

# THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The  
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

Volume 37 No. 1

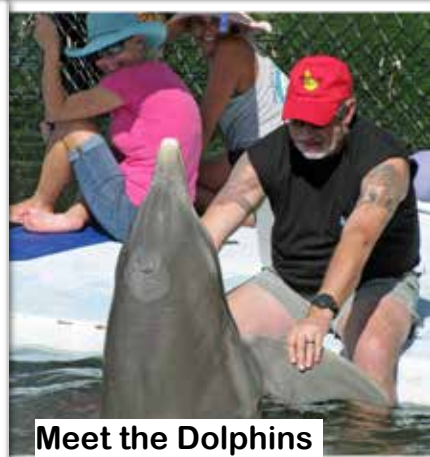
December 2015

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.



2016 Executive Committee



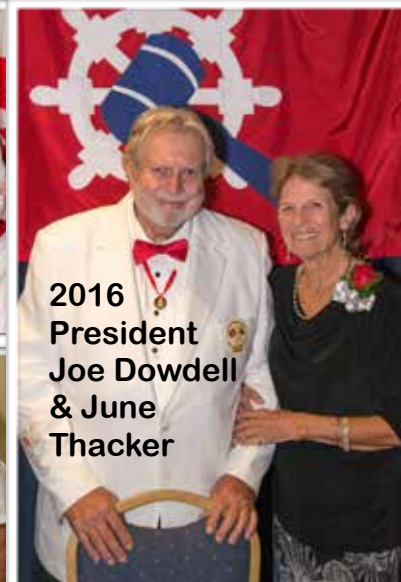
Meet the Dolphins



Area Vice Presidents



Thank You P/P Joel Kay



2016  
President  
Joe Dowdell  
& June  
Thacker



Blue Gavel Auxiliary



Honorary Conch Republic Citizens



Swimming with the Dolphins

# 2016 IOBG DIRECTORY

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Reflects Updates Received  
as of December 21, 2015

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**2019 Executive Committee**



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## *President Joe Dowdell*

Marathon, Florida, population 8,700, was the site of our 2015 Annual Meeting. Despite the remote location and small venue, the meeting was very successful and everyone that attended had a wonderful time. The Marathon Yacht Club went all out to host the evening dinners and cocktail parties and the Grand Ball Saturday night. My committee put together events that showcased our leading area attractions.

Thursday we toured the Dolphin Research Center and were entertained by Sherry Barone, Sandi Durieux, Mike Meyers and Gary Green meeting and swimming with the dolphins. Thursday's dinner was a wildly popular raw bar and seafood buffet at the yacht club.

On Friday, we took a boat ride to Pigeon Key, enjoyed a box lunch and went on guided tours of this historic island which was instrumental in the construction of the 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the modern world, Henry Flagler's Overseas Railroad. Friday night was a return to The Marathon Yacht Club where diners were treated to "A night in Havana" menu. Former Monroe County Mayor Mike Puto inducted Joel Kay, Vern Bendsen, Shirley Willing and Sandi Durieux as Honorary Conchs.

On Saturday, sea turtle lovers were given close access to the "patients" at The Turtle Hospital, during a tour of that facility which was very well received. A memorable Grand Ball presided over by Master of Ceremonies Steve Willing concluded the weeks festivities. Thanks to all that made the Convention a success

