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<i>President:</i>	Dana MacDermott
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Betsy Delaney
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bruce MacDermott
<i>Secretary:</i>	Carole Parker
<i>Representative to the ICG BOD:</i>	Jan Price
<i>Alt. Rep. to the ICG BOD:</i>	Betsy Delaney
<i>Web Site Coordinator:</i>	Ari Hollander
<i>Editor</i>	Dana MacDermott

The Virtual Costumer is a publication of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW) for distribution to members of SiW. The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW) is a non-profit, volunteer-run chapter of the International Costumers' Guild (ICG). Redistribution or republication of content requires permission of the author and editor of this publication.

Editor's message

The upcoming General Meeting of the International Costumers' Guild has captured considerable interest among the ICG members. For the first time there is competition for some of the elective offices of the organization. There are also some significant issues that are being put to the vote of the membership. There has been extensive discussion on the ICG-D list online. (If anyone wishes to join this discussion list, you may go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ICG-D/>)

This issue of the Virtual Costumer has been created to allow the committee results and candidate statements to be accessible in advance of the meeting. It is our hope that both those who will be attending the meeting and particularly those who will be voting by Proxy can become informed. I am printing statements that have appeared on the D-list, or have been sent to me for the purpose of inclusion in the issue. Not all candidates have chosen to participate.

Participation in an organization by its membership is the only way a group can remain relevant and viable. Our chapter, the Silicon Web chapter of the ICG is deeply involved in the parent organization, and we hope to encourage other ICG members to be informed participants.

If you wish to cast your votes at the ICG meeting, but will not be attending Costume-Con 24 in Des Moines, you will need to fill out a Proxy and assign your vote to someone who will be attending. Proxy forms are available for printing on the ICG web site: <http://www.costume.org/documents/proxy.html>

The SiW also has a slightly modified version of the form which will be at the end of this column. You can either let your chosen representative decide on the votes, or you can specify the candidates and issues as you see fit. Faxed or emailed **signed** forms are accepted at the General Meeting. They will need to be printed out

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con. If you want to vote, complete the form and give it to someone who will be attending.

=====

International Costumers' Guild 20__ Annual Meeting Proxy Assignment Form

On this _____ day of _____, 20__,
I, _____, assign my vote to and authorize the below named
member of the International Costumers' Guild, belonging to
_____ Chapter, to represent me in all business coming
before the 20__ Annual Meeting of the International Costumers' Guild.

Assignee Name*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Assigner Name**: _____ of _____ Chapter

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

ZIP/Postal Code _____

Signature: _____

*Who you are authorizing to vote on your behalf.

**Your name.

If you have specific instructions on voting, attach a sheet or write below

Candidates for ICG President

Dora Buck



I am Dora Buck and I am running for President and/or Treasurer.

I started with costuming a long time before I knew that there were chapters and the ICG. I became a member of the Sick Pups and the ICG in 1999. In 2000 in Hartford, CT I was elected to the office of recording secretary, an office that held for 2 years. In 2003 I ran and was elected for Treasurer, I position that I still hold.

This that have been accomplished during my time as treasurer is having better communications between the chapter treasurers and the my office.

For the last 4 years I have maintained the office of President for the NJ/NY Costumers' Guild a position that I still hold.

Nora Mai



Nora Mai here, Acting ICG President. I've always sworn I would never run for ICG President. I planned on retiring after two years of a tempestuous vice-presidency and slipping into the obscurity some think I deserve. But that's not like me, and after hammering away at the Presidency for a month now I'd hate to leave when things are just starting to come together.

So sue me, I lied. I'm running. Below is an introduction to who I am & what I've accomplished over the years. I've also got a little bit of a statement as to my intentions towards the end. Thanks for indulging me.

My costuming history:

I've been costuming since I was 5 years old, but first seriously got in to making my own outfits when I began taking Middle Eastern Dance in 1977. I couldn't afford to buy all the fancy beaded outfits or even beaded fringe but I could sew!

I discovered convention & masquerade costuming in 1985 when I attended my first Doctor Who convention, Tardiscon. And shortly after that, Archon our regional SF con. Joined the CostumApa (now defunct) around 1989 where I began to meet the costuming community at large. I started contributing to the Future Fashion Folio for CC9 in 1991.

