Archive has also provided free photo hosting for Chapters, SIGs and individuals. Contact Nora Mai to get an account password.

Publishing Committee (Philip Gust) – still needs a chair.

There was no old business before the Board at this time.

There was no new business proposed to the Board at this meeting.

## **Chapter Reports**

**St. Louis (SLUTS)** – Bruce Mai reports that his chapter is back on the GEL.

**Silicon Web** – Elaine Sims reports that she is the assistant to the GEL and will also help participating GEL chapters and SIGs get a free copy of

QuickBooks software. Contact her if your chapter needs to know more about joining the GEL.

The President notes that we are trying to discover a way to extend GEL into Canada, but it is difficult to locate anyone there with the necessary knowledge to help make that a reality. Please contact him if you know someone who could consult.

**Southwest** – letter from Randall Whitlock read by Recording Secretary.

“Dear board members and all ICG members present at the 2015 annual meeting,

Regrettably, I am not able to attend this year’s meeting.

SWCG social activities and projects in the past year have included a Victorian tea picnic, baking for and hosting a social at the local LepreCon SF convention, a tour of the traveling Hollywood costume exhibit, a superhero-costumed pool party, online cataloging of our book collection, monster pincushions, building pet beds for a local animal shelter and an ongoing challenge project to see what members can build out of silver satin.

That, I think, is our strength as a group – small-scale, friendly and creative.

The world is changing, and not just within the costume hobby or sf/fantasy fandom. I keep hearing from club officers within interests as diverse as scuba and sky-diving that younger people are simply not joining up. In another year or two, we may have trouble filling our local officer slate. As a topic of open discussion, I suggest talking about age demographics and how they are being felt by chapters across ICG.

Sincerely  
Randall Whitlock  
SWCG Board Representative”

**Madison Area (MACS)**- report read by Recording Secretary.

“MACS has been maintaining its usual schedule of workshops and helping out with the costume programming at Geek-kon, as we do every year, but this past year we've also been taking opportunities to branch out and let the community know we exist. We conducted a lecture on what cosplay is and how to go about it at the Middleton Library's teen group last July, and participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this spring. We will continue to maintain our relationship with Geek-kon, as our "home" con, and with Geekplastiq, a local store whose owner is extremely supportive of MACS and wants to give us opportunities to host events at his store. We usually judge a casual Halloween costume contest for him, and will be doing more in the coming year. Additionally, many of us in MACS are holding staff positions with Costume-Con

34, so many events and happenings around Madison are joint advertising opportunities for both MACS and CC34.

The common issues we as a chapter would like to see advanced within the ICG are its need for public relations efforts to expand its profile among a young costuming community which has largely never heard of the ICG, improving its reputation among said community, and more tangible benefits to paid membership.

Stace (Stacy Feldman)”

The president would like to establish an Idea Bank for chapter activities listing events such as of workshops, photoshoots, etc. on our website to assist in chapter brainstorming. If you have event ideas you would like to see included, sent them to him. Several people offered ideas which will be added to the new page.

**Kansas City** - Jennifer Old-d'Entremont wishes to thank the President for contacting her and wants to reiterate her request for “job descriptions” on the ICG website as a resource for new leaders. She also offered some ideas on how to promote your chapter locally which will be included in the upcoming PR page.

Aurora Celeste brought up the topic of “sister” or other type of affiliations with non-ICG groups. The President has had some discussions with groups about this type of relationship but currently ICG has no standing rule to address what is meant by such an affiliation. Would the Board be interested in pursuing such a course? That might make things easier to negotiate.

The topic of student chapters was introduced by Sarah Bloy. This is another area that may be of interest to the Board since students in high school may go on to become full members later in life. Should a definition of student chapters be considered?

The time being 10:40, the President asked whether anyone would care to propose a recess until after the conclusion of the General meeting due to begin at 10:45 AM. Elaine Sims proposed. Byron Connell seconded. The Board meeting to re-convene after the member meeting (those minutes follow separately).

The Board meeting was reconvened by the President at 11:46 AM

### **Adoption of Slate of Officers**

There was a motion by Byron Connell to adopt the slate of officers approved by the members in the General Meeting as stated. Seconded -- Elaine Sims. Passed with no opposition or abstentions.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Vicky Warren. Seconded -- Judy Mitchell. Passed with no opposition or abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM by the President

### **Minutes of the 2015 International Costumers' Guild Annual General Meeting May 15, 2015 – Charleston, South Carolina**

Convened: 10:50 AM

Adjourned: 11:43 AM

The meeting was called to order at 10:50 AM

Members of the current Board were introduced. Corresponding Secretary, Tonya Adolfson, was unable to be present.

There were no emendations or error corrections proposed for the meeting minutes from the last meeting. Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada by Margaret Decker.

Seconded - Debi Chowdhury  
Passed with no opposition or abstentions.

### **President's Report on the State of the ICG**

ICG is an umbrella organization that offers benefits to chapters and members. We hope to increase outreach to various costuming genre communities and to costumers of all ages. There is a new chapter in the Portland, Oregon

-Vancouver, Washington area and there are discussions with several potential chapters ongoing. There is also a second SIG starting for members with an interest in Props and Special Effects.

The Marty Gear Fund currently has made two grants and has no further proposals in the queue at this time.

The President would also like to remind chapters that the Group Exemption Letter is ongoing and not difficult to join.

The website update is ongoing as well and some additional chapters are moving to the free web hosting. Chapters and SIGs can have a free website hosted on the ICG server if they choose.

## **Board and Committee Reports**

**Jeanine Swick (Treas.)** - Membership increased from 397 to 449 and from 16 to 17 chapters. The organization funding is healthy and complete reports are posted to the ICG website.

