

# THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The  
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

*Volume 35 No. 1*

*January 2014*

*Mary Nye Meyers, Editor*

The mission of IOBG is to recognize past commodores of the international yachting community and unite them in order to promote the highest ideals of yachting, and preserve its customs and traditions through social, educational and humanitarian programs.



# 2014 IOBG DIRECTORY

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

### Protocol Officer

Marsha Landreth  
Tel: 805-201-3027  
Bus: 805-889-0054  
mlrs4742@gmail.com

### Recording Secretary

Marybeth Thayer (Bill)  
Tel: 760-632-9058  
bethntbill@gmail.com

### LOG Editor-In-Chief Webmaster/Lighthouse

Mary Nye Meyers (Michael)  
Tel: 253-224-8592  
fire\_n\_ice104@hotmail.com

### Education Officer

Phil Promessi (Carol)  
Cell: 925-864-1583 (Phil)  
Cell: 925-864-1585 (Carol)  
ppromessi@comcast.net

### Past Pres. Liaison Officer

Vern Bendsen (Linda)  
Tel: 707-422-3510  
vbendsen@pacbel.net

### Legal Officer

George Knies (Ann)  
Tel: 925-939-0230  
Tel: 239-471-2000  
machbuster2@att.net

### Historian

A.R. 'Art' Theobald (Betty)  
Tel: 760-632-9058  
ardentheobald@comcast.net

### Supply Officer

Commodore Insignia  
1380 Centerville LN #32  
Gardnerville, NV 89410  
Tel: 775-782-3380  
Tel: 800-315-7485  
Fax: 775-782-4003  
Comsignia@aol.com  
www.commodoreinsignia.com

### Sergeant-At-Arms

Bill Thayer (Marybeth)  
Tel: 760-632-9058  
bethntbill@gmail.com

## REPRESENTATIVES

### BOAT U.S.

Gary Hall 760-757-6796

### Boat U.S. Membership

Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

### AUXILIARY LIAISON

Rosalie Davis-Green 310-684-1848

### HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON

Vern Bendsen 707-422-3510

### MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Joel Kay 216-382-7123

### NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

Gary Green 310-684-1848

### US SAILING

Bill Thayer 760-632-9058

### U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

James Mack 925-828-6870

### U.S. POWER SQUADRON

B.J. Ursin 360-671-1700

## COMMITTEES

### AUDIT

Chuck Browning 843-742-5839  
Joel Kay 216-382-7123  
Joe Dowdell 305-304-1208

### BY-LAWS & POLICY MANUAL

Vern Bendsen 707-422-3510  
George Knies 925-939-0230

### FINANCE

Chuck Browning 843-742-5839  
Gary McGrath 925-682-5939  
Joel Kay 216-382-7123  
Joe Dowdell 305-304-1208  
Marshall Nemo 888-378-2211

### ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Chuck Browning 843-742-5839  
Gary McGrath 925-682-5939  
Joel Kay 216-382-7123  
Marshall Nemo 888-378-2211

### ANNUAL MEETING 2014

Joel Kay 216-382-7123

### ELECTIONS

Joe Dowdell 305-304-1208

### NOMINATIONS

Chuck Browning 843-742-5839  
Steve Willing 519-944-1397  
Gary McGrath 925-682-5939  
Roger Isphording (East) 941-966-1518  
Eileen Van Winkle (West) 858-571-5256

## ELECTED OFFICERS

### Executive Secretary

Mary Eiffert (Alan)  
39906 Black Mesa Lane  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
Tel/Cell: 206-819-5809  
Cell: 760-567-8824  
meiffert@earthlink.net

### Northwestern Vice President

Mary Nye Meyers (Michael)  
P.O. Box 44130  
Tacoma, WA 98448  
Tel: 253-224-8592  
fire\_n\_ice104@hotmail.com

### North Central Vice President

Tony Durieux (Sandra)  
524 Deer Trail Drive  
Thornville, OH 43076  
Tel: 740-323-1804  
Cell: 740-334-7669  
agent@alink.com

### Northeastern Vice President

David Grove (Deborah)  
311 Glenwood Road  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
Tel: 410-838-9437  
Bus: 410-836-8000  
dgrove0513@verizon.net

### Southwestern Vice President

Michael Billington (Diane)  
3717 Dragoon Park Dr.  
Modesto, CA 95356-1813  
Tel: 209-248-5108  
Cell: 209-602-7301  
thediane@yaho.com

### Southeastern Vice President

Lenworth Gordon (Renee)  
5107 Commonwealth Road  
Palmetto, FL 34221  
Tel: 510-717-8221  
cogent@cogentcommunications.com

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS

### District 1

Andre "Andy" Gano (Theresa)  
2017 192nd Avenue Ct KPS  
Lake Bay, WA 98349  
Tel: 253-884-3013  
timebandit@centurytel.net

### District 7

Mark Vadaj (Robin)  
7505 Thatchum LN  
Concord, OH 44060  
Tel: 440-350-1488  
Bus: 440-974-3575  
Fax: 877-587-3432  
mvadaj@metatechsales.com

### District 14

Mike Billington (Diane)  
3717 Dragoon Park Dr  
Modesto, CA 95356  
Tel: 209-248-5108  
Cell: 209-602-7301  
thediane@yaho.com

### District 21

Leo Vortouni  
4308 Patrice Rd.  
Newport Beach, CA 92663  
Tel: 949-722-1153  
lvortouni@aol.com

### District 27

Russell Bowser (Donna)  
4015 E. Baker Ave.  
Abington, MD 21009  
Tel: 410-676-2063  
Cell: 410-627-5686  
RBowser@asset-management-Service.com

### District 2

Don Fisher (Rita)  
1080 Iris Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8Z 2N7  
Canada  
Tel: 250-479-5516  
dritscher@shaw.ca

### District 8

B.E. "Bud" Higginson  
124 Tina Island Drive  
Osprey, FL 34229  
Tel: 941-966-7494  
Fax: 941-918-2774  
higgo2@aol.com

### District 15

Michele Wold (Dick)  
1506 Via Hacienda  
Chula Vista, CA 91913  
Tel: 619-421-2995  
Bus: 619-995-1948  
mrtree@rocketmail.com

### District 22

David Loughran  
1203 Bay Ave.  
P.O. Box 746  
Mantoloking, NJ 08738-0746  
Tel: 732-892-8388  
dploughran@comcast.net

### District 50

Mark Vadaj  
7505 Thatchum Lane  
Concord, OH 44060  
Tel: 440-350-1488  
Cell: 440-479-0064  
mvadaj@metatechsales.com

### District 3

Lewis W. Smith (Margot)  
135 Paul Drive  
Amherst, NY 14228  
Tel: 716-691-7626  
margots135@gmail.com

### District 9

Becky Vincent (Barry)  
1401 West Erie Road  
Temperance, MI 48182  
Tel: 734-847-7010  
Cell: 419-215-6162  
becky.vincent68@gmail.com

### District 16

Nancy Rowe  
4216 Harbour Island Lane  
Oxnard, CA 93035  
Tel: 805-382-9514  
nnrowe@aol.com

### District 23

Francis D. Ramsey (Maude)  
204 NE 12th Court  
Cape Coral, FL 33909  
Tel: 239-829-0809  
Cell: 219-718-1555  
francisramsey@att.net

### District 51

Walt Kadyk (Marti)  
4993 Saddlewood Place  
Alta Loma, CA 91737-1667  
Tel: 909-941-6622  
Bus: 909-390-0460  
Cell: 310-629-0987  
wkadyk@advancedelectronics.com

### District 4

Ron Defieux\* (Linda)  
641 Blueridge Ave.  
N. Vancouver, BC V7R 2J4  
Canada  
Tel: 604-987-7425  
rdefieux@shaw.ca

### District 10

LaVon M. Plumlee  
5292 Auburn Circle  
Westminster, CA 92683  
Tel: 562-252-9681  
Fax: 800-610-4059  
lplumlee@nyclb.com

### District 18

Thomas J. "Joe" Dowdell (June)  
11300 Overseas Hwy  
Marathon, FL 33050  
Tel: 305-743-5127  
Cell: 305-304-1208  
joedowdell@bellsouth.net

### District 24

Ken Bruce  
#16-950 Lanfranco  
Kelowna, BC V1W 3W8  
Canada  
Tel: 250-860-5673  
kdbuce@shaw.ca

### District 70

Bill Young (Sue)  
5 Gramsere Grove  
Rochester, Kent  
England ME2 4PN  
Tel: (44)(0)1634 713478  
bluesil@hotmail.com

### District 5

Shirley Ridley (David)  
1521 N Jantzen Ave #418  
Portland, OR 97217  
Tel: 503-680-2098  
Cell: 503-680-3070  
sridley48sk@gmail.com

### District 11

Sherry Barone (Pat Regan)  
204 Washington Ave #101  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
Tel: 310-458-9610  
Cell: 310-420-9610  
seasidecon@aol.com

### District 19

Peter Oswald  
1800 Alma Ave #307  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Tel: 925-943-3907  
Prowald1@gmail.com

### District 25

Bill Woods (Connie)  
1704 Balfour Blvd  
Windsor Ontario Canada N8T 2S1  
Tel: 519-800-1626  
woods@searose1.com

### District 75

Keith Wardell (Patsy)  
4 Glandovey Road  
Christchurch, New Zealand 8052  
Home: 00-64-3-351-6046  
homehostingltd@inet.net.nz

### District 6

Bruce Ladeira (Linda)  
99-403 Aiealani Place  
Aiea, HI 96701  
Cell: 808-486-7232  
Bus: 808-382-5804  
ladeirabl@hawaii.rr.com

### District 12

Vincent J. Core (Eileen)  
739 Fairmount Avenue  
Chatham, NJ 07928-1157  
Tel/Fax: 973-635-7415  
Cell: 201-401-8484  
sailcore@att.net

### District 20

David J. Meshulam (Gail)  
66 Derby Court  
Madison, NJ 07940  
Tel: 973-377-8807  
Bus: 973-727-9892  
djmgem@aol.com

### District 26

Ernie C. Odierna (Camille)  
5 Highbridge Road  
Larchmont, NY 10538  
Tel: 914-834-2162  
Bus: 914-316-6378  
ernie1@optonline.net

### JAPAN

Kuniteru Matsumoto (Kiyoko)  
3-3-22 Matsumoto Building  
Dajima, Kitaku  
Osaka, Japan 530-003  
Tel: 06-458-7020  
Fax: 06-441-3765

**2014 Executive Committee**



**PRESIDENT**

**GARY McGRATH (ESTELLA)**  
1567 Dianda Drive  
Concord, CA 94521

Tel: 925-682-5939  
Fax: 925-687-5443  
[gmac6262@aol.com](mailto:gmac6262@aol.com)



**PRESIDENT ELECT**

**JOEL KAY (NANCY)**  
2112 Campus Drive  
South Euclid, OH 44121

Tel: 216-382-7123  
Fax: 216-382-9678  
[seawind@stratos.net](mailto:seawind@stratos.net)



**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

**JOE DOWDELL (JUNE THACKER)**  
11300 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, FL 33050

Tel: 305-743-5127  
Cell: 305-304-1208  
[joedowdell@bellsouth.net](mailto:joedowdell@bellsouth.net)



**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

**ROSALIE DAVIS-GREEN (GARY)**  
1445 Stonewood Court  
San Pedro, CA 90732

Tel: 310-684-1848  
[rgreen@ca.rr.com](mailto:rgreen@ca.rr.com)



**PAST PRESIDENT**

**CHUCK BROWNING (BARBARA)**  
513 Benson Drive  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

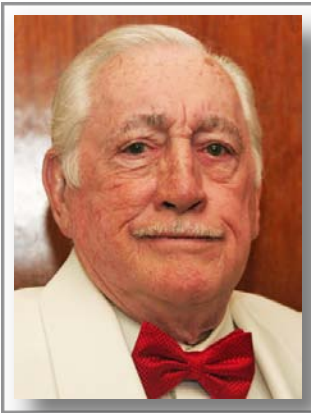
Tel: 843-742-5839  
Cell: 443-309-6674  
[captainchuckb@aol.com](mailto:captainchuckb@aol.com)



**TREASURER**

**MARSHALL NEMOY (DAWN)**  
3517 Camino del Rio South  
Suite 208  
San Diego, CA 92108-4028

Tel: 619-282-5050 / 888-378-2211  
Res: 858-565-1093  
Fax: 619-282-5252  
[bgtreas@iobg.org](mailto:bgtreas@iobg.org)



## *President Gary McGrath*



Our Annual meeting in Concord has concluded and, from all reports, was very successful. Everybody liked the venue and their rooms and the hospitality room was very well attended for all three days.

