

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

Editor's Note: All the candidates were asked to submit a statement for this issue. Candidates for Monarch were asked the following question: "As Monarch, what do you see as your primary role in supporting the goals of the Imperial Court of New York?"

Candidates for board positions were asked: "What are your qualifications for seeking this position, and what would be your contributions to the Board of Directors of the Imperial Court of New York?"

All responses are edited for spelling and punctuation only, not for content.

CANDIDATES FOR EMPRESS



Fred Frick
H.R.H. Princess Royale
Lita Austin

A monarch's primary role in our court system is to perform all the duties and responsibilities accompanying the title and to project the highest image of decorum and integrity. If elected, I would do everything in my power to uphold and implement these goals.

However I feel there are goals which cannot be written down; goals in which I believe sometimes are overlooked. I'm speaking of compassion towards our membership, a willingness to help and to listen to others. I realize that fundraising is our most important mission, we raise thousands to give to charities, but as the old saying goes "charity begins at home". I would like to see a "humanitarianism committee" started internally where funds would be available for this purpose to help our members.

Another goal would be to get members involved and informed through 4 steps:

Encourage—New members to get involved by including them in already established events.

Initiate—Events and committees and assign chairpersons from general membership to help.

Communicate—Establish open quorums to discuss and explain why certain decisions are made concerning the ICNY.

Reciprocate—Organize an exclusive "free to member only" event with allotted funds to show appreciation for their hard work. Acknowledge all members who participate even if it is a simple thank you note.

I realize that you cannot please everyone; and this is a "volunteer" organization, but with a sense of humor, a commitment to teamwork and a compassionate attitude we can accomplish everyone's "goals" in this organization.



Bill Patterson
H.R.H. Prince William

One of my primary goals would be to help spread the mission of the ICNY and to make the local community more aware of us. The Monarchs should do this by more public appearances, publicizing our fund raisers and by reaching out to other gay and lesbian organizations. This would enable us to recruit more members, and hopefully more community support. Fund raising would be imperative, for the Court's running expenses, for AIDS and other charitable organizations. To do this, both Monarchs would have to take the lead in organizing events; solidifying the membership by rallying their support, participation, involvement in all activities, so they feel they are having more of a say in the Court. Having closer contact with other Courts, to learn more about their organizations, could be beneficial to us in some of our affairs, and perhaps offer more opportunities to do joint fund raising such as has been done for The World AIDS Day benefits. A secondary goal would be the establishment of a Historical Society to consist of a Burke's Peerage type of listing of all members with Court genealogical information, together with an archives consisting of court awards, etc.

Thom Hansen

H.R.H. Princess Royale Panzi



I would like to thank you for considering my candidacy. I guarantee each of you that as Empress, I will uphold the tradition of the Court System with dignity, loyalty and humor. My goals are many. As stated in my speech to the Membership, I pledge to create greater communication between the Board and Members;

to expand the fund-raisers to bring in more donors from outside the Membership; to develop more programs that directly involve people with AIDS/HIV; and to celebrate and increase our diversity.

My unique goal is to bring my many years of experience in the lesbian, gay and trans-gender community to the position of Empress. Since 1971, my experiences were many: as an activist in post-Stonewall years of Greenwich Village; as a young, passing cross-dresser and professional "female impressionist" during the years when we were "illegal" and harassed not only by the law, but also by our own community; as a volunteer at the newly founded GMHC helping to raise thousands of dollars when it was not yet fashionable; as Comptroller and Executive Director of CRI - Community Research Initiative (the organization that tested and helped the FDA approve aerosolized pentamidine as a prophylaxis for PCP in the mid- 80's); as an activist in the late 70's helping to open lines of communication and understanding between extremist groups and the Trans-Gender Community; as founder (1975) and leader of the "Invasion of the Pines"; as a fund-raiser and leader of many, many community groups; and as a loyal and active Member, not only of the New York Court, but also the International System as well (current Secretary of the Board of the International Court Council and First Grand-Daughter to Empress I Jose, the Widow Norton). I encourage you to read my complete resume, which I will mail to each of you, and I look for your support toward a fun-filled, productive reign as Empress.