### **2016 Meeting Schedule**

No Winter Meeting

Spring Meeting – Portland, Oregon, June 9-11, 2016

Summer Meeting – Buffalo, New York, August 18 - 20, 2016

Annual Meeting - Marina del Rey, California, Oct 20-22, 2016

### **Appointed Positions 2016**

Recording Secretary – Marsha Landreth

Legal Officer – Gary Green

Communications Director/LOG Editor/Website/Lighthouse Bulletin – Mary Nye Meyers

Education Officer – Phil Promessi

Past President Liaison – Vern Bendsen

Historian – Carol Promessi

Boat US – Marshall Nemoy

National Boating Federation –Marlene Barrington

U.S. Sailing Representative – Open

U.S. Power Squadron – Audrey Rice

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary – open



Florida Keys





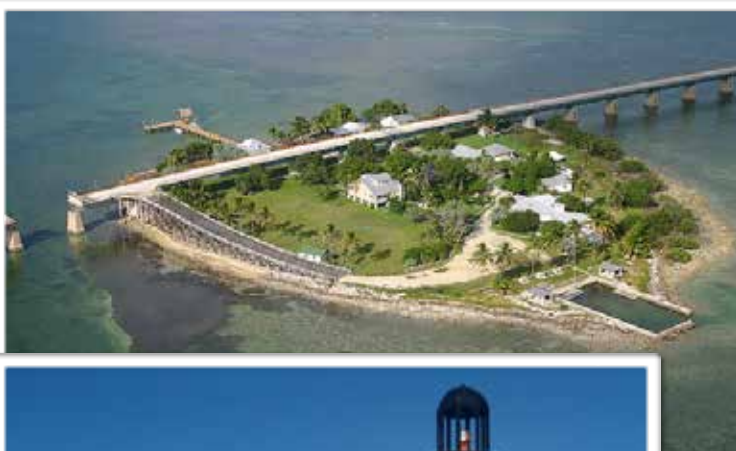


Thomas J. Dowdell  
1971-72

















*Barry  
Gaukel*



*Shady Palm Photography*  
[www.ShadyPalmPhotography.com](http://www.ShadyPalmPhotography.com)













*President - Elect*  
*Rosalie Davis-Green*

It is a pleasure to be in Marathon Florida for the annual meeting.

It is a challenge to maintain membership and to grow the organization. Members are our most important asset. Are we showing we care for and appreciate the members? I recently reviewed some IOBG reference material. The concepts identified address membership issues and are as applicable in 2015 as they were when they were first stated 10 years ago: Retention, Recruitment, Recognition and Support.

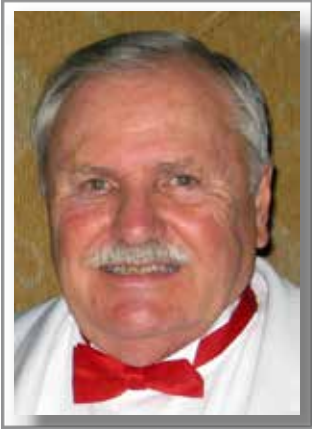
**Retention** - It is very important to ensure our activities continue to meet the needs of the current membership. Are we seeking their input prior to planning the calendar? Are we surveying them to find out what they would like to do in the upcoming year? What charities would they like to support? What type of activity can members help with? Members will be committed to participate more if they had an opportunity to participate in the planning process. How well are we engaging our new members?

**Recruitment** - New members are recommended by their club's chapter of IOBG. Do we have a special event introducing sitting commodores to IOBG? Do we invite a commodore we think is a good potential member of IOBG to our IOBG events and share with them our enjoyment. Do we have a system of mentoring new members? Is someone assigned to contact a new member, ask if they have any questions about membership and personally invite the new member to join them at the next event? A new member who has been personally invited by another member feels more welcomed than just the official welcome at their induction. Satisfied members are our best recruiting tool.

**Recognition** - We are all volunteers. Members work hard to accomplish tasks on behalf of the organization. Be generous in recognizing their efforts and accomplishments. Use the District newsletter to recognize members. Welcome new members through the newsletter. Include in the newsletter items such as: get well wishes, condolences, name those who helped with the last club activity, list who is working on the next activity and show pictures of the members in action. Some tasks that keep an organization going are self-gratifying. Other tasks are necessary but not particularly exciting. It helps to know that people appreciated your efforts. Do we have special recognitions at change of watch for individuals, chapters and districts that have done outstanding work in the last 12 months? Morale is not good when people feel they are taken for granted.

**Support** - Provide encouragement, problem solving and assistance to those who are attempting to produce an event or provide a service to the local yachting community. They need to know we are all in this together.

These are basic concepts we all learned on the road to becoming a commodore. As past commodores, we are all still human. We will respond positively when we feel we are treated well. If the members don't feel they are treated well, they will find other ways to serve the community. We want members to choose IOBG as one their ways of enjoying and serving the yachting community.



## *First Vice President Tony Durieux*

It is always nice to report positive information. Mary Nye Meyers, our Communications Director, reports that LOG newsletter information is coming in much faster and has made editing of the LOG much easier. Remember, articles are due two (2) weeks following the meeting.