Attended my first Worldcon in 1991 (Chicon) & first Costume-Con (#10) in 1992. I'm not terrifically comfortable blowing my own horn but I have won a few BiS's in both SF&F and Historical. Want to see what I can do?

Visit my website: www.casamai.com

Personal information:

Along with costuming I indulge in making quilts & dolls, am a fairly decent amateur photographer, still dance and am "mom" to 3 cats. I think pizza is the perfect food & I generally don't drink domestic beer unless nothing else is available.

I was both an Art & English major in college & am certified in a variety of computer skills; including web design, some programming & database administration. I currently work for a mid-sized division of a large national company as the computer trainer & database administrator.

Costume related qualifications:

I was the Founding President for the St Louis Costumers Guild in 1991 and held that position for 6 years. I've been the ICG Vice-President for nearly 2 years. (And Acting President for about a month!) I was the Chairman for Costume-Con 16 in 1998. I ran the Future Fashion Show for both CC21 & CC22 and have been MD for a couple of smaller local cons.

I'm the current webmistress for the SLCG & CC25, treasurer & editor for the FFF for CC25. So, it looks like I'm qualified.

What I'd like to see for the future of the ICG (AKA my platform):
The ICG used to be fun & friendly but we've acquired a slightly tainted reputation over the years & I'm tired of it. The petty bickering & obsessive politicizing has greatly contributed to that as well as obscured our true purpose of sharing our knowledge & joy in our hobby. We seem to have lost focus on what we can offer. We need to take care of business, get things done & move on to other more positive projects & goals.

A Board member recently asked "when was the last time we actually did something positive to promote our hobby?" and sadly, I couldn't remember. That needs to change.

Richard Man



My name is Richard Man and I am running for the ICG's Office of the Presidency. The International Costumers' Guild, Inc. (the ICG) was started in the early 80s to serve global costuming enthusiasts. Together with its member chapters in the US and the world, the ICG has had goals of providing educational, cultural, social, and community service opportunities for amateur and professional costumers alike. However, as the saying goes, "The World's a Changing." New challenges have cropped up, some so fundamental that they threaten the continued existence of the Guild itself. We must work to make the ICG relevant to current and future costumers, as well as making sure to preserve our past in an accessible manner.

If elected, I would push for the following initiatives:

- **Stop the Secession of Member Chapters**

A major benefit to the member chapters of the ICG is the umbrella 501 (c)(3) non-profit status. As a response to 9/11, there have been changes in Federal rules and regulations on non-profit organizations. The questions of whether the ICG can continue

to provide such benefits without access to member chapters' internal financial information has become an issue. As this issue has not been addressed or communicated to the member chapters effectively, some member chapters are considering seceding. The second largest chapter (GBACG) has in fact voted to leave the ICG effective as of Feb. 2006. There are concerns that other chapters may also follow suit.

While ultimately the ICG may not be able to provide umbrella non-profit status to the member chapters without unduly meddling to the chapters' internal finance, the ICG should still work with the remaining chapters to address their concerns. In addition, as the GBACG has a sizable membership roster, the ICG must see if we can get the GBACG chapter back into the Guild.

- **Increased Value to Members and Non Members**

The ICG needs to provide more value for members and non-members alike:

- Provide web resources such as online forums and other materials. As the web has become pervasive in modern life, more and more costumers look online for information. Think "googling." The ICG website should appear when a web surfer types in keywords such as "costuming resources."
- One of the most valuable ICG assets is the photo and video archives. The ICG needs to ensure that these archives are in good condition. They must be organized and, within a proper scope and acquisition of permissions, be made available online. This is our past history, and we must work to make it available to as many people as possible.
- Other resources may include "Yellow Pages" for costumer makers, costuming articles, links to other costuming sites etc., an ICG-member web forum (perhaps with chapter subforums), etc.

- **Outreach**

Most costumers do not know that the ICG exists, and many of the ones that do may not have kind words to say about us. The ICG must become a forward and outward looking organization:

- Actively recruit new members from the huge new crop of media-oriented costumers such as the Anime and Furry communities. These cosplayers and costumers can provide new blood to the community as they are generally from a younger demographic group than today's average ICG members. There is no reason why any schism and lack of communication should exist between the various costuming communities.
- Actively work with various SF/Fantasy and Anime conventions to promote the use of ICG Masquerade Guidelines for masquerades. There is no reason for some of the newer conventions, particularly the Anime conventions, to reinvent the wheel.