CANDIDATE FOR EMPEROR

The Court Circular

The Official Newsletter
of the Imperial Court of New York



New York, NY 10003

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for Gay & Lesbian Community and social service organizations; to provide a safe, social environment for people with the same interest as those of the corporation; to create and promote positive Community awareness of the ideals of the Imperial Court System.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Reigning Emperor & Executive Board

John Cella

Reigning Empress & Executive Board

Charles Ching

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Original Incorporator

Fred Frick

Vice President & Membership Chairman

Bill LaMonica

Treasurer

Victor Grossetti

Secretary

Garret Malter

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Executive Board

Domenico Tolipani

Executive Board

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Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg

Victor Grossetti • Max Killingsworth

Billy Little • Bob McAleavy

Bob Nowak • Marcelo Perlicz

Doug Rowan • John Yohannan

Lynn Walker • Mike Weyand

Circular Staff

The Executive Board of the Imperial Court of New York meets on the third Thursday of each month.
The General Membership meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Center, 208 West 13th St. at 8:00pm.

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Charles Ching
Absolute Empress VII
Coco LaChine, Heir
Apparent, 2nd in line of
Succession, 1st Vice-
President, International
Court Council

Can you imagine what our lives will be like without the Imperial Court of New York?

Of course it will still go on. But it probably will not be as much fun or fulfilling.

Eight years ago, when the Court was in serious jeopardy of dissolving as a viable organization, Ben Freeman (Empress IV Camille Beauchamp) had the vision to turn the court around. Together with Empress V Razor Sharp, Empress VI Saleen and myself, we begged, borrowed and performed our way to make sure we had enough seed money to continue the tradition of the Night of a Thousand Gowns. The rest, as they say, is history.

I believe that history is an important part of our future. It is in knowing where we came from, that we can plan on where we are heading in the next millennium. I am very proud to have been able to serve this organization as a bridge from the past. As President, I am proud to report that we are in the best fiscal situation than we have ever been. Our membership has grown in leaps and bounds. We have donated more money than we have ever in the past. We have participated in more events, increased our visibility and have had more membership socials. Above all, we have put in place many important processes to insure accountability and success of all our events. I hope that we had been able to provide the general membership with a sense of fulfillment and fun at the same time.

In seeking the position of the Presidency, I hope to provide the history, the vision, the passion and the commitment towards our future. It would be an honor to continue that tradition.

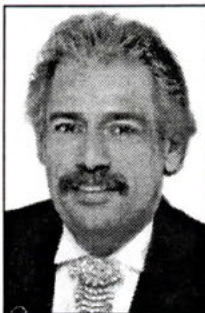


CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Tom DeConza
H.M.I.S.M Emperor VII
Tomas

The Vice-President of the Imperial Court of New York needs to be a person who is willing to work for the membership of the organization and have the ability to work with the President and the Board. It is very important to have a good sense of the pulse of the general membership, and an organizational management background.

My experience in community organizing, having worked closely with Empress Coco and Thom Hansen (our current and last President), both in and outside of the Court, have provided me with a keen insight on the strength of our organization, and have been a determining factor in my decision to run for this position. A strong board should be composed of dedicated individuals who respect each other's differences, and place the welfare of



the organization on the highest order. Team players are critical to the success of our Board and I would like to be a part of that team.

As an active member, a board member, and now as a Monarch, I have organized many social and fundraising events, including theater parties and the Holiday Party. I have also co-chaired the Ball Auction/Raffle Committee for the last three years. During my entire membership with the Imperial Court, I have attended all the of the board meetings during my tenure, and missed only one general membership meeting.

My work schedule also allows me to devote time both as a Monarch, as a board member, and as an active member of this organization.

