

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Silicon Web Staff

<i>President:</i>	Richard Man
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Kevin Roche
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bruce MacDermott
<i>Secretary:</i>	Deb Salisbury
<i>Web Site Editor:</i>	Kathe Gust
<i>Virtual Costumer Editor</i>	Philip Gust



President's Message *Richard Man**

Change is Constant.

As we move toward the end of 2009 (where did the time go?), changes are afoot for SiW and ICG.

First let me thank Dana for doing yeoman's work for many years as newsletter editor. It's time for her to take a break. Fortunately Philip Gust has stepped up to the challenge, first as a guest editor for the special issue last time, and now as the permanent editor. Thanks, Dana and Philip!

While we are saying our thank yous, thanks to Kathe Gust (yes, they're related), our new Web Site Editor. SiW is a web-

based chapter, so a great editor is essential. Check our website to see the improvements that have just gone on line.

And lest we forget, Bruce and Dana MacDermott were honored with the 2009 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions to our craft. See the [story](#) on their achievement later in this issue. On behalf of the entire SiW membership, congratulations to both of them!

...Which brings me to an amazing statistic: we now have 50 members! See the [SiW Staff Report](#) later in this issue for details. I believe one of our strengths is our "big-tent" approach. As geographically "located on the web," we welcome members from anywhere, and we do not emphasize any particular costuming endeavors, be it historical, recreation, etc.

ICG is once again facing a dilemma. Our Canadian chapter representative, Dawn, has officially requested the ICG to recognize Anime North as an "International Competition," granting it similar status mentioned in the ICG document as for the Worldcon and Costume Con masquerades.

There are some objections to "opening up a can of worms," and "how do we 'de-list'

a convention if it ever falls out of the standard of quality" etc. Let me say this:

- a) Anime North asks us!! Wow!!!
- b) If the request is granted, a committee will undertake making the exact change to the ICG document. I trust these people will come up with a set of good changes that do not make us to appear as elitists or power grabbing, etc., and
- c) Face it: Worldcon and Costume Con masquerades are no longer the only premiere amateur costuming events. Media and anime friendly conventions like SDCC, Dragon Con, Anime North, Anime Expo etc. draw far more entries and often with as high or higher quality in both workmanship and presentation than Worldcon and Costume Con.

The anime costumers are our new blood, and some of these anime costumers want to express their creativity outside of the anime genre. If our goal is to encourage "costuming in all its forms," we should adopt a big tent approach and make ourselves as friendly as possible.

I hope you will support this motion by Anime North. More details and discussion in our normal [Yahoo group](#) list of course.



From the Editor

Philip Gust*

Welcome to the final issue of *The Virtual Costumer* for 2009. This has been a tough year for many, so as the holiday season approaches, I wish you health, happiness, and prosperity in the New Year, on behalf of the entire SiW staff.

I recently became the third editor of VC, and this is my first “official” issue. Sharon Trembley was the founding editor. Dana MacDermott later assumed the job and has edited VC for many years. It is anything but easy, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their years of service to SiW.

My thanks to Dana for her confidence, her support, and especially all the articles she’s promised to contribute.

You’ve already noticed that VC has a new style and an expanded format. I’d like to take a minute to tell you about it.

As an on-line community, we seldom print content. With that in mind, the style of VC has changed from a print-oriented “portrait” to a screen-oriented “landscape” layout. The cover image both features and links to an article in the issue. The table of contents also links to articles, and URLs link to referenced web pages. Compare the original and new layouts of the “Visions of Barsoom” special issue ([Vol 7 Issue 3](#)).

VC has also expanded into a magazine format, with departments, and articles of

various types and lengths. In addition to features, VC welcomes reviews, event reports, how-tos, tips and tricks, photo spreads, interviews, virtual panels, short subjects, costumer retrospectives, upcoming events, riffs on costuming, and many more. You can identify the type of article in the table of contents and by the page banner.

Chances are, you learned, taught, or did at least one thing this year that other members would enjoy reading about. Please share it with them in the pages of VC. If you have an idea, but have never written an article, or just aren’t confident about writing, let me know. I’ll find an experienced VC author to guide you. You can do it. Send ideas and articles to vc@siwcostumers.org. See the “[Submitting an Article](#)” page on our website for guidelines. Can I count on you?

I also plan to include content from outside SiW, to help members keep in touch with the wider costuming community, and to raise awareness of SiW as a community that they should join. This is where you come in.

When you meet people at cons, classes, or other events who have costuming topics that might make good articles, ask them for their contact information, and let me know about it. Locating potential authors and articles is another way that you can help.

Each issue of VC has a theme. This issue’s is, “What I did with my summer.” For a look at upcoming issues as they move from concept to publication, including themes and ideas for articles you can write,

see the “[Upcoming Issues](#)” page on our web site.

You’ll also discover a new preview feature for current issues, a table of contents, indexes of VC since its first issue in 2003, and submission guidelines. Thanks to SiW Web Site Editor, Kathe Gust, for compiling and maintaining the TOC and indexes.

Please let me know what you think of this issue. I welcome your feedback and suggestions, and look forward to including your articles in upcoming issues.

A Great Holiday Gift Idea!

If you’re looking for an inexpensive holiday gift for your costuming friends or a young adult in your family, how about a [membership](#) in SiW? For the cost of two movie tickets, they receive an entire costuming community, and a costuming magazine too. You’ll get a gift certificate to send with your gift membership.

As Cyrano Jones says in “The Trouble with Tribbles”, it’s the only love money can buy!