We started with an Executive meeting on Thursday morning and then spent the afternoon with a boat cruise on the Delta and finished with dinner at

Pittsburg Yacht Club. On Friday evening we went to Benicia Yacht Club for dinner and cocktails. And on Saturday evening we all attended the Grand Ball.

Of course, in between, we conducted the business of IOBG at the Friday and Saturday meetings. On Saturday afternoon after adjourning the Annual meeting, we held the Fall Regional meeting. At that meeting we distributed the lists of appointed Officers and Representatives. We have reactivated the position of Education Officer and I appointed Phil Promessi to that position. Gary Green will be our new NBF representative.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who assisted me in making this Annual meeting a success.

Now we must get down to the business at hand. Communication was the main topic of this meeting and we all must improve this skill in the coming year. I expect all of our Area Vice Presidents to contact their Directors at least once a month and I expect our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents to do the same. If any of you have questions concerning your responsibilities, feel free to call me. Every Officer's responsibilities are listed in the Policy and Procedures Manual, and again, if you have questions, please call me.

Our next meeting will be in Portland in June and since we are not having a Winter Regional meeting in February, we need to stay on top of our respective areas and so communication will be essential to doing our jobs.

I was pleased to see good representation from Districts 1 and 5. I understand District 5's new Board is eager and ready to make our upcoming June 5-8, 2014 meeting one to remember. We have had a long history of great meetings at the Portland event and we look forward to more of the same.

### Mark Your Calendars For These 2014 Meetings

February - No meeting in 2014

June 5-8, 2014 - Spring Regional Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Hosted by District 5

August 14-17, 2014 - Summer Regional Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

October 16-19, 2014 - Annual Meeting/Fall Regional Meeting - Cleveland (Beachwood), Ohio.

Before the weekend of meetings began...we were treated to some boat rides while visiting Pittsburg Yacht Club.





## *President - Elect Joel Kay*



We have been able to accomplish many things during 2013, but there is more that has to be done. We still need to address the issues of breaks in communication from the Area Vice Presidents to the members of the Executive Committee and the members, in general. I have heard from too many members from many of the eastern Districts that they are frustrated by the lack of a response or a proper one from their President, District Director, or Area Vice President. Many members do not feel comfortable communicating with the Executive Committee members. However, I try to encourage this in order to keep discussions going in both directions. I do this by answering the question, "what has/does the Blue Gavel do for me?" And, "why did I decide to become

a member of the Executive Committee?" The answers are very personal, but I have no problem communicating my feelings.

Many of the District Directors and Area Vice Presidents have been unable to attend meetings that are held across the country, including the Annual Meeting, for a variety of reasons. In this electronic age, we should be able to overcome this issue. I feel that we need to address this problem. I believe there are ways electronically to handle it successfully.

Lastly, I feel that we publish two great documents informing members of the happenings in the organization. It is disheartening to me that so few members who have access to the Internet click on the IOBG web site. In the summer District 7 Board Meeting, I asked for a show of hands of those who have accessed the web site and read "The Lighthouse" and I was pleasantly surprised that most have done so. In discussion with members from other Districts, this is not necessarily so.

Lastly, I continue to be indebted to those hold the Blue Gavel to be an integral part of their lives. Their involvement has given me the confidence in my endeavors. Thanks.





## *First Vice President Joe Dowdell*

The Executive Committee usually meets three or four times each year. The first meeting is held after the Annual Meeting or the day after the Annual Meeting. The meeting is held at the annual meeting site. All meetings are open to the membership. The remaining Regional Meetings are held in the various Districts or areas of potential Districts. It is preferred that these meetings be held at the invitation of the District Directors or the Area Vice Presidents. A suggested agenda for the Regional Meetings is found in the Policy Manual.

As stated in the Policy Manual, "The intent of making these Regional Meetings is to bring the leadership of the organization into contact with as much of the membership or potential membership as possible. The attendance by all members is encouraged."

It is desired that appropriate yachting and social events be arranged so that as many members or potential members may meet with the leadership on an informal and casual basis. Dinners at various yacht clubs, gatherings during the day at different locations, with attendance by the Executive Committee at a District meeting or function have all proven to be effective."

We used to have 3 regional meetings every year – A Winter meeting, A Spring Meeting and a Summer Meeting. However three years ago the Summer meeting was dropped and we had two regional meetings per year, a Winter meeting and a Spring Meeting. The Spring meetings were in Portland, and the Winter meetings were in Mississippi and twice in Florida.

This year, it was decided that starting in 2014 the Winter meeting and Summer meetings would be alternated yearly, with the Summer occurring in 2014 and the Winter meeting being held in 2015. The Spring Meeting would continue in Portland every year, as before.

Well at the Portland Executive Committee Meeting, I brought up the question, in view of now only having two regional meetings a year, why does one of them always have to be the June Portland Meeting? It seems that the reasons and goals of holding regional meetings at different places were being thwarted by going back to Portland year after year.

Marshall Nemoy answered it best when he pointed out the long history of holding the Spring meeting in June in conjunction with the Annual Royal Rosarian Festival. This has been a long standing tradition for many years, culminating in The Royal Rosarians Knighting Ceremony, when the International President-elect was knighted.

The Executive Committee decided not to disturb the tradition for at least two years and the Spring meeting will remain in Portland in June, 2014 and 2015. That leaves the question again for 2016 and beyond. What about alternating the Spring Meeting every other year just as we have started to do with the Winter and Summer meetings? In the year we won't be having a winter meeting, do a spring meeting in April and the summer meeting in July. In years we have a winter meeting, go to Portland in June with the Rosarians. The tradition could continue and the first VP could join the President-elect and other distinguished guests in the Rose Garden Knighting Ceremony. Any such change would require another area to step forward with an invitation to host the spring meeting the off year, but the policy to bring the leadership of the organization into contact with membership or potential membership in other areas would be advanced.

Please, everyone, let me know what you think!





## *Second Vice President Rosalie Davis-Green*

I am honored to be asked to serve on the IOBG Executive leadership team for 2014. I look forward to working with the other officers and the Districts west of the Mississippi.

Our organization, as many other boating organizations, has lost a number of members in the last few years. It is important to refocus our efforts to ensure we are living up to our organizational mission, meeting our member's and the yachting community's need for service.

How should we focus our efforts? Let's take a few minutes to look at our mission statement. "The mission of the International Order of the Blue Gavel is to recognize Past Commodores of the international yachting community and unite them to promote the highest ideals of yachting and preserve its customs and traditions through social educational and humanitarian programs." As the New Year begins, I encourage each District to evaluate how well their activities carry out the organization's mission. Are our activities relevant to the member's needs/interests? Are we providing education needed by the yachting community? Are we working to support the humanitarian needs of local yachting community?

This re-evaluation can not be done in a vacuum. It requires communication and interaction with the IOBG Chapters and yacht clubs. Here are a few examples of things some of the Districts have done to be of service and to be relevant: providing an educational seminar for incoming yacht club bridge officers on yacht club management responsibilities including state rules and regulations that must be followed, providing skilled race officers and judges for regattas, and partnering with other yachting groups to fund raise for a local charity or Jr. sailing. One District organized a group weekend to watch the America Cup races including dinners at two local yacht clubs. They advertised to members of neighboring Districts and the group of attendees doubled. Also, a New Zealand IOBG member who was attending the races with friends reached out to IOBG International to find out if there were any organized IOBG activities that weekend. The two groups were connected. Now, it was an international social event. What great fun it was for everyone.

Make sure IOBG is an integral part of your local yachting community. Make sure everyone knows what you are doing in your community. We are a skillful and talented group. We have a lot to contribute to the yachting community. Let's find out how we can better be of service and go do it.



# Past President Chuck Browning



The past year had many accomplishments, and our decisions were made through full and frank discussions.

More work is needed in the area of communications, and with the support of District Directors and area Vice Presidents this will improve.

My personal thanks to all the members that attended this year's Annual Meeting, you helped elect Officers for 2014. Your presence showed your dedication and support for the Blue Gavel. Thank you.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming meetings scheduled for 2014. Make your plans now so that you will be available to attend. We need your presence at each meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this year and I know you will support Gary McGrath with the same enthusiasm.

Thanks again...



Mike and Diane Billington



Marybeth Thayer

Mary Nye Meyers

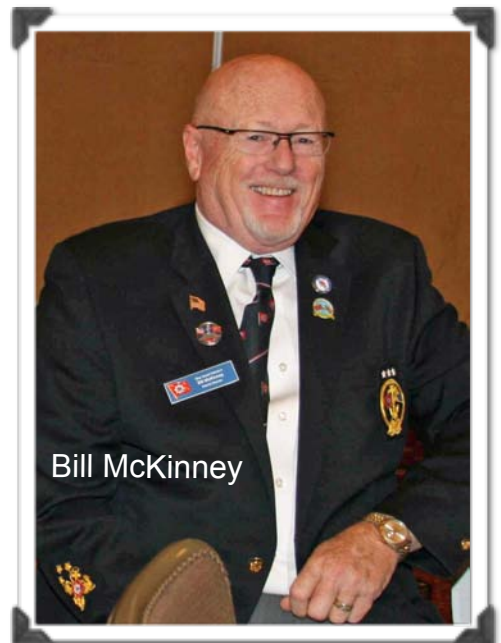
## Thanks to our Photographers...

*Mike Billington*

*Bill McKinney*

*Mary Nye Meyers*

*Marybeth Thayer*



Bill McKinney



## *Treasurer Marshall Nemoy*

I presented the treasurer's report as of September 30, 2013 and the nine months then ended to those attending the Annual Meeting in Concord, California this last October. Here are some of the highlights from that report:

- The net income for 2013 to date is \$7,743 greater than last year. The major areas of savings resulted from clerical expenses, and travel. Travel was greatly reduced because certain persons authorized reimbursement could not travel due to illness. Changes implemented last year, such as sending The Blue Gavel Log by email, continued to provide significant savings.
- Our balance sheet continues to show strength with cash balances totaling \$136,188 compared to last year's 120,677. Our liabilities consist only of routine bills unpaid at September 30, 2013 and monies due to the districts. Districts 18 and 23 funds are being held by IOBG for the districts should they become reorganized.
- In February of this year the executive committee decided to create a disaster relief fund to assist districts that suffer catastrophic losses. \$2,000 was allocated from members' equity create the fund. 2 suffered damage from Hurricane Sandy and was granted \$1,560 to assist with repairs to their facilities. The fund balance as of September 30, 2013 is \$440.
- The membership statistics attached to this report was prepared as of August 1, 2013, the date mandated by the bylaws for determining the number of votes allotted to each district. The report shows we have 1,738 paid members which is 28 members less than last year. Since August 1 we have received dues from 18 more members to bring the total number of members to 1756.

