

IFGE Convention - March 1987
Transcribed Audio Tapes

OPEN FORUM WITH THE IFGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 8, 1987
Tier 1, Tapes 1, & 2

Tape 1, Side 1

Merissa Sherrill Lynn - Moderator

This is a hastily put together structure here, as we were originally going to have an open forum with the IFGE Board. We thought it might be more important if we concentrated on next year's convention and the one after that.

First, I'll give you a listing of the IFGE Board of Directors. Every Board member and Board alternate we serve in a business capacity. The elected members will have voting power, the rest will serve as alternates in the order they were elected. Should a Board member drop out, the 1st alternate will take his or her place.

The members of the Board are: Eve Burchert, Renee Chevalier, Joanna Clark, Cheryl Costa, Holly Cross, Shiela Kirk, Betty Ann Lind, Merissa Lynn, Naomi Owen, Virginia Prince, Roger Peo, Ellen Summers, Helen Tibbetts, Pat West, and Elaine Willey.

The alternates of the Board are: Rupert Raj, Bette Johnson, Yvonne Cook, Lynda Frank, Maureen Taylor, Samantha Walls, and Nancy Ann Martine.

Originally the IFGE was to be the convention programs division of the Tiffany Club. Tiffany was restructured to be the local support organization for the Northeast region. IFGE was then formed to publish the Tapestry and other educational material, and to sponsor our convention. IFGE is intended to be an outreach tool, and to serve as a communications device, and a unifying factor for our community as a whole.

Ever since we started our conventions, whether it be Fantasia Fair, or whatever, we have wanted a "convention" convention, not a personal growth convention, not a party. We have been coat-tailing on certain professional organizations where we were the patients and they were the doctors. As a result, they were not quite in tune to our needs as a community. It was obvious that whatever was to be done for our community, we would have to do it.

Two years ago at the Spring Fling, we were discussing the possibility of the development of a convention. There were a large number of groups represented by that affair. The intention was to have a convention that would be sponsored by IFGE, on behalf of the community and it would be planned by and run for the community. This is the TV/TS Community's convention. IFGE is only the sponsor.

We set up a structure, a staff and a steering committee. The steering committee was made up of one representative from each organization. The steering committee would plan the convention and OK everything that would go into the convention. The committee would select a director, a financial manager, a program coordinator, convention coordinator and audio visual. A Staff underneath that structure was selected by those individuals made up of basically anyone who was willing to work.

The agenda and proposed program content was selected and approved by the steering committee, including site selection, long range battle plan and program selection.

For this first year, the convention is a closed one for leaders of the various groups. Next year we want to have a convention that we can put on the road. It takes about two years to plan a convention.

For next year, we plan to keep the machinery in motion. We would return here and have the convention we originally conceived of with a smaller, restrictive number of participants. We may have a walk-in serve for the public, or helping professionals. For the following year, we will be ready to take it on the road and perhaps go to the west coast, and the year after go to the east coast. We can then take this polished convention on the road each year there after.

One of the objectives of the steering committee is to make this organization as representative of all the groups as possible.

It's important for each club representative to return to their respective organizations and raise the level of excitement. What would they like to see for program ideas for 1988. Think about what you can do to be responsible to help all this to happen.

This may better apply for next year, but we could put together a press package as quickly as possible. We need something to bring back to our groups and hand out to our own memberships and also to the general public.

End Tape 1, Side 1

Start Tape 1, Side 2

Linda (CHIC) - I'm still beating this newsletter horse. I'd like to see coming out of all this, some kind of sheet or insert from IFGE. This could then be duplicated and put into all the local area newsletters. It would give a much stronger feeling within each group that they are a part of the IFGE. I think the constant contact with this group and the local groups is very important. It would be a constant reminder of our affiliation with the national organization. This would help to continue the enthusiasm throughout the year.

Most of the local newsletters are 8 X 11 format and a full page insert would be ideal, whether it is monthly or bi-monthly basis. This would keep the membership of each group in touch with what is going on here.

...Discussion of name badges...

...Discussion of Communication Seminar...

I think there were some basic tools missing from this convention that I've seen at other conventions, like pre-prepared visuals aids, prepared outlines of

workshops. We have to take the message back to our people. And you missed another basic took and that's coffee in the back.

...Discussion of various aspects of the convention...

Two things I'd like to input. One concerns the press room downstairs, and it was closed yesterday. We were in there and we got kicked out. I was down there on Thursday at 2 p.m. and it was again closed.

Also, there seems to be a lot of conflict between some of the seminars, and there were times when not much was going on. Perhaps we could spread things out more for next year.

The press room was closed yesterday because Bette Johnson go fed up by not being able to attend anything herself of what she paid for. We had the same problem at Fantasia Fair. The only staff people we have to run this thing are the ones who have paid for the event themselves. If they have to run everything, then they are paying you for the privilege of working.

The solution is simple. We had a list of fifteen hostesses but we were not organized well enough to get those hostesses trained at the responsibilities to keep things open. In the future we will do this. I'm certain we can do a much petter job next year.

I just wanted to make a suggestion about the wives group. We had a great rap session and it wasn't long enough, but it came at the end of the convention. I think we should meet right as soon as we get there. We need to find out who the other wives are.

The solution is to have wives group coordinator be able to sponsor a reception for the wives at the beginning of the convention, as well as for any special interest group.

For the registration and problems, we have a number of people who didn't come to the convention. These people are available to work and would be more than willing to work for a few perks. They could have access to the buffet or to the evening socials. That way, you can free up your paying members to attend the functions you want.

I think it's important that if we decide to gear to the professional crowd, we should think about the image of the material we put out, we should consider going from a photocopy format to a pre-printed handout.

Those of you who have any connections with the professionals in your area, and even if you don't, that you start talking with people in mental health agencies, hospitals, clinics and so on, about this work, to generate some interest in having some people come and join us next year.

If we are to approach the professionals, we should get a form letter with your stationary to send out to mental health groups. This is needed to provide some credibility for our cause.

End Tape 2, Side 1

Tape 2, Side 2 - nothing recorded