Your consideration in voting for the Vice-President is crucial to our success. I respectfully ask you for your consideration of my application.

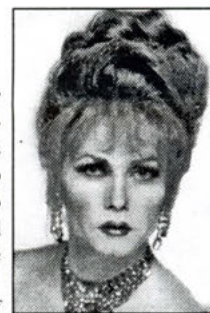
Mike Fulk
Princess Royale
Victoria Weston

I maintain inclusion is the best policy. Nurture and support the incoming members and those who we've grown to know and love. I'm thrilled to see more men, lesbians, and straights. Through diversity we find creativity.

Through acceptance of differences and reveling in commonality we find strength.

My first years were filled with events and responsibilities including two years on the Board of Directors. I then took a back seat, allowing others opportunity to serve, remaining observant and getting new perspective as a general member. I am now ready for the larger, more responsible role of Vice-President. I've spent hours soul searching, deciding if I should or shouldn't run for this important position. My strengths are willingness to work, detail friendly, computer literate, good listener, honesty, loyalty, ability to admit mistakes/being wrong, and voicing opinions of those who feel unheard. I'm confident my drive and positive attitude are the right for the job.

Some day in the future I would like to represent you as Empress. Vice-President would teach me more about our organization and further prepare me for that honor, if it should happen. I will try as hard as possible to do whatever job is set before me.



CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

Bill LaMonica
H.I.M. Empress VIII
Billie Ann Miller

My qualifications speak for themselves—twenty years of being treasurer for two organizations, plus being treasurer for the Imperial Court of NY for the last six years. I would bring to the board my years of experience in the gay and lesbian community and my fund raising ability; mature knowledge of the gay needs, guidance and direction. My having a seat on the board gives the feeling to the members that seniors are important to recognize and vital to a well rounded board.



CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

Victor Grossetti Grand Duchess Tori Adore

I have served as your secretary for the past year, and in that time I have become better acquainted with the members, the by-laws and the workings of this great organization. I believe that we are in show business, and I have worked very hard at the business part, and I'm proud of what we have accomplished. In the coming year, I hope to do some show. If elected, I pledge to continue to do my best for the Monarchs, the President and the board, and for you the members of the Imperial Court of New York. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve for another term, and I ask you, once again, to "Vote for Tori, You won't be sorry!"



Joe Doyle Viscountess Josephine Boner Parte

I am honored to present my qualifications as Secretary / Member of the Board. I have spent 23 years in the legal profession in a major law firm where my duties include researching data, preparing correspondence, reviewing legal documents and representing the firm in court hearings. I am an effective communicator and listener. I am experienced in several word processing systems. I am proficient in office procedures and documentation which would enhance the position of Secretary.



On the Board I would bridge my more than 20 years of active participation in the public life of the gay community. Among my organizational activities is my role as Development Committee member for Body Positive. I was able to arrange for BP to interview Emperor Tomas for their July magazine's cover article.

Among other ICNY activities, I have co-chaired several successful fund-raisers and have assisted others in their events. Last June I hosted a Bingo Benefit for BP and Bailey House which was supported by many ICNY members. As Board Member I would encourage the strengthening of the Court's relationship with these and similar organizations.

I would work to promote the Court's gaining support from corporate sponsors. As a fund-raising organization, I would stress contact with pharmaceutical companies as well as other businesses that cater to our community to support the Court in its mission.

In dealing with members of the ICNY, I listen to all and receive both positive and negative comments with an open mind and heart. As a member, I have always been a sensitive listener and one whose first priority is what is best for the Court. Thanks for your consideration.

Daniel Mooney Lord Daniel

I am running for the positions of Secretary and Board Member. I hereby submit my qualifications and what I have to contribute to the Board of Directors of I.C.N.Y.

In the past, I was Vice President of the American Cancer Society in Brooklyn raising thousands of dollars over a five year period.