- Continue to encourage (again, the newer) conventions to bring costuming panels and workshops to their programming.
 - Consider obtaining materials from the archives, Costume College, various costumers etc. and publish materials for fund raising purposes.
- **Balancing the Volunteer Workload and Spend Money Wisely**
 As a volunteer run organization, the ICG is in danger of "punishing" willing volunteers by overloading them with work. There are also officer and other positions that may require professional help, especially in the areas of legal and accounting practices. The ICG should utilize its financial assets wisely and get professional help when necessary. Other positions such as web site design, the newsletter, and membership management may also benefit from additional volunteer and professional help.

Candidate Biography:

Richard Man is an avid semi-professional photographer. With over 5400 photographs, mainly from convention masquerades, his photographic site, <http://www.dragonsgate.net/photopost> has over 780,000 views since 2004 (50,000 views in the second half of March alone!). Richard and his wife, Chris, have been active in the SF community since late 70s / early 80s. He has served the community as (an unpaid volunteer) Masquerade Photographer for a number of AniMagics and Baycons, SiliCon '05, and was the official photographer and one of the Fan Guests of Honor at Anime LA 2006. He will be the official photographer of Costume Con 26.

While not an active costume maker himself, Richard's wife and two children have won major awards at SF cons, Worldcons, and Anime cons. While he was aware of the ICG for many years and a friend of many in it, he did not join the ICG until he joined Silicon Web in 2004. His day job involves running a small software company with customers all over the world

Candidate for ICG Vice-President

I'm Jan Price and I am running for Vice President. (No photo available)

I've been an ICG member since the early 90s. In the past, I've served as President and Recording Secretary for the GBACG and was Vice Chair of the Santa Clara CostumeCon. I'm currently a member of both the GCFCG and SiW and serve on the ICG Board of Directors as the SiW chapter rep.

While I don't consider myself a "competition-ready" costumer, I have a lot of fun playing in this community and a deep admiration for those who create these wonderful illusions - historical, fantasy, recreation, anime, and all. I've been active in the convention running community for over 20 years where I've worked to support costuming-related activities and programming.

I can work effectively with all of the other candidates running for offices this year and your Chapter representatives in reaching decisions that are best for the ICG and its membership. If elected, I'm hoping the role of the Vice President is expanded to provide more support to the Board of Directors and the membership. I believe that finding ways to bring the next generation of costumers into the organization and resolving the 501(c)(3) status issue are our biggest challenges for the coming year.

Candidates for ICG Treasurer

Dora Buck



I am Dora Buck and I am running for President and/or Treasurer.

I started with costuming a long time before I knew that there were chapters and the ICG. I became a member of the Sick Pups and the ICG in 1999. In 2000 in Hartford, CT I was elected to the office of recording secretary, an office that held for 2 years. In 2003 I ran and was elected for Treasurer, I position that I still hold.

This that have been accomplished during my time as treasurer is having better communications between the chapter treasurers and the my office.

For the last 4 years I have maintained the office of President for the NJ/NY Costumers' Guild a position that I still hold.

Bruce MacDermott



My name is Bruce MacDermott, and I am a candidate for the position of ICG Treasurer.

I have been costuming since 1976, when I made a bicentennial costume. I have been active in the ICG since 1984 when we joined at the Sacramento WesterCon. My wife, Dana, and I have been competing at regional and national F&SF conventions since 1983. CC-6 was our first Costume-Con. We are best known for our off-the-wall approach to costuming. Most of our creations involve non-human characters. We have done reasonable well competition-wise with two WorldCon Best in Shows and one Costume-Con BIS Historical, along with numerous other awards (including the "Physicians Formula Award for Greatest Need" at CC-6). We were Masquerade Guests of Honor at Archon-24.

I was the Treasurer for CGW for several years, during which I became the founding Treasurer of the GBACG, a position

I held until early 1994.

I have judged both presentation and workmanship at Costume-Cons and Regional F&SF Conventions.

The following is my official Candidates Statement:

Over the last three years as Treasurer of the Silicon Web Chapter of the ICG, I have observed the functioning of the International Costumer's Guild and its Board of Directors with growing concern. The ICG appears to be headed in the wrong direction. We recently lost one of our largest chapters due to the failure of the ICG to address their legal and financial concerns.