The budget for 2014, which was mailed to all district directors and district presidents, was adopted by the board of Directors. The 2014 budget keeps the international dues at \$40 per year.



The 2014 membership card picture was decided at the Executive Committee's Thursday session which included the area vice presidents and past international presidents. The procedure utilized to make the selection was a series of membership cards with the photos submitted without any identification of the provider. The scenes were from various locations. Congratulations to Jeanne Irwin from District 15 for submitting the winning picture of boats at anchor at the



Isthmus at Catalina Island. Membership cards for those who have paid their 2014 dues will be mailed starting about November 15.

Some discussions at the meetings in Concord centered on the relationship between IOBG and then IOBG Humanitarian Fund, some history about certain policies and procedures that govern our organization today. Based on the questions from the audience I believe a little more education about the history of IOBG is in order.

For a complete copy of the treasurer's report presented at the Annual Meeting in concord, contact my office.

# IOBG & IOBGHF Judgment Day

by George C. Knies, Legal Officer

## Playing the Devils Advocate

### **Observations:**

Unfortunately the past several years has seen a waning of interest and pride of service among many officers in IOBG. Experience gained by proceeding “up-the-chairs” of our Chapters, District and International became obsolete in the interest of filling office vacancies by default. Whatever happened to **vetting** a candidate’s experience and leadership abilities (Case-in-point) I have served as an officer in IOBG for many years – Chapter Secretary/Treasurer; Vice President, President 2 yrs.; District Director 3 yrs: Southwestern Vice President: International Legal Officer 8 yrs.

I have been a homeowner in Florida 3 times from 1956 to 2009 having the pleasure of joining three different yacht clubs during those decades. I am still a member and plank owner of the Tarpon Cove Yacht Club in Naples, Florida. I am sorry to say that Florida (infamous D-8) has been the source of many years of wasted time and aggravation trying to advance their BIG D-8 image. Please let-it-go...lets try to get along by looking at the Big Picture (best interests of IOBG not your home turf).

Communicate, communicate, communicate, real easy these days, you wouldn’t know it considering the reluctance this past year to keep fellow Committee and ExCom Officers informed. Our organizations base line protocol emphasizes the need to communicate and participate as a productive element in our organization, failure to exercise due-diligence in the performance of ones duties demands resignation of office.

Training, training, training at all levels, including the Annual Meeting, it is rewarding to see that there are some members who accept their membership and office seriously by requesting and attending IOBG information/training seminars, etc.

The following references are included to address issues and pre-empt questions that may materialize from the forgoing observations.

### **References:**

IOBG BYLAWS ARTICLE 3 SECTION 5 CODE OF CONDUCT

POLICY MANUAL

THE CORPORATION DIRECTORS

### **What is involved in being a Board Director?**

It is a position of trust which the membership elects you and trusts you to handle their money and meet the needs of the corporation on their behalf. It requires that you make good business judgments as defined in the corporation code for the benefit of the entire membership, not any personal agenda. It requires performing with due diligence to ensure that you have acquired and relied upon expert advice. It involves compliance with Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and all applicable Federal and State laws and ordinances. Directing the business of the corporation is a serious job.

# IOBG & IOBGHF Judgment Day ... Continued

by George C. Knies, Legal Officer

## Guidelines for IOBG Officers:

Officers of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, including District Directors and District and Chapter officers, should be aware of the following expectations, which the organization has as to their performance. Each position in the IOBG is a position of trust, and acceptance of an office by an individual indicates that he or she is willing to enter into a compact with the organization which involves commitment to standards of performance, dedication of energy and time; and financial commitments as necessary for the successful accomplishment of the tasks assigned. As a minimum each individual must be willing to:

1. Attend all meetings as required and travel when necessary.
2. Perform promptly all duties assigned during one's term of office.
3. Promptly answer all correspondence.
4. Assist in organizing new Chapters in one's area.
5. Should personal business, family affairs, health or any other factor create a situation where one cannot perform the duties assigned, immediately tender one's resignation from the office.
6. Agree to being promoted and, if able, be willing to serve in any position offered.

## Meetings:

The Annual Meeting and Convention of the International Order of the Blue Gavel shall be held in the months of October and/or November, at a time and place selected by the President Elect. This shall be announced at the Annual Meeting at which he or she is elected to that office. Traditionally the annual meeting is held the last weekend in October.

Attendance at the annual meeting is a requirement for all International officers and District Directors. The membership is encouraged to attend the annual meeting and convention to participate in the affairs of the International.

## Disclaimer:

This message has been composed in a positive manner and is not to be misconstrued to be negative. Should any member of our organization feel offended because of it, I invite them to review IOBG Bylaws; Article II Objects and Purposes, Section 2.

Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safeguarded and the page clearly labeled.

The publication of these rosters, addresses and telephone numbers on any computer on-line service including the Internet is prohibited by the 1974 Privacy Act.



## *Education Officer Phil Promessi*

I attended the Annual Meeting that was held at Concord, CA and was a little surprised that there were a few District Directors that had no idea what they were supposed to do. At previous meetings a round table discussion was held and all the Districts interacted with each other or the Education Officer would put on a seminar and questions and answers would be part of the curriculum. At the meetings of 2014 I intend to present information of what the duties and responsibilities of members and officers of IOBG is about and hold round table discussions to find out what the Districts are thinking.

I would like to begin by giving a short synopsis of how IOBG started:

In 1952 Ev Henry, Immediate Past Commodore of Rainier Yacht Club in Seattle, Washington, discussed with many fellow boaters the need for an organization to continue identification and fellowship among yacht clubs. In late 1952 he proposed a past commodore's organization which could serve as the bond between yacht clubs and their retired officers. He felt that once you became a past commodore, you were literally put out to pasture and he wanted to form a new organization of P/Cs to help their clubs by giving advice and participate in functions without usurping the club officer's authority.

On November 30, 1954 past commodores of 22 yacht clubs in the area including Canada attended a meeting of the new organization and elected Ev Henry its first President. They also passed a resolution making the organization international in scope. Committees were appointed to prepare a Constitution and Bylaws and to design a flag conforming to its name "Blue Gavel". By March 19, 1955 everything had been accomplished and a party was held at the Seattle Yacht Club for 192 past commodores who became charter members of the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

On December 9, 1958 the IOBG received its Charter as a State of Washington Corporation. One qualification for incorporation required that the Executive Secretary be a resident of the State of Washington. Within a few years Districts were being organized on both the East and West coasts. Most of the early Presidents were from Washington state until 1969 when Roger McDiamaid from District 4, Vancouver, British Columbia served as President. Ev Henry established 12 basic and essential requirements for a fraternal organization:

- 1 We must grow; to be static is to be stagnant.
- 2 We must augment boating and still do something worthwhile for mankind in general.
- 3 We must operate in an atmosphere of harmony and good fellowship.
- 4 We must build prestige and pride of membership and the caliber of our members.
- 5 We must exemplify a spirit of cooperation with other boating organizations and yacht clubs involved.
- 6 We must keep abreast of the times in which we live.
- 7 We must be governed by wisdom, tact, and consideration: not by dictatorship.
- 8 We must command the respect of our communities.
- 9 We must make meetings interesting with variety and inspiration.
- 10 We must keep the members occupied and then give them appreciation for the tasks well done.  
(People are like money: if you don't put it to work, you lose interest.)
- 11 We must request ways to encourage suggestions to keep the group alive and dynamic.
- 12 We must always be adaptable to the needs of our members.

These 12 requirements are the basis that IOBG was established. In future discussions we will be examining ways to implement them.

2013

## Past President's Award

We who have had the privilege of serving the International Order of the Blue Gavel over the years have all seen the outstanding service of a few particularly noteworthy individuals. It has been our deep pleasure to have served with them and our concern that there was no vehicle for recognizing their significant contributions to the furthering of the goals of the organization and, indeed, to the Blue Gavel itself.

Therefore, on behalf of all the Past Presidents of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, the Past President sitting on the Executive Committee, presents to the International Order of the Blue Gavel this "Deed of Gift" for an award to be know as the "Past President's Award for Outstanding Service".

This year's Past President's Award goes to:





US Sailing's next One Design Program: Sailing's One Design Program Symposium will take place at Sailing Leadership forum 2014, February 6-8 at the Hilton San Diego. They have revamped a new lineup of creative presentations with inspired panels and breakout sessions on one-design and fleet building topics such as Attracting High School/College Students and Keeping Them Engaged, Coaching Strategies for Larger Fleets, and Go-Fast Workshops.

The US Sailing family membership option is a great way to get you family involved in US Sailing events and programs. The family membership allows up to 6 family members to your plan, no need to pay for an individual membership for each. All family members on the plan have access to valuable benefits they offer.

US Sailing West Coast Tour began July 11 at Olympic Day, hosted by Newport Harbor Yacht Club in conjunction with the So Cal Junior Olympic Sailing festival in Newport Beach, California. Modeled after the popular Roadshow format, the tour ran through September focusing on signature regattas, junior and adult learn-to-sail clinics, community outreach programs, US Sailing Speaker Series, Regional Sailing Program Symposiums, Safety-at Sea Seminars and more.

US Sailing's Olympic Sailing Committee announced the selection process for the 2014 U. S. Youth Worlds team. To qualify for the 2014 U. S. Youth Worlds team, sailors must compete and be scored in two qualification events.

The Annual Report to Members was published in July and distributed. The report provides detailed information and statistics on the progress and positive impact US Sailing is having on sailors around the Country.

US Sailing's premier event, the ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami is set to return to Miami, Florida for top level Olympic and Paralympic class racing January 25 to February 1.

The 2013 US Sailing Annual meeting was scheduled for October 16-19 in Captiva Island, Florida.

## **IOBG and IOBGA**

### **Clothing and Accessories / Approved Vendors**

#### **Pierside Promotions**

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#### **Yachta Lettering**

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e-mail:  
[yachtalettering@comcast.net](mailto:yachtalettering@comcast.net)  
[www.companycasuals.com](http://www.companycasuals.com)



## **ATTENTION ALL DISTRICT OFFICERS**

Another successful annual meeting has come and gone. Important IOBG business was discussed, including finances and issues of interest to all our members. Fortunately, we had a quorum and a vote was taken. This brings me to the subject of this report. Many districts' memberships were denied a vote, as no representative from the district was present to represent your interests.

The Policy and Procedures Manual provides the following guidelines. I have copied only the relevant sections for brevity, however the complete wording can be found on page 15.

“Officers of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, including district directors and Chapter officers, should be aware of the following expectations, as to their performance. Each position in the IOBG is a position of trust and an acceptance of an office by an individual indicate that he or she is willing to enter into a compact with the organization that involves commitment to standards of performance, dedication of energy and time, and financial commitments as necessary for the successful accomplishment of the task assigned. As a minimum the individual must be willing:

1. To attend all meetings as required and travel when necessary.
2. Perform promptly all duties assigned during one`s term of office.”

### **MEETINGS**

Attendance at the annual meeting is a requirement for all International officers and District Directors. The membership is encouraged to attend the annual meeting and convention to participate in the affairs of the International. Travel expenses for officers and Directors when the annual meeting is held in North America, will receive a travel allowance as determined by the executive committee (paraphrased from the P&P manual, page 15)

### **DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

By-laws Article V, Section 2 (b)

One member elected from each recognized and designated district of the IOBG to be known as the International District Director, who shall be entitled to vote on all matters coming before the board as set forth in article VII, section 2. An Alternate District Director may be elected by the district to serve in the absence of the District Director. The alternate must be a current paid member of the district they represent and be registered in the database as a primary member of that District.

No officer in the IOBG has all their expenses paid to attend meetings. Most districts match the International, but as this still falls short of the expenses accrued, I would suggest a fundraiser be held to not only help the district director with his/her expenses but a means to create activity in your district. Please bear in mind the importance of your participation at the annual meeting.