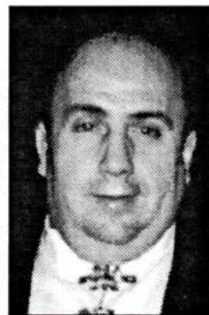
I've gained a wealth of knowledge of how courts are organized and operate through relationships I've created with Court Members throughout the country. In particular, the Imperial Court of San Diego where I spent approximately one year working on and supporting fundraising events during the reign of Emperor XXV Noel and Empress XXV Roxy Bleau.

In addition, my knack for remembering details, note taking and communication skills are excellent.

With these past experiences, skills and knowledge I have much to contribute to the Board of Directors of The Imperial Court of New York. My priority is now to become the Secretary of I.C.N.Y. The second position I am running for is Board Member.

I am proud to be a member of an organization that has done so much in the fight against AIDS. With my pride I will succeed as Secretary, Board Member or Member.

Thank you for your consideration.



CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD

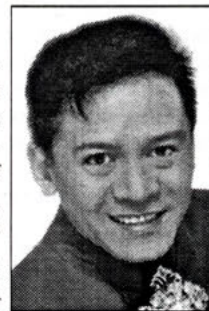
Romeo Colon Count Bobsie

Before I became an official member of the Court, I had been a supporter of this organization since 1993, during and after the reign of Empress VII Coco LaChine, who honored me with a Knighthood on her step down. Since becoming a member, I have participated in most of the Court events and attended 7 coronation balls in the last two years.

While I was manager of Club 58 (the site of Out-Of Town Show for three years) I assisted in several fund-raising benefits for the Court. I also produced many benefit shows for other organizations; such as Asians & Pacific Islanders Coalition Against AIDS, God's Love We Deliver, GLAAD and the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard.

I am also the founder-producer of the Best Female Impersonator of America Contest, Mr/Ms Gay Asia America Pageant, Mr/Ms Gay Supermodel of the Year and the House of Supermodels, among others.

If elected to the Board, I would use my expertise and produce more benefit shows for the Court. I would also like to promote more harmony, love, understand-



ing and communications among members and officers of the court.

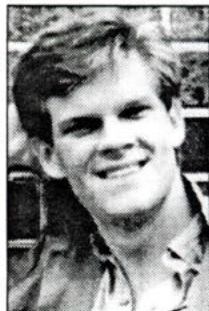
Thank you & God bless.

Chet Cagle Prince Chet

In seeking the position of the board of directors of the Imperial Court of New York, I bring with me seven years of membership and a good understanding of how the court system works. I have watched the court grow from just a handful of members to well over one hundred, and realize the complexities involved as an organization grows and evolves. The Imperial Court has always been supportive of me through some tough times, and I have given of my time and talents through the years whenever possible.

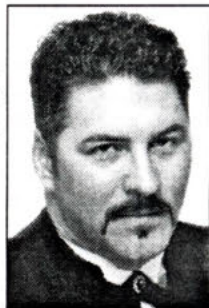
I wish to become much more involved and visible within the Court by representing not only members that I have known for many years, but also as someone to whom new members can look to and feel that their voices will be heard. As a "man" in the court - Prince Chet, I plan to encourage the growth of membership amongst others in our community who enjoy fundraising and drag, while feeling more comfortable dressing as men.

I ask for your support and consideration as a member of the Board of Directors and hope that you will allow me to represent your voices. Thank you.



Gary Cosgrove Duke Gabriel

As a person who has always been involved in the administrative end of most committees I have served on, I possess the ability to coolly and calmly deal with the important matters at hand. I am a great listener and do not pre-judge a person or idea until all the facts have been presented. I strongly believe in teamwork, nothing can be accomplished without it. The members of the Court have a voice and I want to be that voice. I have grown to love the ICNY and what we all stand for. Many good friends have been made, some for a lifetime. I want to be a part of the inner workings and make a difference. Everything can be improved throughout our lives and the Court is no exception. We must constantly move forward in our goals to become a fundraising powerhouse and new ideas are always needed. The message that each one of us carries is important and should be heard. I look forward to sharing ideas, thoughts and learning from some of our more experienced members of our Court.