The word is getting out. Districts and chapters are taking advantage of the media when possible. Doing good things for the community makes us feel good and we as an organization stand a little taller in the eyes of the community whether we are taking seniors out for a sunny afternoon boat ride, helping the disabled forget their disability for a few hours or providing life jackets so young and old alike can enjoy the sun and water, safely. A little name recognition from the media helps the cause at hand.

I would to give a shout out to district 5 for a job well done and their use of the media. The Humanitarian Foundation funded Next Door which partners with Safe Kids Columbia Gorge, to purchase 320 life jackets for the kiosks. The goals for this program are to increase life jacket usage during water-based activities by having a variety of PFDs readily available at major water play areas where boating and swimming are undertaken.

I have had the opportunity to ask the question of several districts, "Are you announcing to the public that your local district or chapter of the IOBG is responsible for the event, have you let the media know who planned, financed and carried out the project? When you ask the media to cover your project, ask how many times they will announce to the public your event in advance helping to make your project an even bigger success. The response to my question was a resounding no and to the last person, it was agreed, we as an organization, need to make our presents better known in our communities.

The word is out, tell the public what you are doing. Announce it to the world. Your chapters and districts will grow because of that recognition. It is nice when you to walk into a prospective yacht club knowing they respect that you are Blue Gavel. Now, add the respect of the community because of your doing for others. It becomes a slam-dunk. You win because of your thoughtfulness, your chapter or district wins and the gavel gets the name recognition.

Remember, you do not need to do anymore than you do now. Just let the community know who you are.





## *Second Vice President Bud Higginson*

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee and all voting members of IOBG for the confidence that they have in me by electing me as your International Second Vice President. I would also like to thank the many people who encourage me along the way including all of the Past Presidents, President Joe Dowdell and Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers. I will try to live up to all of your expectations.

Since becoming a member of IOBG in 2005, I served as President of the Venice Yacht Club Chapter IOBG for three years. I then served 1-1/2 terms as Secretary of District 8 and then became District 8 Director with the added responsibility of Southeastern Vice President a year later.

In my new position, I have participated in two monthly Executive Committee Teleconference Meetings chaired by our President Joe Dowell, for which I feel are very productive. My other activities for this year include responsibility for all IOBG Districts that are west of the Mississippi and District 51, IOBGA Liaison Officer, IOBG Public Relations and a member of Finance Committee.

At the Annual Meeting held in Marathon, Florida in late October of 2015 we had 14 District 8 members in attendance including our newly elected International President Joe Dowdell and newly elected District 8 President Shaun Graser. The meetings were well done and the activities were well attended. One of the activities was a boat trip to Pigeon Key which was only accessible by boat with box lunches served on site and a tour followed.



A human interest story about this activity was by the Dennis Bosi family. Dennis, whom I met last year when as District 8 Director and SEVP had the opportunity to lead the effort in establishing the Dunedin Boat Club as a new District 8 Chapter of IOBG and Dennis became their first President. Dennis was recently named the District 8 Treasurer



Dennis wrote to tell us that during the visit to Pigeon Key, their son was exploring around the island and discovered some relics. He turned them over to the museum. Here are the pictures of what he found. A bottle from 1909 and they think one piece might be a homemade horse shoe and a railroad spike.

Dennis Bosi II is 11 years old and loves to go treasure hunting. He was not too happy at first about not getting to take his treasure home but nothing is allowed to leave the island. He got very excited that they let him decide where he would like them displayed in the museum. After that he thought it was the coolest thing that could happen. Being it was the Bosi families' first IOBG meeting we could not have ask for anything more.



All of the IOBG people were great with the kids and Megan & I had a great time. We look forward to many more years with the IOBG. Thank you for everything. (Dennis Bosi - District 8)



## *Treasurer Marshall Nemoy*

I attended our Annual Meeting in Marathon, Florida in October. I presented the Treasurer's report which contained the financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2015. The statements showed IOBG to be financially healthy and noted area of good performance. The membership statistics showed we had lost 88 members for the year. However the losses came from areas that had been stable for a number of years. Some believed the loss was due to the increase in dues. However the report showed that the districts that had voted against the dues increase had, in fact, increased their total members. The Executive Committee is investigating the reasons for the loss of members.

A budget for 2016 was presented and discussed. The Board of Directors voted to adopt the 2016 budget. The 2016 Budget did not call for a dues increase.

Any member in good standing may contact the treasurer's office to request a copy of the treasurer's report or the 2016 budget.

