

BRCG Meeting Minutes February 2004

The February meeting of the Beyond Reality Costumers Guild took place on February 17th at Olympia Pizza House in Wallingford. There, I did it. I successfully led of a transcription of the meeting minutes without making a joke. Oh, wait. Darn.

Vicki started the meeting promptly at 8 PM. “For a Grand Pooh-Bah is never late...she begins the meeting precisely when she intends to” (apologies to Tolkien). The big news is that the BRCG is finally incorporated! This means we can obtain a business account in the guild’s name at a bank. Audrey reports that will be happening soon, so it’ll be easier for everyone to remember who to pay their dues to.

We next discussed the very successful first BRCG convention, BeyondCon, which took place February 7th and 8th. Financially, the guild did not make money on the convention, due to the fact that not enough memberships were sold. However, many conventions do not make a profit their first few years, and the guild savings were able to cover the extra expenses. We were awfully close too, as it was approximated that we needed only 8 more memberships to break even. Audrey proposed even discounting the memberships next year for multiple memberships from the same household as an extra incentive. The convention itself was highly entertaining and educational, with tons of panels on a wide variety of topics.

There was much interest in holding another BeyondCon convention next year, and we discussed how we might attract more attendees. Some believed that the convention should be moved further south to a region closer to some of the BRCG members living there. The BeyondCon committee had discovered higher hotel meeting room costs when they investigated that option, but the group seemed willing to consider the increased costs with a strong show of support from the southern contingent of members. JoAnne has offered to assist with site selection.

One idea was to mail out a survey to the current members to solicit their opinions and suggestions on future BeyondCon’s. It was also suggested that we promote BeyondCon at our BRCG table at this year’s Norwescon. Lisa expressed interest in assisting with next years BeyondCon programming. Don informed the guild of some problems with the hotel restaurant, but was overall pleased with the business side of dealing with the Everett hotel. He suggested that we might want to consider a different table arrangement next year however. Vicki commented that the fluorescent lighting was a bit hard on everyone’s eyes by the end of the day, and recommended finding a facility that had at least some natural light if possible. We were all amused/bemused by the raucous church service held on Sunday morning in one of the nearby meeting rooms of the hotel as well.

Audrey, le money fondeler, reported that approximately 2/3rd of the BRCG members currently need to renew their membership for this year. Membership dues to belong to the guild, and continue to receive the guild newsletter *Notions*, now come due on October 31st of each year. We discussed how we could remind our members that paying their dues would be **REALLY, REALLY COOL!**, and decided that a postcard reminder is going to be the way to go. Audrey will be generating the postcards, and listing her contact and payment information, as well as putting the BeyondCon survey on the postcard. She hopes to have that ready by the next meeting.

It should also be noted that the BRCG Officers held a small meeting at this years BeyondCon to discuss ways to improve and generate more interest in the Guild. Anyone interested in seeing minutes from that meeting can contact Vicki or Erik.

A few future events were also discussed: Vicki obtained a large amount of small plastic bags from a thrift sale that she proposed to use for a fundraiser. Possibly, a small emergency sewing kit that can make all the difference when you're backstage at a masquerade.

(stealthy segue)

Speaking of masquerades... Vicki will be the Masquerade Director again at this year's Norwescon, and she's looking for volunteers to assist backstage. If you've ever wanted to see how it looks from the other side, contact Vicki for more information.

It looks as if the guild will not be hosting or co-hosting a post-masquerade room party at this year's Norwescon.

Tuesday March 2nd, Vicki and Don are hosting the NWSFS "My Favorite Restaurant" at Olympia Pizza, and encourage current BRCG members to attend... in costume if possible.

Ringcon, a Tolkien-esque convention, is happening at the Seattle Airport Hilton March 5-7.

Audrey will be hosting a monthly "Northern Stitch N' Bitch" the first Sunday of the month at her home in Lynnwood. More details to come on the Topica message list.

With that, the guild wrapped up it's monthly meeting for February. The next guild meeting will be on March 16th, where we'll be celebrating the little-known Greek saint, "St. Dino's Day". Be sure to bring your garlic!