***Steve Willing***

***Past International President 2012***

*Northwestern V.P.*  
*Mary Nye Meyers*



*Districts*  
 1 & 5  
 2, 4 & 24  
 Blue Gavel Canada

I was trying to think of something for my report and I was drawing a total blank for the last several months. Then I realized that after my last report at the June meeting in Portland I went into the hospital for cancer and pre-cancer surgery on my larynx, throat, esophagus & stomach. Because of the type of surgery...people have asked me how long I've been smoking...I have never smoked but I did suffer for over 20 years with acid reflux. So if you're suffering with acid reflux...please get it checked out before it's too late.

After my 3 month recovery I was able to attend the District 1 (Washington) Fall Change of Watch on September 21<sup>st</sup> but not District 5's (Oregon) Change of Watch because it was on the very same day. I would like to thank both District 1 and District 5 Directors for their support both at the Annual Meeting in California and during this past year.



District 1 - Fall Change of Watch Meeting  
 September 21, 2013



District 1  
Andy Gano, District Director

District 1 started 2013 with our Spring meeting the weekend of April 27th. The meeting was held at Clover Island Yacht Club in Kennewick, WA. There were 71 members in attendance with 3 new members being sworn in. Some of the members traveled long distances across the State to attend the meeting. P/C Rod Mineke and Past International President Marion Hughes from Clover Island YC chaired the event. One of the day's highlights was a chartered bus trip to a few of the local wineries. The evening's dinner and entertainment capped a wonderful weekend.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> the Seattle Yacht Club hosted Opening Day of boating season. District 1 was there with representatives from other countries and boating organizations to participate in a flag ceremony and parade of over 300 boats. Seattle hosts the third largest Opening Day in the United States. District 1's Past President Bob Weber provided his yacht as the IOBG flag ship which carried District 1's officers on the annual parade of boats through Lake Washington.

July 20<sup>th</sup> District 1 held our annual summer picnic, which was hosted by the Kingston Cove Yacht Club. There were 52 members in attendance. Some members drove over 9 hours coming from as far away as Spokane and Clarkston, Washington to attend the picnic. The sunny weather made for a perfect weekend to barbecue.

Concluding this year's events, September 21st, District 1's Fall meeting and Change of Watch was held at the Des Moines Yacht Club. The event was attended by 65 members and hosted by West Seattle Yacht Club. Mary Ann Lobdell from West Seattle Yacht Club and Tap Ames from SEABACS Boat Club were sworn in as new members.

In summary District 1 had a successful year and will continue to grow in the years to come.



District 5  
William J. McKinney, Past District Director

This past year has been a good year for District 5 with membership remaining at about 50 members and activities continuing all year long including monthly board meetings.

In April we held the Annual Hadley Landing Cleanup Cruise. Hadley Landing is a public boat dock with picnic grounds managed by the Portland Parks Department. In the past six years Blue Gavel members have repaired docks, cleaned and repaired the picnic area, build and installed new sign stanchions over the dock and paid for forty yards of gravel for pathways and roads.

In June the IOBG Regional meeting was held linked with the Portland Royal Rosarians Rose Festival. Incoming IOBG President Gary McGrath, in a tradition that has lasted over forty years, was knighted at the Rosarians knighting ceremony on Friday.

The Rose Parade, second only to the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA, took place on Saturday morning with the Royal Rosarian Grand Ball following that evening. Over thirty IOBG members from across the country attended this gala event.

The Annual Change of Watch Dinner Meeting held at the Columbia River Yacht Club rounds out the year with the election of new officers. District 5 has continued to raise money for the local Sea Scouts, The Daughters of Neptune, and the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation

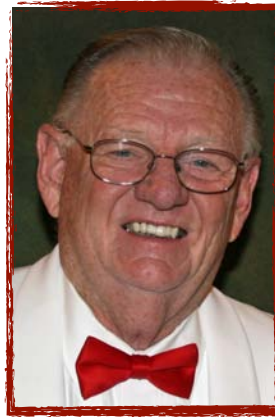
At this meeting it was announced that the District 5 Auxiliary will be restored after being inactive for many years. The auxiliary has already applied for IOBG Grant money to support a program that will provide loaner life jackets to public weekend boaters.

District 5 has an all new board of directors and a new District Director for this coming year. New ideas and new energy will keep the momentum going as the district continues to grow.



*Southwestern V.P.*

*Mike Billington*



*Districts*

6,10,11,14,15,  
16,19 & 21

The IOBG International meeting was held in Concord, California. Concord is in the East bay area about 40 miles Northeast of San Francisco. It is close to the Carquinez Strait which separates San Francisco Bay and the great central California Delta Region. The meeting was a great success with incoming International President Gary McGrath arranging for a boat ride at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. We cruised East to the Antioch bridge and had a wonderful time.

**Pittsburg Yacht Club at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers**



At the meeting Rosalie Davis-Green was elected to the position of Second Vice-President of International. Rosalie has served as the Southwest Area Vice President the last few years and has done a tremendous job. I was fortunate enough to be allowed to take her place as the Area Vice President for the Southwest. Rosalie has been mentoring and helping me learn the in's and out's of the job. She leaves big shoes to fill and I will try to fill them. I live in Modesto which is East of San Francisco. I have just served as Director of District 14 which covers the Bay Area.

My wife Diane and I look forward to traveling to all the Districts in the south state and visiting with the many District members in the area. Rosalie tells me the Districts are very active there. It was brought out at the annual meeting how important communication is so I plan to keep in touch with all the Districts as much as possible. I look forward to seeing you all.

District 10  
LaVon Plumlee, District Director

I am very happy to report that 2013 was another active and successful year for District 10 IOBG and our members. 85 members are on our rolls, and seven new Past Commodores have been inducted this year.

Our District 10 board members are actively involved and attend a monthly board meeting each month which includes a delicious dinner either at our homes or at one of the yacht clubs in our District. Communication is of prime importance to District 10. Monthly newsletters are sent to our members by Jon Fults, our newsletter editor. District 10 members also enjoy our website kept up to date by P/C Bill Plumlee. The website URL is [www.iobg-district10.org](http://www.iobg-district10.org)

Our District 10 has once again strongly supported the Long Beach Charity Regatta this year. District 10 co-sponsored a Champagne Brunch again this year. All proceeds from this event in the amount of \$600 were donated to this worthy event. Monthly events leading up to the regatta were attended by our members. District 10 IOBGA President attended monthly Charity Regatta meetings resulting in another successful year for the Charity Regatta.

IOBG Humanitarian Foundation is on our calendar again this month. District 10 will be hosting a Fashion Show with proceeds going to the Humanitarian Foundation. Our IOBGA President Sally Cohen has been very busy organizing this event, and we all looked forward to the fashion show at the Seal Beach Yacht Club on Saturday, November 2nd.

It was my pleasure to forward an application from Huntington Harbour Jr. Sailing (HHYC). We strongly support the endeavors of HHYC and are in hopes that funds will be available from the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation to continue their program.

Several social functions are hosted each month including educational functions, safety, cruising, and just plain fun events.

Here are a few socials our members have enjoyed:

Cruise-out to Cabrillo Yacht Club

Brunch at Huntington Harbour Yacht Club with guest speaker on Newport to Ensenada race tragedy

Wine Tasting event resulting in funds for IOBG Humanitarian Foundation

Champagne Brunch at Navy Yacht Club with proceeds for the Charity Regatta

Annual Luau at NYCLB: Good eats, luau band, and fun afternoon

Barney's Beach House BBQ aboard the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

Guest speaker on Disaster Preparedness including a brunch at Long Beach Yacht Club

And many more events!

IOBG District 10 members are very anxious to become even more active and would like to host a convention here at District 10. The local yachting community would be very supportive and we are sure IOBG members would enjoy a convention here in Southern California. The USS IOWA would be one of the many places of interest for a convention. We have several yacht clubs that would be supportive here in southern California.

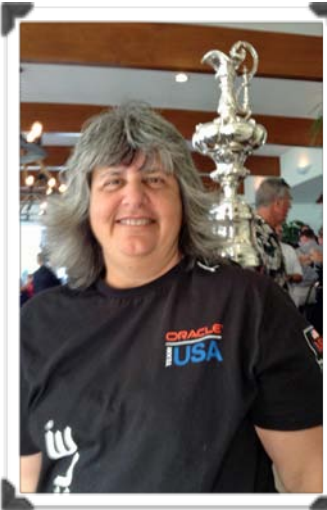


District 11  
Julie Albright, District Director

It's been a great year for IOBG District 11: We have 82 paid members for this year, up from a total of 64 for last year.

We had a number of activities this year, beginning with our always popular and well attended Wine Tasting Event. Held at the Port Royal Yacht Club, we had close to 100 people in attendance, and a great time was had by all. Mr. and Mrs. David Phelps donated a bottle of wine for auction from their collection, which sold for \$75. Overall, this is a very successful yearly fundraiser and social event for us. Proceeds from this event went to the King Harbor Youth Foundation.

Finally, we finished the 5 Windy Q BBQs and 5 Friday night sundowner races this summer. The Windy Q's are our BBQs held at the Del Rey Yacht Club, and feature a speaker series on topics ranging from coastal cruising to the activities of our local Sheriff's Department in the Marina.



By far though, the highlight of this year's IOBG District 11 activities was our group trip to the America's Cup in the San Francisco Bay Area. During America's Cup week, twenty-four of our members, friends and colleagues joined together to take part in the festivities and watch the races. Included in the group were new friends Craig Edwards and 3 other sailors from District 75 in Auckland, New Zealand. We had a ball with our little "America/Kiwi rivalry" that weekend.



Continued on next page...



We kicked off the weekend on September 6, 2013 with a ferry ride to Encinal Yacht Club, where we were invited aboard a member's yacht to watch the Friday Night racing, followed by a wonderful dinner prepared by Encinal Yacht Club's expert chef. In attendance were President Elect Gary McGrath (Estella), Past President Vern Bendsen (Linda), Southwestern VP Rosalie Davis-Green (Gary), Recording Secretary Marybeth Thayer (Bill), District 11 Area Director Julie Albright, President District 11 Sherry Barone (Regan), and Treasurer/Supply Officer Allan Bertik (Paula), Franklin Cofod (WLYC/District 11), Craig Edwards (District 75) and his 3 Kiwi friends.

In the following days we thoroughly enjoyed the festivities together. We watched the races from bleacher seats; attended dinner at the St. Francis Yacht Club; a few of the group saw the Cup at the Golden Gate Yacht Club and went on the Artemis Chase Boat; and we had dinner together at a fabulous Italian place near Pacific Heights. Though it looked like a trip to New Zealand was in our future as the Kiwis pulled ahead, Oracle won the final Race 19 on September 25, 2013 and the America's Cup will stay in USA. We'll be glad to welcome our new IOBG friends from New Zealand back for the rematch in three years.



Our final social event for the year was lunch and a tour of the LAX USO on October 25, followed by installation brunch and a general membership meeting on December 8, 2013.

**Outreach and Communications:** IOBG D11 continues to expand its presence in social media. We have opened a twitter account (follow us at @BlueGavel\_11) One of our newer members, Tom Hall, is promoting the account, and has built up a base of 925 followers. Most of these are nautical businesses or people interested in yachting, sailing, and boating in general. We are also following a number of yacht clubs, but most have yet to follow us back. We seem to be one of the first IOBG groups to have a Twitter feed. We already have a Facebook page where we list events and keep communication going with our group.

**Philanthropy:** IOBG District 11 continues to support Junior Sailing scholarships in both the Marina del Rey and King Harbors. We do this to help underprivileged kids who may not be able to afford sailing lessons at various yacht clubs with IOBG chapters, as well as to encourage interest in the sport of sailing amongst the youth.