Gary Greene Count Green

My name is Gary Greene aka Count Greene. Being a new member of ICNY, going into my third year of membership, I have tried to get involved as much as possible. I feel my next step would be to apply for a position as Board member of ICNY.

I hope you will support me in this venture. I have participated in fund raising, most-



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------|---|--|
| Aug. 27 | "Boys Will be Boys" at the TRIAD, 72nd & Broadway.....Emperor Tomas | |
| | \$10 Adm/\$10 Cover to benefit Empress I Jose | |
| Sept. 3 | "Destination Asia" in honor of Empress VII Coco.....Count Bobsie, | |
| | The Web, 40 East 58th Street - 9 P.M. - \$10 Admission | |
| Sept. 10 | ICNY Election & Membership Meeting.....Charles Ching, | |
| | 8 P.M. at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center | |

— Continued on page 4

BOARD CANDIDATES—continued from page 3

ly with ICNY, and some for the Arts Project of Cherry Grove in the summer months. I am also involved in MCAANY Bowling League.

As a member of the court who doesn't participate in cross dressing, I have been known to do tough drag. I feel there is a need to support members like myself. Although most of our fundraising is done by many talented cross dressing members, I would like to see the continued involvement of the non-drag members become more visible. It is very hard to compete with pretty faces, beautiful dresses and fine jewels. I feel as a board member, I could get a better perspective of different ways for this to happen, and bring them to the general membership. My involvement with both drag and non-drag members gives me a perspective that may be helpful to all members.

I would also hope as a fellow member, that people would contact me to convey their needs to the Board of Directors, if I were elected.

Jose Luis Fernandez Countess Josie

My qualifications are: objectivity, ability to compromise, organizational skills and attention to detail. Anyone seeking office in an organization like ICNY must be able to set aside personal biases and pre-conceived notions in order to keep an open mind when looking at different issues.

Compromise, more often than not, is the most valuable tool. One must be able to alter one's view on certain issues, for the good of the many. Knowing when to "give a little" has proven a most effective tool in the past.

I am incredibly organized, and believe that anything worth doing deserves 150% of my ability and resources.

As a 16 year member of the NYC Gay Men's Chorus, and having served three terms on their Board of Directors, I have been able to expand on these skills, as well as gain invaluable knowledge of event production and planning fund raising events.

My contribution to our board will be to strive to maintain our high standards, while trying to come up with new ways for the membership to have fun and get to know one another. These events should be money making ventures that will enable the organization to fulfill its noble purpose to help our community.

Robert Sorrell Dowager Grand Duchess Swana Swarovski

I have been with the Court since 1991 and have taken an active interest in the growth and development of our organization. As a board member, I have always encouraged what I consider to be the "positive" energies and naturally have tried to discourage the "negative". My attendance and participation have always been good and I am not afraid to work or to confront the issues that arise, whatever they may be. I get along with others and respect their views even when I disagree. I believe in the long-term prospects of the court system and have definite ideas of what our goals and aims should be. I thank all our members for considering me.



Domenico Tolipani Princess Tedi DeBare

Serving on the boards of more than one organization has given me a very different perspective of the workings of various boards.

There are people in our court who feel that the Board of Directors of the Imperial Court of New York is a very "political" board. As a member of other boards, I can honestly say that our board is one of the most democratic non "political" boards that I have ever known. Under the very able leadership of Charles Ching, the current board has worked for the betterment of the organization. Some board members may not have agreed with some ideas that were presented to them, but they always put aside their personal differences for the good of the court.