We are receiving 2016 dues payments almost daily. Dues received after September 30, 2015 are considered for 2016 unless specified otherwise. The design for the 2016 membership card was selected by the board members attending the Friday session in Marathon, Florida. We are processing dues payments in one or two days. The most important information required in addition to your name and address is your email address. The Blue Gavel Log and The Lighthouse are now sent by email. A printed copy of The Blue Gavel Log is available for a \$10 annual fee payable with your dues.

Another item is the name of your chapter. Please do not use initials. Spell out the name. I belong to Mission Bay Yacht Club(MBYC) in District 15. There also is a Moro Bay Yacht Club (MBYC) in District 16 and a Mactawa Bay Yacht Club (MBYC) in District 23. Enough said.

The Lighthouse our email only publication has been gaining acceptance from our membership. Our goal is to provide a monthly concise newsletter to our members. The metrics on the number of emails sent and opened are better than the industry standard for such a publication. To make it even more useful to our members we need news items from our districts.

As we begin another year let us all work together to build an organization we can all be proud of.



## *Past President Joel Kay*

Despite the \$10.00 dues increase for 2015, the members that were lost, by and large, were not a result of the dues increase. We received new members, installed new chapters and the total fewer members was minimal for the year ending August 1. The dues increase enabled the Area Vice Presidents to attend Regional Meetings by helping pay their travel. By having most of the AVPs at the Regional meetings, the communication level increased from them to their districts and chapters.

We noticed that more members were opening the "Lighthouse" email bulletin and LOG newsletter. Hopefully, they read these as they are the best forms of communication to the general membership of what is going on around the organization.

Last year Past President Gary McGrath created monthly conference calls for the Executive Committee. These were continued nearly every month in 2015. They have proven most effective in getting the work done, even though there were only two Regional meetings this year. They also contributed to getting the word out to the membership by creating a very transparent way of handling IOBG business. Also, significant changes to the Bylaws and Policy Manual were made to ease the confusion of accepting dues in a year when a dues increase was approved by the Executive Committee. The Humanitarian Foundation has been reorganized and it was determined that only two Area Vice Presidents may serve on its Board in any one year, a major step in the Foundation's ability to govern effectively.

As members of the Blue Gavel, we should be proud of our being a selective group of international yachting and boating organizations. As such, we enjoy the value of a strong auxiliary and newly reorganized Humanitarian Foundation. Through these organizations, we enjoy friendships and relationships all of which contribute to our success as an organization.

This has been a most interesting year for Nancy and me. We have made new friends and acquaintances, reunited with old ones and thoroughly enjoyed our experiences in the Gavel. I was told by several Past Presidents that my year as President would be over very quickly - it certainly was. Even though I have been attending Annual Meetings since 2004, I learned a great deal more about this great organization in the last five years, having served as North Central Area Vice President, and as a member of the Executive Committee. I hope to continue to pass my knowledge to the next set of active members. I encourage all members to become interested in the operations of the Gavel, as it has been most rewarding for me.



*US Sailing Representative*  
*Bill Thayer*



Submitted by:  
Past US Sailing Representative Bill Thayer

US Sailing launched “The Beat”, a series of summer sailing events and videos hosted by Katy Nastro with one goal, to capture the essence of sailing – one of the most thrilling sports and activities on the planet.

The “BEAT”

Bonus episode, an inside look of Team Alvamedica’s Volvo Ocean 65 with on board reporter Amory Ross as he gives Katy a tour of this ocean racing machine during the Newport stop over.

Host Katy Nastro was all in at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Figawi Race weekend. Figawi kicked off the Cape Cod and Nantucket summer season. Entries included over 3000 sailors from all over the country and over 240 boats.

Katy checked-in with Sailing Worlds Helly Hansen NOOD regatta on Lake Michigan, hosted by Chicago Yacht Club.

In Southern California Katy gets the low down on the Long Beach Race week’s Yacht Club Challenge.

Katy took us off the traditional sailing course from Martha’s Vineyard in this episode to taking lessons Kiteboarding with Rob Douglas, one of the fastest sailors in the world.

Katy took us to Annapolis, Maryland as we highlighted the Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (CRAB) Crab’s mission is to make the therapeutic benefits of sailing and the freedom it provides a reality for physically and /or developmentally-challenged individuals and their families regardless of their financial circumstances.

