

# Minutes of the 2016 International Costumers' Guild Annual Board Meeting

May, 2016 – Madison, Wisconsin

Convened: 9:02 AM

Recessed: 10:23 AM

Re-convened: 11:49 AM

Adjourned: 11:51 AM

## In Attendance

Philip Gust (Pres.), Stace Feldmann (V.P.), Jeanine Swick (Treas.), Kathe Gust (Rec. Sec), Pierre Pettinger (Parl.), Vicky Assarattanakul, David M. Kinneman, Bruce Mai, Elaine Sims, Sarah Richardson, Judy Mitchell, Vicki Warren, Jennifer Old-d'Entremont, Sue Edmunds, Carol Lewis, Jacalyn Boggs, Kathryn Draves, Bruce MacDermott, Dawn McKechnie, Maral Agnerian

Parliamentarian declares quorum. Ratified by the President.

There were no emendations or error corrections proposed for the minutes of the last meeting. Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held in Charleston, South Carolina, by Bruce Mai, passed with no opposition or abstentions.

The minutes for this meeting include the print versions of reports provided to the Recording Secretary by various officers of the ICG. These printed reports were read at the meeting and are identified as such. Comments are provided if any were made in addition to the reports.

## **President's Report on the State of the ICG – (Philip Gust, President)**

The Board formally approved the creation of an ad-hoc committee to consider revisions to the ICG Guidelines to Ensure Fair Competition. Four members have agreed to serve on the committee:

Tonya Adolfson - Gem State Costumers, Maral Agnerian - Fibre Fantasy Artists of Canada, Rae Bradbury-Enslin - New Jersey - New York Costumers Guild, Vicki Warren - Greater Delaware Valley Costumers Guild

Each has extensive experience participating in and running many different types of costume competitions, and working with the ICG Guidelines. You'll be hearing more about the Committee in the coming months. I'm confident that the revision process is in good hands. Please join me in thanking Tonya, Maral, Rae, and Vicki for their service.

Next, the Board approved a request from the ICG Archives for a project to digitize and preserve three rare masquerade videos from 1976 and the early 1990s. The videos are part of a private collection that only became available after the 2016 budget was finalized. The project will use existing funds in the Archives account.

The Board also approved an application to recognize a new Masquerade Runners special interest group (SIG), also known as "Hey kids, let's put on a show!" (HeLP). Byron Connell, who submitted the application, will serve as its "Director" (Chair). Other offices include "Best Boy" (Vice President), "Grip" (Treasurer) and "Stunt Coordinator" (Secretary). There will be a panel about the new SIG here at Costume-Con 34. Thanks to Byron for this very successful "production!"

Finally the Board approved the application of a new ICG chapter, Costumers Anonymous of North Texas (CANT). The group is centered around the Dallas / Ft. Worth metroplex. CANT was established about 2010 by a group of costumers who were supporting local science fiction conventions. The group is active in several conventions and other regional events across Texas. Last year they sponsored the CANT costume repair room for one con, which was an enormous success, and fueled the request for them to do it again at several more cons. This year they are also doing the entire costuming track as well as the repair room.

Their President, Lorretta Morgan, will also serve as the ICG Board representative for the chapter. Visit their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1524589397804130/>) to learn more about them. Please join me in welcoming CANT to the ICG!

## **Officer Reports**

**Membership (written report)** - Jeanine Swick (Treasurer)

We began the year 2015 with 449 members in 16 chapters. At the end of the year our membership comprised 431 members in 21 chapters and SIGs. We welcomed the new chapter of the Lower AZ Costume Enthusiasts (LACE) in southern AZ, Northern Virginia (NOVA) from VA and Costumers Anonymous of Northern Texas (CANT). Props/SFX Special

Interest Group (SIG) became our second special interest group and Masquerade Runners (HeLPS) became the third. Sadly we lost the Denver Costume/Cosplay Society.

**Treasury (written report) - Jeanine Swick (Treasurer)**

The year began with \$18,243.53 in assets in our combined checking and savings accounts held at the Digital Federal Credit Union. And we ended with a total of \$25,267.74 in assets in our combined checking and savings accounts held at the Digital Federal Credit Union.

Current account balances as of Mar 31, 2016: General \$20,632.22, Archives \$4,587.62, Grant Fund \$1,500.19

Income for the year was \$8,860.20 from dues and direct donations to the ICG. We received a very generous donation of \$5000 to our General Fund from Sasquan 2015. Expenses for the year were \$1,622.48 going to archive acquisitions, website, newsletter expenses, grants and operating expenses. Our net income for the year 2015 was \$7,237.72. Copies of the reports are available on the ICG website.