There have been difficulties with maintaining our corporate status. Additionally, we are aware of changes in the laws regarding non-profit organizations that seem to imply that more thorough financial reporting both from the chapters and the organization will be necessary.

The ICG can no longer assume that a check book, a membership spreadsheet and good intentions are sufficient to keep our financial and membership records and to make the necessary reports to the IRS and the state governments where we do business. We need to be professional in our record keeping and reporting.

If I am elected Treasurer, I will make these necessary changes:

- I will move our record keeping to a standard accounting program designed to provide the reports that support our status as an educational non-profit organization.
- I will work with the Newsletter editor so that the mailing list and membership information are consistent and up to date.
- I will deposit checks on a timely basis.
- I will present the annual budget to the BOD before the end of the year so that we are no longer spending money for several months each year without a budget in place.
- I will analyze the ICG's financial situation according to accepted professional standards and make recommendations with an understanding of the implications.

We need competent, forward-looking, communications-oriented officers to stop the downward slide of the ICG. I am running for ICG Treasurer because I believe my expertise and philosophies can help the organization.

Qualifications:

- Have been Treasurer for three chapters of the ICG: Costumers' Guild West; Greater Bay Area Costumers' Guild (founding member); and Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (founding member)
- As a Chapter Treasurer, I have a long history of prompt monthly membership reports to the ICG Treasurer
- Member of the ICG Multi Chapter Membership Committee
- Former member of the ICG Budget and Finance Committee
- While serving for three years as Treasurer of a non-profit educational organization [a 501(c)(3)] with a yearly cash flow in excess of \$90,000, converted the record keeping from a check book to a standard accounting program resulting in streamlined filing of state tax forms and IRS Form-990

- Knowledgeable in basic accounting principles
 - Experienced in state and federal tax filings for a 501(c)(3)
 - An MBA in Operations Management
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Candidate for ICG Recording Secretary

Frances Burns

Hi, I'm Frances Burns, I am running for Recording Secretary for ICG BOD. (No photo available)

Over the years I have been President, Vice-President and Treasurer of SWCG.

If elected I intend for the on-line BOD minutes to be accessible in a timely and concise manner for ICG members.

I believe that an organization has no guarantee that it will continue to exist, so if we want the ICG to continue and to prosper we need to be aware of the changing world, the changing wants/needs of our members, and adapt. I believe that the biggest challenge we face this year is clearing up our 501c3 status as both the ICG and local chapters. How that is met - will affect everything else that we do.

Candidates for ICG Corresponding Secretary

Karen Heim



by the BOD.

I really appreciate that people want to get more involved, and that we have more than one candidate running for several of the offices. I am one of them.

I'm Karen Heim, and I'm also running for the office of Corresponding Secretary.

I have been the Treasurer for the St. Louis Costumer's Guild for most of its history, and have been co-editor on several Future Fashion Folios. One of my primary jobs as co-editor was to act as the information source to answer questions people might receive regarding the rules for the Folio. Obviously, this was an important and time-sensitive task, and I took it very seriously.

I pledge to respond to all requests as quickly as possible, and to act as the official noodle for the BOD, as well as any other tasks required by the office or requested

Elaine Mami



I'm Elaine Mami, and I'm running for Corresponding Secretary.

I heartily dislike tooting my own horn, and I don't think that my costuming credits, nor my history of being MD, judge or MC is relevant to the position I am aspiring to. However, I have been a Sick Pup (and officer of same) since shortly after it was formed. I was in Marty's house (but not in the attic) when the ICG was born, and have been active in it since that time.

For the last about 15 years I have been the corresponding secretary for the Sick Pups.

I intend to fulfill all the obligations of that office as stated in the "rule book," and, while I will not usurp the PR committee's jobs, I will gladly handle any mailings which the BOD requests of me.

Carole Parker



In the past, the role of Corresponding Secretary has been a passive one that responds to letters and requests for information sent to the ICG. While this has worked in the past, the need for letting organizations know about the ICG has come up numerous times in the discussion list.