Katy took us to San Francisco for the unique and exciting Ronstan Bridge to Bridge Race and 18-foot Skiff International Regatta, hosted by St. Francis Yacht Club.

A weather alert forecasting over 20 knots of winds and 5 to 7 foot seas wasn’t good news for Kathy Allyn, Chairwoman of the USA Junior Olympic Festival at Mentor Harbor Yachting Club (MHYC) on Lake Erie in June. When 126 participants, age 7 to 18 arriving for the events with their parents, she had to think fast.

110 boats, 168 sailors and a boat load of solid racing in Camden Harbor at the 2015 Junior Olympics hosted by the Camden Area Youth Seamanship Program and Camden Yacht Club was spectacular.

With the help of Beneteau America, US Sailing has implemented its STEM Educational Reach Program in South Carolina to help get kids learning and sailing.

US Sailing is currently accepting nominations for 2015 Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year awards.

Northwestern V.P.  
Lani Lightle



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

District 1 held its annual summer picnic on July 17-18, 2015. This year we returned to Anacortes, WA. It has been four years since we last had our picnic at this popular location which is 80 miles north of Seattle. It is located on Fidalgo Island and it is the gateway for boaters travelling to the San Juan Islands and/or the Canadian Gulf Islands or beyond.

Our Fall change of watch meeting was held on September 18-19, 2015 in Tacoma, Washington which is 30 miles south of Seattle. It was hosted by the Tacoma Outboard Association with a dinner and dance at their clubhouse overlooking the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Much credit goes to our then 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jim Martinson for organizing this event.

I was very pleased with our lineup of officers for the coming year. President Jim Martinson has taken the helm with Chuck Havens as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mary McCollum as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Ullie Marquardt as Treasurer, Jeanne Gordon as Recording Secretary, and Bob Lee as District Director.

It has been a pleasure to serve as District 1 Director over the past year. I now look forward to serving as Northwest Vice President. I consider this position important to act as a liaison between the Northwest Districts and IOBG International. Communications are very important in our organization. Following Past NW Vice President Mary Nye Meyers in this position is an honor. She has done an outstanding job which will be difficult to match.



Submitted by District 5:  
P/C Bill McKinney

This past year has continued to be a good year for District 5. Membership has increased to about 30 members and activities have continued all year long including monthly board meetings.

District 5 has continued to raise money for the local Sea Scouts, The Daughters of Neptune, and the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. In addition to supporting these non-profit enterprises and with the assistance of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation District 5, in the past two years, has provided over \$8,000 in life jackets to a non-profit consortium of Next Door Inc., Safe Kids of Columbia River and the Portland District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Partnering with these organizations and others has made it possible to impact our local community in a very positive way. In April District 5 was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the Department of the Army.

In March several District 5 members attended the IOBG Regional meeting in San Diego and then followed up with the annual Hadley Landing Clean-up Cruise. Hadley Landing is a public boat dock with picnic grounds managed by the Portland Parks Department. In the past 8 years Blue Gavel members have repaired docks, cleaned and repaired the picnic area, built and installed new sign stanchions over the dock and paid for forty yards of gravel for pathway and road improvements.

In June District 5 hosted the IOBG Regional meeting held in Portland linked with the Portland Royal Rosarians Rose Festival. Incoming IOBG President Joe Dowdell, in a tradition that has lasted nearly fifty years, was knighted along with several other dignitaries and political figures 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 including District 5 members Dick Dyer and his wife Renee, District Director Duane Westfall his wife Deborah and my wife Margo and I also attended.

Going forward we are confident we can continue to support the Loaner Life Jacket Project throughout the state of Oregon. District 5 has kept a busy schedule this year that has been informative, interesting and fun. I want to encourage you and all District 5 members to participate in these events in the coming year.

*To Our Photographers...Thanks for making our newsletter memorable...*



*Marybeth Thayer*



*Mary Nye Meyers*



*Dawn Shaffer*



Southwestern *V.P.*

Sherry Barone



Districts

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

Each of the districts continue working on increasing membership and raising funds for local charities such as District 16 helping raise 18k for the Oxnard maritime museum and District 10,11,14,15- youth charities. District 21 had entered a boat in the Old Glory Parade taking first place. I had the opportunity to attend membership appreciation lunches and youth scholarship funding raising events this year.