So far this year, we have donate sailing scholarships to both the Santa Monica Bay Sailing foundation for youth sailing, and to the Del Rey Youth Foundation for their junior sailing program.

**Goals:** Going forward, we want to build on our communication with members – and may appoint a Communications Director to do so to create a quarterly newsletter.

We also want to increase attendance at our social events by creating a variety of new types of events. Suggestions at recent board meetings included co-hosting a BBQ with the Coast Guard Halibut; touring the Long Beach Harbor; or touring the USO at LAX. Paula and Allan Bertik have since arranged a tour of the USO. We will continue to explore new avenues for our members to socialize and remain connected to IOBG.



District 14  
Mike Billington, Past District Director

District 14 is looking forward to 2014. Estella McGrath and the members of District 19 have asked District 14 to join District 19 in a joint Change of Watch on November 2 at Pittsburg Yacht Club. We are grateful for their kind offer.

The executive committee is working on plans for 2014. Our number 1 objective is to get our new and long standing members of District 14 involved with the planning and execution of District 14 events. We would like to have at least 3 general meetings at various locations. One of those meetings could be a joint meeting with District 19 which will bolster our already strong ties with them.

Everyone had a great time getting together on the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association committee boat for the San Francisco Opening Day on the Bay. We plan to do this great event again in 2014. We will be working with PICYA Vice Commodore and Opening Day Chair Liz Allison who is from Half Moon Bay Yacht Club.

The Jeremiah O'Brian is a restored World War II liberty ship. District 14 is planning for a cruise on the Bay in this important piece of history. It should be a great day and our participation will aid in keeping this great ship going.

District 14 is very interested in getting involved with the community. The Executive committee is investigating providing a scholarship to allow a youth to be able to join in one of the many youth sailing programs offered around the Bay. This will involve determining the proper amount, raising funds and selected a candidate for the scholarship.

As with all Districts we need to work hard on membership retention and getting new members. The best way to retain members is to communicate on a personal level and have a good time at District functions. The best way to get new members is to let any potential new members know what a good time we are having.

We are looking forward to 2014.

District 15  
Michele Wold, District Director

Greetings from District 15 in beautiful, sunny Southern California. We would like to take this opportunity to let you know what a wonderfully successful year we've had.

This year we concentrated on making the activities of our district more relevant to our members as well as providing service to our community while having fun at the same time. In keeping with that motto, District President David Lancaster arranged for us to welcome new members at a party hosted by then District Vice President Kathy Smith and her husband Gary.

Our activities this year also included hosting the annual Yacht Club Management Seminar that District 15 held at Mission Bay Yacht Club in January, joining the Make-A-Wish Amazing Race held in Coronado, California where our team raised over \$1,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and working to raise money in support of Silver Gate's Tuna Challenge. Although the event had to be postponed this year, we raised money to be used for next year's event. Finally, a member appreciation party at the home of Dick and Michele Wold celebrated the wonderful contributions of our members and also raised money in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Our new officers were installed at the Change of Watch Dinner, October 5<sup>th</sup>. We're looking forward to another successful year under the leadership of new President Kathy Smith, Vice President Jim Jenkins, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, Newsletter Editor Jeanne Irwin and Secretary Wayne Strickland. I will continue in my present position.

District 16  
Marsha Landreth, Alternate District Director

District 16 kicked off the year with a change-of-watch breakfast hosted by Harbour Island Yacht Club. New officers were installed, and everyone was enthusiastic about the coming year's events.

In February, the Anacapa Yacht Club Chapter hosted a Mardi Gras party for IOBG members, past commodores, and the bridges of each club in the district. Short of a parade and policemen on horseback, our Mardi Gras party rivaled the Big Easy's. Anacapa generously donated the \$70 in the tip jar to the Humanitarian Foundation.

Opening Day weekend in Channel Islands and Ventura Harbors was our next celebration. Our weather cooperated for the boat parade, which is always awe-inspiring.

Anacapa Yacht Club hosted IOBG in early May. Thirty-two IOBG members heard a presentation given by the Director of Volunteers at the Maritime Museum. District 16 is committed to manning an educational exhibit in the Maritime Museum's new facility.

Ventura Yacht Club hosted our annual BBQ in June. The camaraderie, as well as the food, was appreciated.

In July Anacapa Yacht Club invited 105 Disabled Vets and their guests out for a wonderful day on the water. Thirty-one boats from all of the Channel Island's yacht clubs made up the fleet. I had the privilege of sailing with a vet who landed on Omaha Beach. What an honor it was to listen to his story! Afterwards everyone enjoyed a picnic back at the club. Each vet received a T-shirt and a huge box of goodies. The patriotic day was inspiring and everyone is looking forward to next year's gathering.

To end the year, the district is having an event to elect new officers for the coming year



District 19  
Joan Marsh, District Director

Interesting activities have filled the summer months for Delta District 19. In July a Low Country Seafood Boil at Pittsburg Yacht Club was a highly successful fundraiser for President-Elect Gary. It was spearheaded by P/C Ed Stetson and Bonnie. A number of Pittsburg Yacht Club's past commodores and club members pitched in to support their own Gary

McGrath as he moves toward the presidency of the International. District 19 members from several other clubs made up the team presenting this event.

August found many of our members at the annual barbecue that had been hosted in previous years by International Legal Officer Herman Meyer and District 19 Auxiliary President Sue Meyer at their central valley ranch known as Meyer Haven. This year was a more subdued event since P/C Herman Meyer had passed away recently. During the barbecue he was remembered warmly by all as was International Past President Larry Foote who had also passed away recently. These two were pivotal members of District 19 for many years. The barbecue was hosted by Village West Yacht Club and the dedicated officers and members of the District. With an eye to business, this meeting also included nomination of officers for the 2014 year.

In September John and Lucy Anthony again outdid themselves hosting a delicious lobster dinner at Bridge Marina Yacht Club. Once again, their amazing efforts to raise money for Gary's convention produced excellent financial results and provided all who attended with a memorable day of good food and camaraderie.

District 19 is pleased to have grown its membership this year by a combination of new inductees and the return of some who have renewed their memberships after being away for a while. Membership now stands at 167. The officers of the District are working energetically to maintain this kind of growth.

In October it is was our privilege and pleasure to welcome I.O.B.G. members from all over to our beautiful central California Delta to celebrate the successes of 2013 and usher in 2014 with the installation of Gary McGrath as International President and all of the board and officers of I.O.B.G., the Auxiliary and the Humanitarian Foundation.

To all of our colleagues in the Blue Gavel, California Delta District 19 wishes you safe boating and safe travels.

**District 21**

District 21 is in rebuild mode. They are in the process of contacting members to find out what activities they want and what they think District 21 should be doing in the boating community.

District 21 hosted the Southwest AVP round table on June 1, 2013 at the Selks Club in Newport Beach, CA. Some of the topics discussed were membership recruitment and retention, communication, service to the yachting community, collaboration and partnerships with other groups and the humanitarian foundation.

District 21 has identified people to fill most of the officer positions for 2014.

*District 51*

*Walt Kadyk, Director*

District 51 remains at 3 paid members.  
 No new activity to report.  
 I will remain vigilant for new members.

1380 Centerville Lane #32  
 Gardnerville, NV 89410-9715  
 Email: Comsignia@aol.com  
 www.commodoreinsignia.com



775-782-3380  
 800-315-7485  
 Fax: 775-782-4003

IOBG Blazer emblems are authorized for sale by Commodore Insignia. These emblems have the Blue Gavel Burgee on the left staff and the Commodore's club on the right staff. They are available in a white or black background and the price is \$20.95 each plus shipping and tax.

**BLAZER EMBLEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE AUXILIARY**

To order: Send this order form with a color sample of club burgee (business card or letterhead - we may have burgee on file) to Commodore Insignia. You can telephone your order using (800)-315-7485 or our Fax: (775) 782-4003.

Quantity		Black	White	Unit Price	Total
	IOBG Blazer Emblem				
	Auxiliary Blazer Emblem				

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I am a paid up member of IOBG District # \_\_\_\_\_ Yacht Club \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 IOBGA District # \_\_\_\_\_

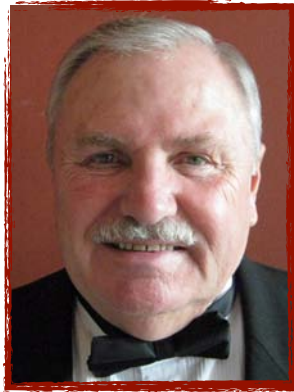
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_

The above will be verified. Member will be billed for emblems when shipped.

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

North Central V.P.  
Tony Durieux



Districts  
7, 9, 23 & 25

North Central Districts have again found the "How" to continued growth and interest in the International Order of the Blue Gavel. Pride, honor in the doing, and passing this understanding on to the recently eligible Past Commodores is how it's done.

Keeping the districts' chapters active and involved provides the incentive to join this most prestigious fraternity. As I believe, and have said in the past, Blue Gavel membership unofficially elevates one to the position of an ambassador to the boating community. When reading the reports of North Central area districts, a common thread will become apparent. When circumstances provide opportunity, our Gavel chapters jump to offer help and if it puts the Gavel in a favorable position it becomes a win, win situation.

Sometimes, it calls for the District to make its own opportunity. They set district goals and back chapter projects. They plan District wide social activities and provide the proper setting for the get together. The interaction with current gavel members and current commodores strengthens the bond and desire to join our fraternity.



District 7  
Mark A. Vadaj, District Director

It has been an outstanding year once again for District 7. Thanks to you the Individual Member which is our most valued asset. Because of your continued support and commitment to Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity we are able to continue to enhance our Membership Privileges and Amenities. This year at the International Change of Watch and Annual Meeting I will be presenting several suggestions to enhance your Membership.

A few notable events this season include the IOBG Hosted Cocktail Party at the GCBA Huron Rendezvous in June. The turnout was spectacular as we saluted GCBA Commander Bob Sefcovic and Lady Barb. Special Thanks to Rear Commander Lloyd Bogue and Lady Rhonda for their extraordinary efforts to make this event one of the most successful ever.

Special Thanks to the participation of District 7 members in the Tall Ship Festival in Cleveland during the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration where D7 Members escorted the Tall Ships into the Cleveland Harbor and also the 1812 Battle reenactment at Put- In-Bay in September. Together D7 help make the events a Spectacular Occasion.

In August, Special thanks to the members and officers of D7, D9 and D25 who joined together to salute and toast the New ILYA Commodore Kris Miller and Lady Reni. A plaque commemorating the event and honor was presented to Commodore Kris for his dedication and contribution to boating across the Great Lakes area.

Although summer/boating season are coming to an end here on the North Coast & District 7, the year for The International Order of the Blue Gavel is just ramping up for the start of a new year from our own Chapter Level Change of Watch to the District Level and our International Level. As a District Officer I highly recommend and extend a personal invitation for all IOBG members to become more involved whether it is at the Chapter Level to the District Level and even the International Level. Congratulations D7 President Pat McIlwee and the D7 IOBG & IOBG-A Officers for an outstanding year. Please see the District 7 web site for a Calendar of Events and Details at [www.iobgdistrict7.com](http://www.iobgdistrict7.com)

Without you and your participation we are just ordinary boaters.

Earlier in the year I spoke about the Humanitarian Foundation which is part of the IOBG (A 501-C-3 IRS Charitable Designation) Organization. Through your most generous contributions we are able to support much needed and well deserved humanitarian hardships. On behalf of IOBG District 7 I offer my humble appreciation and sincere thank you to all that supported this effort.

Thank you once again for renewing your commitment to The I.O.B.G. - Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.