As the ICG Corresponding Secretary, I view this role as an active one to contact different groups and establish ties with them. For example, a form letter could be snail or e-mailed to organizations as well as posted on the ICG website. This form letter would let other organizations know what the ICG is about, and also offer to trade web links and publicity with these groups.

By taking the first step and letting other organizations know about the ICG in a consistent manner, we could help achieve the goal of creating a positive perception of our group.

My writing experience includes senior technical writer, senior technical editor, and website manager of a convention (SiliCon) website as well as personal websites (costumingtips.org).

My costuming-related experience includes:

- More than 20 years as a den mom at local and regional conventions, plus WorldCons and Costume-Cons.
- Running a green room at the last minute for WesterCon in Phoenix, when it imploded. This was the year that Sandra Manning and Wombat took over at the last minute. John and Chris O'Halloran were the last-minute stage managers.

- Costume programming at a local science fiction convention, SiliCon, from 2002 - 2005.
 - One of the founding members and secretary of Silicon Web (SiW).
 - One of the founding members, secretary, and newsletter editor of the defunct South Bay Costumers Guild (SBCG) in the 1990s.
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Committee reports and Agenda Items

Guidelines Committee

Report

At the 2005 meeting, the guidelines committee provided a status report but had no completed draft to submit.

Following the 2005 Annual Meeting, the guidelines committee extended the review process, receiving comment from several members who hadn't provided input before. This was very valuable in making the new guidelines draft more genre- and media-agnostic.

The final draft was completed and submitted to the ICG BoD on November 1, 2005.

On November 3, 2005, the guidelines committee made the following announcement: "The International Costumers Guild Guidelines Revision Committee has submitted the final draft of "ICG Guidelines: Ensuring Fair Competition" to the Board of Directors. It is the committee's recommendation that the Board of Directors retire the current "Guidelines for International-Level Masquerades or Competitions" and adopt the new draft."

Action on the draft was deferred to the membership at the annual meeting. It is the committee's recommendation that the membership votes to retire the current "Guidelines for International-Level Masquerades or Competitions" and adopt the new draft.

Several committee members have expressed an interest in continuing this process. Two additional topics have engendered discussion by ICG members: competition safety and standards of behavior for competition staff.

Andrew T Trembley, Co-Chair, ICG Guidelines Revision Committee

Submitted motion:

WHEREAS the ICG Guidelines Revision Committee has for the last two years solicited membership input on the form and substance of a new document entitled "ICG Guidelines: Ensuring Fair Competition;"

AND WHEREAS the ICG Guidelines Revision Committee has produced and submitted a completed draft of "ICG Guidelines: Ensuring Fair Competition" based on that input;

IT IS MOVED that the International Costumers' Guild repeal the entirety of "International Costumers' Guild: Guidelines for International-Level Masquerades or Competitions."

IT IS FURTHER MOVED that the International Costumers' Guild adopt "ICG Guidelines: Ensuring Fair Competition."

The " ICG Guidelines Ensuring Fair Competition" can be seen at <http://www.costume.org/guidelines-committee/draft3.html>

Multi Chapter Membership Committee

The committee was charged with making recommendations on how to fairly handle individuals who have memberships in more than one chapter of the International Costumers' Guild.

Submitted motion:

Proposed New Standing Rule 5 (Multiple Chapter Memberships)

Each member has the right to join more than one chapter of the corporation. However, to avoid payment of ICG dues more than once, they must do the following:

Designate one ICG chapter as their PRIMARY CHAPTER. Their ICG membership expiration date is determined by the membership in the Primary Chapter.

When joining another chapter the member must indicate to the new chapter Treasurer that they are already a member of the PRIMARY CHAPTER.

The Treasurer of the new chapter can contact the ICG Treasurer or the Primary Chapter Treasurer to get the ICG membership expiration date. That date becomes the expiration date for the new chapter, regardless of how long the primary Chapter membership has to run.

When the member's renewal date occurs, they must pay through the PRIMARY CHAPTER or designate another chapter as "PRIMARY", and renew their membership through that new PRIMARY CHAPTER.

Only the PRIMARY CHAPTER must collect ICG dues for each member. The Treasurer of the secondary chapters can verify payment of renewal fees to the PRIMARY CHAPTER by contacting the ICG and/or PRIMARY CHAPTER Treasurer.

Standing Rules 5 through 28 will be renumbered 6 through 29, respectively.
