



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LEATHER GUILDS



Greetings to the members of the International Federation of Leather Guilds

Being this is the first newsletter since I was elected and I do sincerely apologize for that. Let me take this opportunity to tell you what delayed the process. When I was elected Executive Director of the IFoLG, I was completing chemo and radiation treatments for cancer which finished up in November. We had no idea that more problems would surface that would keep me totally out of commission for several more months. I was scheduled for surgery in mid December to remove a section of my esophagus. There was to be a period of recovery time and I was to be back in the saddle again. During routine pre-op testing, it was discovered that I had 97% blockage in a major artery of my heart and had a double bypass the next morning. All went well and I was up and around after a few weeks. In mid February I was re-scheduled for the original surgery and to make a long story short, it did not go well. They accidentally nicked a little artery called the aorta. I was in the hospital for 5 days, then home for 2 days and back in the hospital with pneumonia for another 6 days. My doctors told me that because of the cumulative effects of chemo, radiation, bypass surgery, the problems during the second surgery, and pneumonia, recovery time would be several months. They were right. Only in the past few weeks have I been able to be up and around. The good news came June 13th when my oncologist said my last PET scan showed me to be free from cancer. All that said, I'd like to sincerely thank everyone for the good wishes, emails, and prayers. Obviously it works.

I'd also like to thank the other IFoLG officers for stepping up and taking care of things while I have been out of commission.

Now, on to business. The big thing coming up is the IFoLG show being hosted by the IILG in Albuquerque New Mexico, October 13th through the 16th. For complete details go to www.iilg.org then click on **IILG 2011 IFoLG Show**. Also the general information page with dates and contacts is included in the newsletter. I understand that rooms are filling fast so don't delay making your reservations. Also it's time to get your competition items ready.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Albuquerque.

Keep on Toolin'
Dave Smith