District 9  
Stephen Barry, District Director

District 9 has been working through a slack period, and is ready to emerge energized again. We had our Change of Watch on October 13, and the new President and VP's have some ideas and enthusiasm to build attendance. We are looking forward to a busy year in 2014 and greater attendance at events.

We are currently in the midst of our Ohio State - U of Michigan fundraiser. We have a winner every week based on the scores of both schools, and have had 5 of the 12 winners thus far. These funds feed into our humanitarian activities and members get excited about this every year.

Members have been active in their local clubs where they have been quite instrumental in projects and are ready to bring that enthusiasm and interest to the district level. Some projects have included enhancements to parking areas and improvements to a pavilion.

We have recently been made aware of members at one club calling themselves Future Past Commodores. This is exciting to hear of others eager to follow in our footsteps and we need to encourage and support them as they move into the Commodore role. We look forward to meeting and working with them and possibly to spread this idea to other clubs.

We will be working with Districts 7 and 25 in December, once again hosting a pizza buffet at the ILYA fall meeting.

District 25  
Greg Lowe, District President

I am writing this article for District Director Bill Woods. He is feeling a bit under the weather. Get well soon Bill.

What a great summer District 25 has had. Locally, members gathered for a summer Meet-and-Greet/Membership drive at WYC new home port of Silver Shores. Dogs, suds, and great conversation were enjoyed by all. By hosting events like this, we have been able to increase our membership.

It was great to see District 25 supporting the Blue Gavel by representing IOBG at the AYC Regatta Poker Runs, and the ILYA Blue Gavel reception at Put-In-Bay.

Great Lakes Steel Boat Club, one of our major District 25 Chapters, hosted a Chicken/Ribs Dinner. Members of District 25 joined GLSBC in working this event. By doing so, GLSBC has graciously contributed a portion of the proceeds to District 25. Thank you Great Lakes Steel!

I cannot thank the IOBG-Auxiliary enough for the two sell-out events they hosted led by President Arlene LaFehr and her team. The Spring Pasta/Wine Tasting was outstanding. Eight bottles of wine per table to sample was unbelievable! People are still talking about it. The Wine Trolley Tour has come and gone. If it left without you, make sure you sign up next year. We heard nothing but compliments about the three wineries visited, and the delicious dinner following the tour.

District 25 General Membership/Change of Watch meeting was held on Sunday, September 29, 2013. P/C Jim Cyrowski will be sworn in as the 2014 IOBG District 25 President. Congratulations Jim!

Northeastern V.P.  
David Grove



Districts  
3, 12, 20,  
26 & 27

District 3  
Lewis W. Smith, District Director  
&  
Don Peacock, District Treasurer

The addition of several new officers has created a heightened level of enthusiasm in District 3.

On July 31st, 78 members of District 3 embarked on a Dinner Cruise aboard the Miss Buffalo for their annual Summer Party. It was a perfect evening of music, sun, calm winds, and flat water. Dinner was fabulous with fresh cut roast beef, turkey breast and many sides right on the top deck of the ship. The Miss Buffalo carried District 3 members from the Buffalo harbor approx 7NM SW on Lake Erie and returned to complete a perfect summer eve for all!

On October 3rd, District 3 met yet again for their annual meeting, elections and dinner this time at the beautiful LaSalle Yacht club.

One more big event is planned for this year, the Holiday Party in December, more details forthcoming.

Our District continues to support the Excalibur Foundation and also made a donation to the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Fund.



District 12  
Vincent J. Core, District Director

Following Super Storm Sandy the motto for the state of New Jersey was “Recover and Rebuild”. This was certainly true for Long Beach Island (LBI), a barrier island located along the Jersey shore just north of Atlantic City. The 5 yacht clubs that make up District 12 are all located on LBI, and all sustained significant damage resulting from the flooding associated with the hurricane.

The focus of everyone on LBI since the storm has been to “recover and rebuild” our homes, businesses and our yacht clubs. In the end it seems that the restoration of our yacht clubs was the easiest of the three. Many of our members are still not in their homes because of delays in government rulings regarding flood plain elevations and the availability of building contractors. Much remains to be done!

In spite of the extensive damage to all of the clubs, each of the clubs was able to meet the challenge of having their clubs up and running for their commissioning ceremonies on Memorial Day weekend. While considerable work remained to be completed over the summer months, junior waterfront programs began on schedule, Inter-club junior races were held each week, local, state and national regattas planned for 2013 were held on schedule and senior club racing also went off on schedule. Social events on the other hand were the most adversely affected and had to be scaled back as kitchens and dining rooms needed to be rebuilt and refurbished; club rentals suffered as a result. Things aren't quite back to normal as yet at the club level but significant progress has been made.

In so far as Blue Gavel activities over the summer are concerned, District 12 normally only has two events planned each summer; The Friends of Southern Sailing (FOSS) Foundation fundraiser in early August and its annual meeting held in the early Fall. This year the FOSS Foundation board decided not to have any fundraising events because of the focus on “restore and rebuild”. Simply put peoples priorities were on their homes, business and clubs. However, each of the clubs held fundraisers to offset the cost of restoring their clubs.

District 12 scheduled its annual meeting for early November at which time they inducted our newest past commodores into the Blue Gavel and establish our plans for the 2014 season. At that meeting we inducted 10 new past commodores, the class of 2013, which couldn't be inducted because of the hurricane, and the class of 2014. I'm hopeful that our overall membership will increase over previous years. Membership renewal forms have recently been mailed to any past commodore that has been a member anytime over the past 5 years. As soon as the forms are returned, I will be forwarding the names and addresses and the check for the dues to Treasurer Marshall Nemoy.

On behalf of all the past commodores of District 12 I want to thank the officers of the Blue Gavel for allowing me to present my report detailing our situation at the meeting held last February in Venice, FL and for their consideration of all the challenges facing District 12 since the storm. I especially want to thank President Chuck Browning for all his efforts in resolving our problem, and Northeastern Vice President Dave Grove and Treasurer Marshall Nemoy for their support. Our members were especially grateful for having received their membership cards several months ago.





District 26  
Ernie Odierna, District Director

The Harlem and Huguenot Clubs had their Vet's Outings on September 22nd during which time over 150 veterans, families and club members, as well as Past Commodores and their boats, all participated.

Our District has been trying to put together a dinner/dance event to which we could invite fellow Past Commodores from neighboring yacht clubs with an eye to spreading the word about The Blue Gavel and enrolling them in I.O.B.G.

We have not been able to get the event off the ground as yet because of financial considerations. Our Clubs are all still recuperating from last year's Hurricane Sandy event along with a general struggle to maintain membership. Whenever we come up with a plan, the potential cost for a venue plus a meal discourages us. Things cost a lot here and for our District to invite and pay for Past Commodores from other clubs is more than the District can currently afford.

It has been difficult for us to even get our own Past Commodores to pay their 2013 I.O.B.G. dues, some monies for which are still coming in even at this late date. Any financial help you might be able to muster to help facilitate our "outreach" event would be much appreciated.

On September 8th Huntington Yacht Club together with IOBG District 26 sponsored their 5th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day.

This certificate was presented to all HYC members and sponsors of the HYC Veterans Appreciation Day who helped in their individual ways with the event, as well as to some employees of HYC, who assisted with our successful outing. 167 people were treated to a short breakfast, sail about Huntington Harbor and its environs. Local politicians, media, a musician and club chaplain all assisted in the festivities.



District 27  
Russ Bowser, District Director

District 27 is running a project to raise money to be donated to the Wounded Warriors program. We are selling chances that are \$2.00 for one or 3 for \$5.00 and there will be 3 winners 1st place \$500.00, 2nd place \$250.00 and 3rd place \$100.00. The drawing was November 15th at Bush River and the profit went to the Wounded Warriors project.

Bush River Yacht Club is basically running this project because we are having a hard time getting the member clubs of District 27 to do anything. We are having a hard time keeping members as well as getting new members. The ones we have are not very active.



## *District 50*

*Mark A. Vadaj, Director*

It has been an outstanding year once again for District 50. Thanks to you the Individual Member which is our most valued asset. Because of your continued support and commitment to Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity we are able to continue to enhance our Membership Privileges and Amenities.

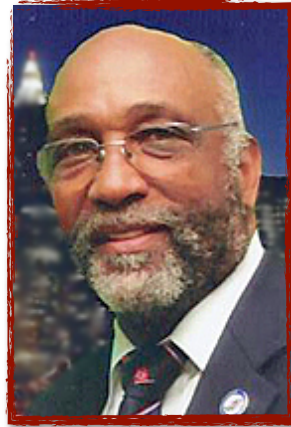
This past year I have been able to reach a few more of our District 50 Members through email, mail or phone, I certainly welcome and enjoy hearing from you no matter where you are located. I especially enjoyed hearing from those while traveling the Great Lakes or the Great Loop and providing location updates. I hope that I can share those experiences with all of our members. Please join us on Facebook by searching for [International Order of The Blue Gavel District 50](#). In the near future I will be posting IOBG Updates, Calendar of Events and other interesting points regarding your membership and or travel. Of course we will continue with the IOBG Log newsletter and web site this is just another means of communicating to our Members and enhancing your experience. I would welcome your suggestions, comments and notable events from all of you. (My cell number is 440-479-0064)

I also recommend viewing our I.O.B.G. International Site at [www.iobg.org](http://www.iobg.org) for details on International Events and additional information. Congratulations to 2014 President Gary McGrath and a Sincere Thank You to 2013 President Chuck Browning & the entire Bridge of IOBG & IOBG-A Officers for an outstanding year.

Earlier in the year I spoke about the Humanitarian Foundation which is part of the IOBG (A 501-C-3 IRS Charitable Designation) Organization. Through your most generous contributions we are able to support much needed and well deserved humanitarian hardships. On behalf of IOBG District 50 I offer my humble appreciation and sincere thank you to all that supported this effort.

Thank you once again for renewing your commitment to The I.O.B.G. - Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

*Southeastern V.P.  
Lenworth Gordon*



*Districts  
8 & 18*

District 8  
Bud Higginson, District Director

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee and all members of District 8 for the confidence that they have in me by electing me as their District Director. I will try my best to live up to their expectations. My top priority for this year is Membership, Membership and Membership which was very well put by our own Joe Dowdell, International 1st Vice President in his article in the last issue of The Blue Gavel LOG newsletter. My thanks to my predecessor, Lenworth Gordon, SEVP for his guidance in the preparing this presentation.

District 8 had an exciting and fruitful year beginning with the hosting of the IOBG Winter Meeting by the Venice Yacht Club in February, 2013. District 8 held its Winter Meeting in conjunction with the International Meeting. During the year District 8 held three on-site meetings switching between East and West Coast Chapters and two teleconference meetings of the Executive Committee.

George Eichman District 8 President led the District into the electronic age with the establishment of the e-Bulletin with distribution to each District 8 member via their email. Our Gulf Stream publication is now online with considerable cost saving over the previous hard copy. An Electronic Membership Directory is in the final stages of completion with Mary Nye Meyers and President-Elect Chuck Ranson participating in the project with President Eichman. That project also has considerable cost savings over the hard copy and can be continuously updated throughout the year. To exemplify the savings Treasurer Bob Pease reported that we have an August 31, 2013 balance of \$6534.54, which is higher than recent years at this time.