I would feel honored if the membership sees fit to allow me to represent them for another year. The only promise I can make is that I will work as hard as I can to make the Imperial Court of New York a stronger organization so that we are well respected in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zondra Foxx Viscountess Zondra

Qualifications, other than participating in numerous court functions and contributing articles to the newsletter: ability to plan & see to completion, pushy if necessary; attention to detail; diligent; direct; honest; totally individual; eccentric; outrageous on demand; an outsider. The ICNY has plenty of competent members, it doesn't have enough freaks. The Board needs a resident freak. Hence, MOI!

The ICNY must connect more with the "down-town" drag scene for identity promotions and fundraising events, the latter often of a quickie nature, and as a source of creative membership. Zondra has feet in both of these worlds. Amazingly, there are ICNY members unknowing of the down-town girls and many of the latter have never heard of the Court or have wrong ideas about it. Synergisms exist, but are undeveloped. Board membership is advantageous in promoting activities, especially those designed to bring the Court to the attention of a wider public. Often ICNY functions are too closed to the public, thereby depriving us of both recognition and revenues.

Thus,

LESS: Stuffiness, tradition, mainstream inoffensiveness and fewer outmoded drag themes.

MORE: Quickie idiosyncratic fund-raisers, public parties, weirdness, craziness, edginess, fun !!!

MORE ME !!!

Note: Tom DeConza, Joe Doyle, Mike Fulk, Victor Grossetti and Daniel Mooney are also running for at large positions on the Board of Directors.

Note: Robert Sorrell is also running for the position of Minister of Protocol.

Photos by Susan Brown, Anthony Colantonio



CANDIDATES FOR MINISTER OF PROTOCOL

Billy Little Countess d'Ville

I am Billy Little, Countess d'Ville and I'm running for the office of Minister of Protocol. I've been a member of the court for almost 6 years and recently been elevated to Countess (based on my many years of visibility), assembled 11 pages of this years "Night of 1000 Gowns" program, been a close candidate for the Court Circular Editor-in-Chief and I'm always willing to help anyone whenever I'm asked. I wish to serve as Minister of Protocol with dedication, using fresh ideas in an old fashion way, carrying on important traditions, developing new ones and improving our system of protocol.

I have many ideas for each and every member to become united to share the spotlight wherever we go. For the past 2 years at our ball I've carried a gold staff to note that all members were to "check-in" with me. As an "unofficial" Board Member I would exercise the right of Minister and attend every meeting in case any official decisions relating to protocol are made. Protocol is very important but a difficult job in our court system and as Minister of Protocol I want my ideas and yours to be heard and seen - especially seen!

H.I.M. Steven Frear Emperor VI Steven

As a pretentious homosexual, I have always harbored not-so-secret monarchist sympathies. During my second year at university I came across a copy of *Burke's Peerage* in the reference section of the library. While far less useful yet far more interesting than your average dictionary, the

monarchist in me read it cover to cover. I learned the difference between a Duke and an Earl and why Queen Anne's husband was a King Consort, Queen Victoria's husband was a Prince Consort and the current Queen's husband title has been Duke of Edinburgh.

The Imperial Court of New York as part of the International Court System models itself on the European Courts of the past. Titles are important. They help define who we are and distinguish us from other organizations. Face facts, it's fun to have a title! I would like to explain to the membership the histories of their titles and educate them in proper court etiquette. Protocol is not merely selling titles at the annual Night of 1,000 Gowns. It functions each time a member of our Court appears at an Out-of-Town coronation and every time the Monarchs make an elevation. As Minister of Protocol, I would contact the appropriate representatives of the Out-of-Town Courts to assist the Monarchs with Out-of-Town protocol, and I would be available to advise the Monarchs when they pondered their elevations. Finally, I would like to see the Board approve a Protocol Committee as a standing committee to function throughout the year. On a final note, I think that the Dowager Grand Duchess Swana Swarovski has done a bang up job with this position these past years, and my candidacy is not meant to reflect as a judgment on her performance, but after all, even Monarchs reign for only one year...