IOBG Southwestern and IOBG district 6 hosted a visit to Oahu, Hawaii for the Transpac 2015 in July 2015. We had a great time sailing, attended local events and hosted/greeted a welcome party at 2:00 am for Horizon, the sailboat from division 5 from Long Beach, California taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their division.

A meeting at American Legion Yacht Club, was held on Saturday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> with Southern California Districts We discussed past and future events, national meeting, our membership growth by 12%, and how to have joint events.

A discussion was held with regards to cooperation and interaction between districts such as holding quarterly events/lunches could be held in the area and all district members could be invited. The following was proposed:

A holiday brunch which was finalized at Long Beach Yacht Club on Dec. 6 2015. Lavon Plumlee will host. IOBG sponsoring a boat for a Holiday Boat Parades in Marina del Rey, Newport, or/and San Diego. First part of February 2016, a lunch/brunch at will be held at Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club and in late May 2016 a weekend at the Lake Arrowhead Yacht.

I attended the District 14 meeting and District 19 change of watch on 7 November 2015 at Stockton Yacht Club a nice event. A donation by District 19 was made to the IOBGHF in memory of Estella McGrath for her work on the foundation and to the district as she will be missed. IOBG Southwestern donations were also made in memory of Estella and donations can be made to IOBGHF via the IOBG web site at [www.iobg-hf.org](http://www.iobg-hf.org).

Provided spotlight awards to District 14 for membership growth and District 19 for largest continue membership in the Southwestern regions. District 21 will also be presented a membership spotlight award for Southern California membership growth.

IOBG President Joe Dowdell and June Thacker did an excellent job on the annual meeting and installation at Marathon Yacht Club. Some of our favorites events were swimming with the dolphins, turtle hospital and local sights in Marathon. The weekend was a lot of fun seeing old friends and getting to know new IOBG members.

I enjoyed this past year traveling from Guam/Hawaii to Northern California/Delta meeting the IOBG District Directors and members and sharing in local events.

District 6  
Richard Denton, District Director



### Transpac - July, 2015

District 6 along with representatives of the Southwest Region of the IOBG greeted the crew of Horizon upon arrival in Honolulu for the Transpac 2015. All enjoyed the various events during Transpac week in Hawaii.

### Election Meeting - Wednesday, October 7, 2015

We held our elections for 2016 District 6 officers at the Kaneohe Yacht Club during our barbecue from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Outgoing District 6 Director Richard Denton will be replaced by current District 6 president Bill DeRego. Current District 6 Vice President Ellis Abram will become President and Don Brown, Kaneohe Yacht Club Staff Commodore, will become Vice President.



### Installation and Induction Dinner - Thursday, November 5, 2015

2016 Officers were installed and induction of new members at the Waikiki Yacht Club.

### HCA/IOBG Christmas Party - Thursday, December 3, 2015

Our IOBG/HCA Christmas Party at Hawaii Yacht Club, Thursday, December 3rd, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. We conducted our traditional IOBG gift exchange and served our Christmas buffet. There was no charge for the meal.

District 10  
LaVon Plumlee, District Director

District 10 proudly reports on another successful summer season in terms of socials, sailing, educational activities, and charity events. Our Treasurer P/C Steve Search reports that we presently have 87 District 10 IOBG members.

**Monthly Socials:** District 10 continues to enjoy several monthly events. Our Barney's Beach House BBQ held in October is an example of fun events enjoyed by our members.



In September the Commanding Officer of the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach was our guest speaker at our dinner at Long Beach Yacht Club. At this dinner, we were proud to present the Humanitarian Foundation's check for \$1500 to Tracy Lee. Tracy is a 16 year old high school student responsible for putting together a program to purchase boats for the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club's Sailing Foundation. She is a bright young lady and a talented sailor.

District 10 Report Continued...

Other such socials held included the following: CPR Class at HHYC, Father's Day BBQ and Mother's Day Brunch, July 4th Fireworks at NYCLB, Charity Regatta Brunch, Cruise to Bahia Corinthian YC, Annual Dinner meeting and Holiday Duffy Cruise.

**Charity:** In addition to supporting our annual Charity Regatta and donations to the Boat Owner's Association, District 10 proudly donated to The Fisher House Foundation, a program that supports America's military in their time of need.