**Aurora Celeste (VP)** – The Face Book page has 500 followers and is averaging 70 “likes” per post. Please consider posting chapter events and photos to the page.

She is also working on collecting and making available a resource set on running masquerades.

**Byron Connell (Marty Gear Fund)** – Grants were made to curator Lisa Ashton for “Miss Lizzy’s Traveling Historical Fashion Show” to support the Show’s efforts to increase knowledge of the clothing of the Victorian and early 20th century periods as well as better understanding of their culture and mores, politics, and daily life, and to photographer Richard Man in support of his “Transformations” photography project. There are no pending applications. The form is online and the oversight group is accepting applications. The Marty Gear Fund is supported by an allocation of member funds, but donations are gratefully accepted, and may be tax deductible. The current grant participants will be speaking and working on their projects at the conference.

**Nora Mai (Archives)** - The gallery is working better and new content has been added from several sources. The archives FaceBook page, not to be confused with the ICG page, has 650 followers and new photos are posted frequently. The gallery has space available for chapters, SIGs and members. Contact Nora if you want to have a space. Three chapters have currently asked for spaces.

Bruce Mai is working on additional videos, mainly historical featurettes and look backs from material known to be safe for use. These have been going on the YouTube channel. They would like to have an educational series as well, with short segments on how to make or do costume related projects.

Eric Cannon continues to spearhead contact with the Library of Congress to have the video documentation of our artform preserved and made more widely available.

Pierre Pettinger hopes to begin retrieving old Costume-Con websites from the internet archive for preservation

**Henry Osier (Public Relations)** – templates for marketing material, some “how to” guides and other related information is due to appear as a special public relations web page on the ICG site soon.

**Philip Gust (Web and Technology)** – A committee head is still needed for this group. The site is being kept up to date, but the desired transfer to Wordpress had not yet happened. It is still moving forward however, and will give us a mobile friendly version of the website when it is completed.

## **New Business and Announcements**

**Anne Davenport (SiW)** – a good benefit that ICG might consider is offering insurance coverage for events from a central source.

**Byron Connell (NY/NJ)** – Toni Lay is unable to be with us this year. There is a card and memory book for Toni in the hospitality suite. Please take time to write a message in it.

**Jeanine Swick (SiW)** – To increase the impact of the FaceBook pages, please consider not just “liking” but “sharing” the postings. Sharing spreads the postings further than simple “likes” will.

**Aurora Celeste (SiW)** – Aurora will be happy to assist any chapters or SIGs that wish to start their own FaceBook pages. They can also post on the ICG page.

There was no further new business for the meeting. The President called for the portion of the agenda dealing with the selection of officers.

### **Selection of Officers for 2015-2016**

There were no nominations from the floor. A proposed slate of those willing to stand for office was read.

Philip Gust -- President (CA).

Philip enjoys sci-fi and fantasy costuming, and has particular interests in props, special effects, and prosthetic makeup. He also costumes in historical periods, and has a fatal attraction to difficult fabrics.

Stace Feldmann -- Vice President (WI).

Stace has been costuming for 16 years, and has shifted from movie replicas to video game and anime replicas. Stace owns a business making costumes on hire full-time, and is the original founder of the Madison Area Costuming Society.

Jeanine Swick -- Treasurer (MA).

Jeanine's work is "period inspired" rather than historically accurate, incorporating her own creativity. She costumed in high school for theater, and later for her own teens. She sells at regional renfaires, cons, SCA, and belly dance events.

Tonya Adlofson -- Corresponding Secretary (ID).

Tonya has done costumes for stage and screen as well as private collectors, charities, schools, and non-profit organizations. She is well-versed in everything from wigs to shoes to packable props.

Kathe Gust - Recording Secretary (CA).

Kathe enjoys clothing for many historical periods, and various sci-fi and fantasy genre. She has been sewing since childhood, and began theatrical costuming for a university class.

A motion was made by Carole Parker to refer the proposed slate to the Board for ratification. Seconded - Byron Connell. Motion passed with none opposed and no abstentions.

### **Further announcements and Q/A**

President Philip Gust announced that having been President of the organization for three years and entering a fourth term, that he will not exceed five years in the position. Founder, Marty Gear only served for five years, and that precedent seems to Mr. Gust to be a good guideline for encouraging new blood to seek leadership roles in the organization. If anyone is interested in becoming President, he encourages them to seek out an opportunity to become chapter board representatives this year so as to learn how the board works. He is happy to talk with anyone interested in this role.

**Anne Davenport (SiW)** – does ICG accept payments via Paypal? - Yes

**Byron Connell (NY/NJ)** – Byron will be stepping down from leadership in his local chapter due to involvement with Balticon. He is expecting to be replaced in June.

**Elaine Sims (SiW)** – It would help the chapters if we had some resources of ideas for younger people who are not now eligible for ICG membership. If there were events of interest to under 16's or under 12's they might come to those and consider joining once they turn 18.

**Anne Davenport (SiW)** – there may be some issues with underage liability if we let them join as regular members before age 18.

**Byron Connell (NY/NJ)** – The bylaws have no floor age to join, only to vote in the meeting. Voting requires age 18 or older.

**Nora Mai (St. Louis)** – perhaps we could start a SIG “Kids” and also offer a college transition dues structure to make it easier for cash strapped students to join.

**Carole Parker (SiW)** – Sasquan Worldcon is still seeking programming participants. Contact Carole if you are interested

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Byron Connell. Seconded – Carole Parker. Motion passed with none opposed and no abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.