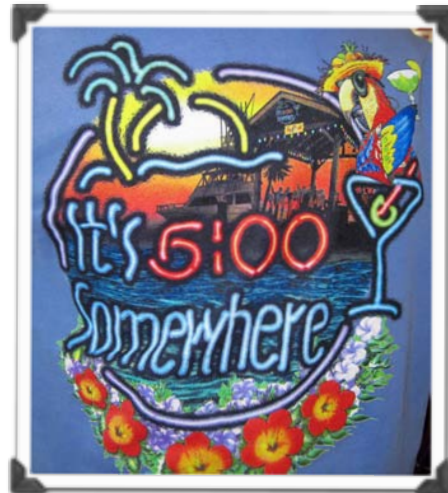
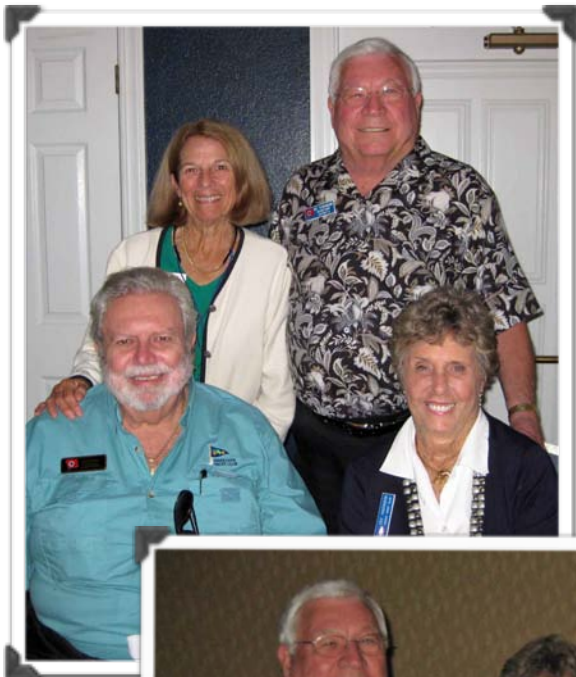
In mid year, President Eichman was hospitalized having four surgeries over a two month period. During that period, President Elect Bert Gartenhaus became Acting President whom after a month, had to step down due to health conditions. The Executive Committee appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chuck Ranson as President-Elect and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bill Pitman as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. President Eichman has since recovered and resumed his duties for the balance of the year.

During the year, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bill Pittman assisted by Secretary Bud Higginson conducted a District 8 survey of Chapter's activities which benefit their respective Clubs. Approximately 75% of the Chapters participated with activities ranging from the traditional events such as Change of Watch and Blessing of the Fleet to social events i.e. Valentine Dinners and fundraising such as raffles, bilge sales, and auctions. The next step was to post those activities on the District 8 website, so that activity ideas will be available to all District 8 Chapters. Secretary Bud Higginson reported that the Venice Yacht Club Chapter raised close to \$3000.00 with 50/50 raffles during their two Blue Gavel sponsored Regional Dinners. Those funds went to their club to purchase non budgeted steak knives and various shaped dinnerware. (Continued...)







(District Director's Report Continued...)

In our October 5, 2013 Annual Meeting, the following were elected to our Executive Committee: International Director B.E. "Bud" Higginson, President Charles T. Ranson, President-Elect William Pittman, 1st Vice President Shaun D. Graser, 2nd Vice President Jan Thomas-Savino, Secretary Peter Franck, and Treasurer Robert Pease. George Eichman, Past President automatically became a member of the Executive Committee. Other appointed Members are: Legal Officer Douglas Case, Supply Officer Lenworth Gordon, and Web Site & Gulf Stream Editor Mary Nye Meyers. International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Joe Dowdell did the honors of swearing in the Elected Officers at the Evening Dinner Event and newly elected President Chuck Ranson stated his goals for the year beginning with Membership, getting new members and retaining the ones we have. Communications will be another goal. Distributing the Electronic Membership Directory – get the Gulf Stream publication to all members on a timely bases – and using our eBulletin to keep all District 8 members up to date on a continuous basis.

The San Jose Yacht Club Chapter in Jacksonville, FL had over the years has gone down to a sole member, Harry Pierce. I am happy to report that P/C Wanda Boworth Commodore 2012, has her application being processed and is having a meeting with the Past Commodores this week to encourage others to join or reinstate their membership. I will be following up with this Chapter.



2014 IOBGA Executive Committee

	<p>President</p>	<p><b>June Thacker - Dist. 8</b>          11285 3rd Ave          Gulf Marathon, FL 33050          Home: 305-743-3407          Email: <a href="mailto:junebug38@aol.com">junebug38@aol.com</a></p>
	<p>President- Elect</p>	<p><b>Sandi Durieux - Dist. 7</b>          524 Deer Trail Dr          Thornville, OH 43076          Home: 740-323-1804          Cell: 740-334-7675          Email: <a href="mailto:ssdurieux@columbus.rr.com">ssdurieux@columbus.rr.com</a></p>
	<p>Vice President</p>	<p>OPEN</p>
	<p>Secretary</p>	<p><b>Nancy Kay - Dist. 7</b>          2112 Campus Drive          South Euclid, OH 44121          Home: 216-382-7123          Email: <a href="mailto:seawind@stratos.net">seawind@stratos.net</a></p>
	<p>Treasurer</p>	<p><b>Audrey Hall - Dist. 15</b>          2063 Grandview St.          Oceanside, CA 92054          Home: 760-757-6796          Email: <a href="mailto:hulakai2@cox.net">hulakai2@cox.net</a></p>
	<p>Immediate Past President</p>	<p><b>Renee Gordon - Dist. 8</b>          P.O. Box 578          Palmetto, FL 34220          Home: 510-717-8236          Email: <a href="mailto:memoriesbynae1@aol.com">memoriesbynae1@aol.com</a></p>



## International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



### *President June Thacker*

Greetings from the fabulous Florida Keys. I want to thank you for this opportunity. I am looking forward to meeting additional IOBGA members, forming new friendships, having fun and making a difference.

Some things are looking pretty good already. As of our October meeting we have 403 members and are operating in the black. Just a friendly reminder – membership dues are due now, and all members need to make sure that their correct Email Address, Phone Numbers and Mailing Address are on file. If any member would like more details from the treasurer, please contact Audrey Hall.

Seventeen members were present at the October Annual meeting in Concord, California, representing Districts 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 14, 15, 19 & 25. (Editorial Comment – I would like to see more bodies at our upcoming June meeting in Portland!)

The Auxiliary voted to contribute \$200 to the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation for 2013.

#### **NEW OFFICERS:**

President:	June Thacker	District 8
President-Elect:	Sandi Durieux	District 7
Vice President:	OPEN	
Secretary:	Nancy Kay	District 7
Treasurer:	Audrey Hall	District 15
Immediate Past President:	Renee Gordon	District 8
Northeast Area Director	OPEN	
North Central Area Director	Ethel Keith	District 7
Northwest Area Director	Janice Kutz	District 1
Southeast Area Director	Open	
Southwest Area Director	Sue Meyer	District 19

If there is anyone who is interested in applying to fill any opening, Please contact me.

(Continued on next page...)

There will only be 3 meetings in 2014 – Portland, Oregon in June, Charleston, South Carolina in August and Cleveland, Ohio in October. All officers should have their written reports prepared and delivered to Secretary Nancy Kay prior to each meeting.

## Announcing IOBGA'S 'HOT' FUNDRAISER

The first ever "IOBG Hottie Calendar" (18 Months...July 2014 – December 2015)  
Work starts now and we need everyone's help!

**STEP #1** – Collect photos of at least 3 members of your IOBG District – Not recent photos – get the ones when they were in their late teens and twenties - fun shots!

Larger pictures work best. Scan the picture if possible and email to the IOBGA Regional Director and cc: June Thacker at [junebug38@aol.com](mailto:junebug38@aol.com). Please include the name of person in the photo. If using regular mail, send to your Regional Director.

Your District can request a particular month, but you have to hurry. January, July & September have already been spoken for.

**STEP # 2** – will be revealed after Step 1 is completed

If you have any questions, please contact June Thacker at [junebug38@aol.com](mailto:junebug38@aol.com), Sue Meyer at [sue@meyer-law.com](mailto:sue@meyer-law.com) or Sandi Durieux at [ssdurieux@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ssdurieux@columbus.rr.com)

Here are some other ideas for fundraisers your District can consider doing:

Try a Cookie Jar Raffle. Pull out those holiday Cookie jars you haven't used in years and fill them with special homemade cookies. Lots of people are just too busy or just don't bake for the holidays.

If cookies don't exactly fit in your demographic, then how about a Liquor Basket Raffle? Prohibition ended December 5, 1933 in the US. What a great theme for this type raffle. Celebrate the end of Prohibition with a drawing on December 5<sup>th</sup>. You can find great pictures and articles on line.

A summertime "Keep it Cool" No Bake, bake sale. Information on organizing and working this proven fundraiser will appear in later articles.





# IOBG Humanitarian Foundation

## PATRON OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM

IOBGHF launched a program to provide special recognition to contributors who donate \$100 or more. Each contributor will be awarded a distinctive "Action for Life" pin which signifies their status as a patron of the foundation.

"The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation provides the boating community the ability to create real differences in others' lives. The foundation provides resources to existing charities and benefits communities through new initiatives involving boating activities and education."

This is the Mission Statement of the Humanitarian Foundation.

Submitted by

Ira Nies, President & CEO/Carol Promessi, Director

The passing of President Bob Howe has generated a large transformation in the Humanitarian Foundation. We now have all new Directors and will be in the process of reviewing and amending the Bylaws. We are also in the process of developing a new web site where the brochure and LAP application, listing of all officers and directors and bylaws will be available.

A reminder that the IOBGHF cannot fund any capital improvement projects, such as buildings, docks or general equipment replacement. However, the IOBGHF can and does fund projects pertaining to **Boating Education, Boating Program Scholarships (Special Needs), and Boating Safety Equipment and Materials**. (There were two LAP's approved and paid to Huntington Beach Sailing Foundation in District 10 in the amount of \$2000 and also to Challenge the Wind Youth Sailing Program in District 25, in the amount of \$4,000.)

However, to allow the Foundation to continue to fund these and additional worthy programs, we have to provide funding for it. This is where you as members of IOBG can help.

Here are some ideas on how to fund the IOBGHF:

### 1. Private Contributions

**2. District donations and fund raising projects**, (What better way is there to build camaraderie than to work together within the District on a worthwhile project?)

(Jackie Rudd, Chief Financial Officer, reported that during the Annual Meeting in Concord, CA, the Foundation received \$3,330, representing donations from, IOBGA and IOBG and individual members from Districts 1, 7, 16 and 19.)

**3. The Memorial Giving Program** to remember birthdays, special anniversaries and deaths – envelopes are available from Jackie Rudd, the Chief Financial Officer of the Foundation.



**4. Charitable giving within the workplace**, (If you contribute to United Way through payroll deduction, you can specify that your contribution go to IOBGHF, or if your employer/employee matching program, you can specify that your matched contributions go to the IOBGHF).

**5. Bequests** such as property, stocks and bonds

**6.** If you are retired, (and most of us are retired you can contribute through **401 K Gifting**. Instead of withholding 15% or more for Uncle Sam, make a direct donation to the Humanitarian Foundation and write the donation off on your taxes.

We hope all IOBG members will take advantage of making Tax Free contributions, perhaps to honor someone special. An idea, contribute air miles to H.F., someone will love you for it.

We welcome your suggestions on how to make the Humanitarian Foundation more useful, effective and better informed. The IOBGHF Board of Directors is anxious and willing to assist you, whether by guiding you through the application process or with fundraising ideas for different projects.

Would you like to be an H.F. Ambassador? We need your help, please call Ira Nies, HF President & CEO, at 632-825-4923 or email at [iranies@hotmail.com](mailto:iranies@hotmail.com), so that we can discuss this further.