**Vice President – Stace Feldmann (Vice President)**

The Vice President invested most of her time in 2015 investigating the status of bylaws and standing rules in respect of the ability for chapters to name a permanent “alternate” Chapter Representative to the board without having to name such a person each time they are needed to stand in for the elected Chapter Representative. The current bylaws and standing rules do not permit such a possibility and would need to be changed by the members if this position is desired by chapters.

Discussion – some discussion on the use of the Board Yahoo group followed with suggestions regarding the use of Digest feature to reduce email loads. Certain board members reported difficulty logging in to the list and voting on the list polls.

**Finance Committee / Group Exemption Letter – Bruce MacDermott (Chair, Budget and Finance Committee)**

An internal audit was performed to check on the process of handling funds for the Archive. It was decided, as a result of the audit that a new process would allow for better and more flexible tracking of the complicated flow of funds that Archive deals with. This process is now in place and working as anticipated. The Group Exemption Letter is up to date with seven chapters and one

Special Interest Group participating. A reminder that it is possible for chapters and SIGs to join in the GEL at any time during the year if they so desire was issued.

**Corresponding Secretary Report** - Tonya Adolfson (Corresponding Secretary)

We had four new groups join our ranks this year and with those comes verification in the form of the letter that they give the bank to open an account. NOVA (Virginia) and CANT (Texas), welcome to our number.

**Public Relations Committee Report** - Tonya Adolfson (Chair)

I have several topics I want to present to the Guild. One of the ICG's best resources is the "Costume Maker's Art", a book put out in 1992 by Lark Books. I'm old enough to think 1992 was 14 years ago, but it actually isn't. I would like a new, updated CMA and possibly several volumes that touch on the many aspects of costuming. We have so many gifted artists in our guild and I would like to see their inspiration available in printed form.

The PR Committee has fantastic brochures

([http://costume.org/pr/icg\\_pr.html](http://costume.org/pr/icg_pr.html)),

a great website, and a bunch of amazing resources. I think we don't need to replace or reinvent those. We need another level of exaltation for those who do what we do, and this is a great way to do it. I have marketed CMA at cons for 2 years now, as well as my own how-to-book. People want this. Does anyone know if Lark Books is still around and would they be interested in a volume 2? If not, I have a small indie press that will put them together. I think this is a worthwhile project and I am interested in directing the PR Committee towards this.

**Guidelines Committee Report** - Tonya Adolfson (committee member)

The biggest impact we have had on folks who don't know us is the competition guidelines. The classifications have enabled new competitors to feel comfortable because they know they won't be up against seasoned veterans.

This year, I've successfully encouraged several contests to adopt these guidelines. This has made for more fun experiences for every competitor, including the pros who make their living doing competitions. We are looking over the guidelines this year because the number of cosplay competitions at conventions has grown. Costume contests are the heartbeat of most cons and doing it so it's fair is valuable to the cons.

With the beginning of the year and the formation of the Guidelines committee, folks have been sent emails but we haven't started the process outside of reading the current guidelines. A suggestion from Dawn McKechnie on the floor was made that the committee consider changing the current term "presentation judging" to "stage judging" since many Cosplay/Anime cons use that term now.

#### **Recording Secretary Report – Kathe Gust (Recording Secretary)**

No formal report was made for this position, but a reminder was given to officers and chapter representatives that their monthly check-in to the Board Group is being tracked. Please check in so we have a quorum if voting is required.

There was no old business to put before the meeting.  
No new business was proposed for the meeting.

#### **Chapter Reports and Announcements**

St. Louis – The chapter will be holding a Maker's Ball at Hallowe'en and participating at a local Vintage Automobile Show in period dress.

Fiber Fantasy – Will be running several local masquerades and state that using the term "Stage" judging rather than "Presentation" judging has made it easier to have synergy with younger costumers. Other groups may want to consider doing the same.

Chicagoland – Participates in a WWII USO Social Club annual event that is well received. They have found that offering "Costuming 101" and providing a sewing space at conventions is losing some traction with congoers, but that Vintage Baseball is becoming popular in their area.

Kansas City – Some events that have worked well for them include: costumed Dine Outs; participating in costume at historic home events; zombie events; and attending local conventions. They will run the costuming track at Nakacon and will offer a new guild award at the masquerade this year.

NOVA – Northern Virginia has established a weekly sewing outreach to young costumers in their area to teach sewing and crafting. The group

members frequently do historical costuming and are reaching out to other groups already doing this. They also have reached out to TV and film industry costumers in the area to let them know that members are willing to be extras in local productions.