2014 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>#1 PRESIDENT-Northwest</b><br/>Lani Lightle (Lee)<br/>10704 - 35th Ave SW<br/>Seattle, WA 98146-1726<br/>Home: 206-243-8186<br/>Cell: 206-226-8294<br/><a href="mailto:lanilightle@clear.net">lanilightle@clear.net</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Thomas "Tom" Johnson<br/>25012 Lake Fenwick Rd<br/>Kent, WA 98032-4278<br/>Tel: 253-852-7553<br/>Cell: 253-880-2691<br/><a href="mailto:schatzie@q.com">schatzie@q.com</a></p>  | <p><b>#8 PRESIDENT - Southeast</b><br/>Charles T. Ranson (Ruth Ann)<br/>3500 Marsha Lane<br/>Vero Beach, FL 32967<br/>Tel: 772-388-9474<br/>Cell: 772-696-2054<br/><a href="mailto:ctr720@aol.com">ctr720@aol.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Peter Franck (Louise)<br/>425 Dockside Drive Unit 804<br/>Naples, FL 34110<br/>Tel: 239-592-6056<br/><a href="mailto:peterfranck@comcast.net">peterfranck@comcast.net</a></p>  | <p><b>#16 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Joyce Sheridan<br/>2111 Bermuda Dunes<br/>Oxnard, CA 93036<br/>Tel: 805-485-8421<br/><a href="mailto:twinjoyce@aol.com">twinjoyce@aol.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Sheldon Berger (Nancy)<br/>2011 Jamestown Way<br/>Oxnard, CA 93035<br/>Tel: 805-985-2274<br/><a href="mailto:shelly@beachhomes.net">shelly@beachhomes.net</a></p>                                   | <p><b>#24 PRESIDENT- Northwest</b><br/>Carol Zumpano<br/>60 Calgary Ave.<br/>Penticton, BC V2A 2T6<br/>Canada<br/>Tel: 250-292-8750<br/><a href="mailto:czumpano@vip.net">czumpano@vip.net</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Yvonne Crawford (Steven)<br/>1547 Klien Rd.<br/>Kelowna, BC V1Z 3H5<br/>Canada<br/>Tel: 250-769-7325<br/><a href="mailto:skicondo@telus.net">skicondo@telus.net</a></p>  |
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| <p><b>#3 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>Paul Schneeberger (Susan)<br/>11 Bywater Ct.<br/>Williamsville, NY 14221<br/>Tel: 716-688-3032<br/><a href="mailto:paulschneeberger@msn.com">paulschneeberger@msn.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>John Bruno (Carol)<br/>330 Deerwood Lane<br/>Grand Island, NY 14072<br/>Tel: 716-773-2216<br/><a href="mailto:bruno@cspayroll.com">bruno@cspayroll.com</a></p>  | <p><b>#10 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Mark N. Monroe, MD (Lina)<br/>3291 Admiralty Drive<br/>Huntington Beach, CA 92649<br/>Tel: 562-592-4144<br/>Bus: 714-641-0121<br/>Fax: 714-641-2054<br/><a href="mailto:romida777@yahoo.com">romida777@yahoo.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Jeanne Stafford<br/>3800 Ocean Blvd #203<br/>Belmont Shores, CA 90803<br/>Tel: 562-212-7449<br/><a href="mailto:jstafford@iconresidential.com">jstafford@iconresidential.com</a></p> | <p><b>#19 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>John Anthony (Lucy)<br/>171 Bel Air Circle<br/>Fairfield, CA 94533<br/>Tel: 707-389-8283<br/><a href="mailto:jojotolly1@aol.com">jojotolly1@aol.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Jandee Clark (Zane)<br/>6529 Calkin Ct<br/>Hughson, CA 95326<br/>Tel: 209-883-1330<br/><a href="mailto:jandeeclark@att.net">jandeeclark@att.net</a></p>                                   | <p><b>#26 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>Eliot Levine (Lois)<br/>127 Turtle Dove<br/>Huntington, NY 11743<br/>Tel: 631-234-5484<br/><a href="mailto:elevine@redsail2.com">elevine@redsail2.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>James E. Oxley III (Loretta)<br/>1202 Magnolia Ct<br/>Hackensack, NJ 07840<br/>Tel: 908-850-5265<br/>Bus: 973-906-8966<br/><a href="mailto:jeo111@att.net">jeo111@att.net</a></p>  |
| <p><b>#4 PRESIDENT- Canada</b><br/>Ron Defieux (Linda)<br/>641 Blueridge Ave.<br/>N. Vancouver, BC V74 2J4<br/>Canada<br/>Tel: 604-987-7425<br/>Fax: 604-985-7263<br/><a href="mailto:rdefieux@shaw.ca">rdefieux@shaw.ca</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Betty Harris-Peake (Dennis)<br/>1078 English Bluff Rd.<br/>Delta, BC V4M 2N6 - Canada<br/>Tel: 604-943-4923<br/>Fax: 604-943-1205<br/><a href="mailto:bettyharrispeake@hotmail.com">bettyharrispeake@hotmail.com</a></p> | <p><b>#11 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Mark Register<br/>8200 Redlands St Unit 113<br/>Playa Del Rey, CA 90293<br/>Tel: 310-828-0982<br/>Cell: 310-625-0137<br/><a href="mailto:markreg@aol.com">markreg@aol.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Noreda Martin (Jerry)<br/>1234 11th St<br/>Hermosa Beach, CA 90252<br/>Tel: 310-374-0741<br/><a href="mailto:norimartin@verizon.net">norimartin@verizon.net</a></p>   | <p><b>#20 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>Stanley Zielinski (Charlotte)<br/>121 Yale Terrace<br/>P.O. Box 333<br/>Linden, NJ 07036<br/>Tel: 908-486-2094<br/><a href="mailto:staszziel@aol.com">staszziel@aol.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</p>  | <p><b>#27 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>Dennis Taylor (Doris)<br/>4 Water Street<br/>Charlestown, MD 21914<br/>Tel: 443-466-9567<br/><a href="mailto:pacc444@msn.com">pacc444@msn.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Dave Tolerico<br/>19 Running Court<br/>Baltimore, MD 21221<br/>Tel: 410-687-6598<br/><a href="mailto:seaotter@verizon.net">seaotter@verizon.net</a></p>  |
| <p><b>#5 PRESIDENT-Northwest</b><br/>Duane Westfall (Deborah)<br/>12309 SE Lincoln<br/>Portland, OR 97233<br/>Home: 503-261-9394<br/>Cell: 971-645-9791<br/><a href="mailto:mdwestfall@aol.com">mdwestfall@aol.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Steve Adkins (Megan)<br/>152 SE Spokane Street #10<br/>Portland, OR 97202<br/>Home/Cell: 306-607-6418<br/><a href="mailto:steve_adkins1@msn.com">steve_adkins1@msn.com</a></p>   | <p><b>#12 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>Vincent J. Core (Eileen)<br/>739 Fairmount Avenue<br/>Chatham, NJ 07928-1157<br/>Tel/Fax: 973-635-7415<br/>Cell: 201-401-8484<br/><a href="mailto:sailcore@att.net">sailcore@att.net</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</p>   | <p><b>#21 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Barbara Sanford<br/>29010 Calle De Caballos<br/>Romoland, CA 92585<br/>Tel: 909-215-6926<br/><a href="mailto:fbnsanford@gmail.com">fbnsanford@gmail.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Richard Price<br/>416-2 Via Lido Nord<br/>Newport Beach, CA 92663<br/>Tel: 949-566-0360<br/>Bus: 949-637-5710<br/><a href="mailto:socalelk@gmail.com">socalelk@gmail.com</a></p>      | <p><b>#70 PRESIDENT- England</b><br/>Ron Judd (Caroline Dodd)<br/>Crofters Cottage 41 Glynn Road<br/>Peacehaven, East Sussex<br/>England BN10 7SH<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Sue Young (Bill)<br/>5 Grasmere Grove<br/>Rochester, Kent<br/>England ME2 4PN<br/>Tel: (44)(0)1634 713478<br/><a href="mailto:bluesil@hotmail.com">bluesil@hotmail.com</a></p>  |
| <p><b>#6 PRESIDENT - Southwest</b><br/>Sterling Lau (Paula Sumida)<br/>5085 Poola Place<br/>Honolulu, HI 96821<br/>Tel: 808-373-5494<br/>Cell: 808-864-8900<br/><a href="mailto:lausterling@hotmail.com">lausterling@hotmail.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Donna B. Salisbury (Ed)<br/>98-988 Palola Way<br/>Aiea, HI 96701<br/>Tel: 808-485-0002<br/>Cell: 808-256-3731<br/><a href="mailto:donnaed@earthlink.net">donnaed@earthlink.net</a></p>                           | <p><b>#14 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Mike Billington (Diane)<br/>3717 Drago Park Dr<br/>Modesto, CA 95356<br/>Tel: 209-248-5108<br/>Cell: 209-602-7301<br/><a href="mailto:thediane@b@yahoo.com">thediane@b@yahoo.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Susan West (Mike)<br/>P.O. Box 1226<br/>Ripon, CA 95366<br/>Tel: 209-599-2558<br/><a href="mailto:westdoublej23@aol.com">westdoublej23@aol.com</a></p>   | <p><b>#22 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>David Loughran<br/>1203 Bay Ave.<br/>P.O. Box 746<br/>Mantoloking, NJ 08738<br/>Tel: 732-892-8388<br/><a href="mailto:dploughran@comcast.net">dploughran@comcast.net</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Betty Jane France (Robert)<br/>13 Paul Jones Dr.<br/>Brick, NJ 08723<br/>Tel: 732-477-3732</p>   | <p><b>#75 PRESIDENT- New Zealand</b><br/>Christopher McCallum (Lorna)<br/>14 Huntleigh Park Way<br/>Ngao<br/>Wellington 6035<br/>New Zealand<br/>Tel: 00-64-4-479-8083<br/><a href="mailto:chrisandlorna1@xtra.co.nz">chrisandlorna1@xtra.co.nz</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Christine Conn (Martin)<br/>28 Elderberry Road<br/>Burswood Managua<br/>New Zealand 2013<br/>Tel: 00-64-9-274-7447<br/><a href="mailto:yachting@slingshot.co.nz">yachting@slingshot.co.nz</a></p> |
| <p><b>#7 PRESIDENT - North Central</b><br/>Pat McIlwee (Barbara McCann)<br/>2272 Emily<br/>Lakewood, OH 44107<br/>Tel: 216-221-3183<br/>Bus: 216-214-6111<br/>Fax: 216-255-6750<br/><a href="mailto:patmcilwee@cox.net">patmcilwee@cox.net</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Dominique Sorbo<br/>1707 East Erie Ave<br/>Lorain, OH 44052<br/>Tel: 440-288-3470<br/>Cell: 419-370-3484<br/><a href="mailto:Radfsorbo@roadrunner.com">Radfsorbo@roadrunner.com</a></p>                | <p><b>#15 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>David Lancaster (Carolyn)<br/>2949 Ocean Front Walk<br/>San Diego, CA 92109<br/>Tel: 858-488-8081<br/><a href="mailto:davidlancaster@sbcglobal.net">davidlancaster@sbcglobal.net</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Jim Jenkins (Tamara)<br/>1429 Caille Marbella<br/>Oceanside, CA 92056<br/>Tel: 760-910-4141<br/>Bus: 760-967-3970<br/><a href="mailto:roughiron@cox.net">roughiron@cox.net</a></p>                                   | <p><b>#23 PRESIDENT- North Central</b><br/>Robert F. Sapita (Kay)<br/>P.O. Box 581<br/>Douglas, MI 49406<br/>Tel/Fax: 269-857-2123<br/><a href="mailto:bksapita@frontier.com">bksapita@frontier.com</a><br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Don Schorffhaar (Sue)<br/>9829 High Banks Drive<br/>Cheboygan, MI 49721<br/>Tel: 231-627-2908<br/><a href="mailto:dschorffhaar@earthlink.net">dschorffhaar@earthlink.net</a></p> |  |



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