LACE – Lower Arizona finds that Steampunk is a solid interest in their area as is WildWest.com so they are focusing workshops on that. They also do some SCA outreach in the Tucson area.

Greater Columbia – Congratulates and welcomes NOVA as a new chapter. They are promoting family memberships and reaching out to high school theater and art instructors. This enables them to get to parents through the students. They often provide meet & greet events at cons and fannish gatherings. They are involved in Balticon and plan to put in a bid for CC-40.

## **Chapter Q&A**

Vicki Warren has issues with emails to costume.org not working from her ISP (Philip Gust to troubleshoot)

Jennifer Old-d'Entremont suggested translating our PR material into Spanish and possibly other languages. (Sebastian Bouchard has volunteered to lead this effort for both Spanish and French. Philip Gust to do German)

Bruce Mai – Chapter Facebook pages are good outreach tools. Can we list links on chapter locator page? (Send all social media links to webmaster@costume.org for addition to the website)

Motion to recess the Board Meeting made by Jennifer Old-d'Entremont. Passed with no opposition or abstentions. Meeting declared in recess by the President at 10:23 AM

## **Minutes of the 2016 International Costumers' Guild Annual Members Meeting**

May, 2016 – Madison, Wisconsin

Convened: 10:45 AM

Adjourned: 11:45 AM

Meeting called to order by the President.

Byron Connell reminded the meeting that a call for Proxies was in order. Call was made by the President.

Kevin Roche moved to approve the minutes of the 2015 Annual Members Meeting. Passed with no opposition or abstentions.

## **Reports to the Membership**

**President's State of the International Costumers' Guild Report** was same as that given above.

**Treasurer's Report** was the same as that given above.

**Archives (written report)** – Bruce Mai (Archivist)

Not much to report this past year – we've sort of been in a "holding pattern" with the Gallery due to the age and bugs in the Gallery2 program, as well as Life issues. Philip and others have given input on possible software and came to the conclusion that Piwigo is the closest in features to Gallery 2. We have a prototype account to experiment with data entry and existing data migration, but we haven't had the chance to work with it yet.

Our Facebook page continues to grow, albeit slowly. We're up to 730 "likes" and seem to pick up a new one every time we post something.

Archives Road Shows – we presented some of our video and PowerPoint shows at some local Midwest cons, plus they will be repeated here at CC34. We also have plans for bringing these shows to Worldcon this year.

Speaking of video presentations, we will be providing halftime entertainment again for CC34. It's been a particularly rough year for losing artists in our community – the memorial (which is becoming an expected tradition) features 4 people who passed away in the past year.

Unfortunately, since this year's video was already produced, we have to wait until next year's memorial for Ed Charpentier.

Acquisitions – no major photo collections, but we continue to collect photos where we can. The biggest acquisition this year is 3 professionally restored videos of Worldcon masquerades: Conadian (1994), Confrancisco (1992) and best of all a complete video of the MidAmeriCon masq from

1976. (Previously, we only had a partial recording of this one, and not the best quality). This will probably be shown in in some fashion at this year's Worldcon and eventually in a "Look Back" episode on the YouTube Channel.

**Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund (written report)** – Byron Connell (chair, Fund Administration Committee)

At this time, the Marty Gear Fund has \$1,500 available for grant making in 2016. We have received no applications for new awards. We have one application for renewal of an award; it is under review. All members of the grant evaluation panel were reappointed for 2015-16 and are available to review applications.

**International Costumer** – (Vicky Assarattanakul, editor)

Actively seeking a co-editor for the International Costumer. If interested please contact Vicky.

**Web & Technology Committee** – (Philip Gust, acting chair)

The committee has found experienced volunteers who are converting the current website to WordPress which should allow easier maintenance and more functionality. The Gallery instance which the Archive is using has reached the end of its functional life. A move to Piwigo image management software is planned as a replacement.

There was no old business to put before the meeting.  
No new business was proposed for the meeting.

Byron Connell moved to accept the proposed slate of officers for 2016.  
Passed with no opposition or abstentions.

### **Members Q&A / Announcements**

Kevin Roche announced he will be editing an issue of 'Journey Planet' magazine. He will be accepting submissions from the members. Contact him by June 2016.

Aurora Celeste is looking for additional Facebook volunteers to post on the ICG Facebook page.

Philip Gust seeks interested parties for a working group to discuss possible student chapters for ICG.

Carole Parker moved to adjourn the members meeting. Passed with no

opposition or abstentions.

The President reconvened the Board Meeting at 11:49 AM

**Adoption of Slate of Officers**

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Vicky Warren. Passed with no opposition or abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 AM by the President