**Youth Sailing Regattas:** As Past Commodores, it is vital that we support programs designed to education our youth in sailing activities. With this in mind, we supported youth sailing at our annual District 10 IOBG Youth Summer Sailing Regatta. We presented certificates and trophies to the participants at Huntington Harbour YC.

**Auxiliary:** Our IOBG Auxiliary President P/C Marsha Search continues to enhance our district's activities. Every successful district has an active Auxiliary and District 10 supports this. We presently have 22 members supporting our events with registration, decorations, publicity and our charity donations.

**Communication:** District 10 continues to stress communications as is a vital factor for our success. Our newsletter, "The Gavel", is published monthly for our members to enjoy. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest to the yacht clubs and yachting community. We will be featuring an article each month highlighting one of our Past Commodores. Our website ([www.IOBG-District10.org](http://www.IOBG-District10.org)) is updated monthly by P/C Bill Plumlee.

**2016 IOBG Annual Meeting:** We have been asked by Rosalie Davis-Green, IOBG President-Elect, to co-sponsor the 2016 Annual meeting with Del Rey Yacht Club and have been meeting monthly with this committee. District 10 has donated \$1000 in support of bus transportation and annual meeting expenses. We look forward to making the 2016 meeting a success.

We would like to thank Sherry Barone, Southwestern Vice President, for all her endeavors to host District Director meetings in support of IOBG.

District 11  
Susana Hernandez Araico  
President & District Director

District 11 held its special member appreciation event on Tuesday, June 23, which this year instead of a Saturday lunch, offered an early buffet dinner outdoors with a jazz group at the Del Rey Yacht Club patio. Attendance did not reflect our membership roster, though emails and e-vites went out. We continued, therefore, to work on our emailing list to ensure more effective reach-out for future events.

On Wednesday, July 22, members and friends enjoyed a great fun evening at the Hollywood Bowl with the Frank Sinatra birthday concert. The consensus is to hold this event again next year.

Two summer barbecues that we call "windy-q's" were held on Tuesday, August 18 and on Tuesday, September 15 at the Del Rey patio. Both events were enjoyable gatherings for members in the cool evening by the ocean. At both events we were glad to be able to raise some money for the 2016 national meeting.

District 11 Vice President Shelia Anderson and/or President-Director Susana Hernández Araico have participated at various meetings in preparation for this annual national event that will be hosted at Marina del Rey. District 11 Director & President Susana Hernández Araico attended the last meeting for this purpose on Thursday, September 24 at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

Both Vice President Shelia Anderson and President-Director Susana Hernández Araico attended a meeting called by Southwestern region Vice President Sherry Barone on Saturday, September 26 at Newport's American Legion Yacht Club. Some very good ideas were discussed on how the various districts in Southern California could come together for some activities.

District 11 is now preparing for elections for our 2016 board. A Nominating Committee has been appointed. We must have a secretary for 2016 in order to function more effectively. We are also seeking a new treasurer, as Allan Bertik graciously served again this past year, when the elected treasurer resigned. Director-President Susana Hernández Araico has recommended that we also nominate a second vice-president so as to have more people actively involved on the board for 2016. Our installation brunch was on Sunday, December 13.

District 14

Susie West, District President  
Marge Bottari, District Director

IOBG District 14 has 70 Regular and Associate Members and is located in the San Francisco Bay Area.

District 14 started out our summer season with a cruise out to Rio Vista, our beautiful Delta cruising area, in conjunction with District 19.

In August, District 14 hosted a Membership Appreciation Party and Cruise In at the Encinal Yacht Club for all District 14 members. This event and barbecue were free to the membership. Approximately 25 of our members and guests attended as well as our SW Regional VP, who flew in from Southern California. We also invited all past and current commodores from all our yacht clubs and had quite a few attend. We gained a few new members and much fun was had by us all.

President Susie West writes: Thank you Susan Jacquelin, our District 14 Vice President for co-hosting this event and thank you to Karla, Encinal's event manager and her entire staff for such a great job. We have been invited back again next year! Good food, good weather, good friends!!

Charles Davis of Richardson Bay Yacht Club was inducted by Sir Vern Bendsen at the event. So....welcome aboard Charles!!

Thanks to special guests Bill Wells from the Bay & Delta Yachtsman and his wife Susan for attending and thank you Bill for sharing info on our waterways!



I want to thank my 2015 board and everyone who helped me put this event together. There are too many names to list, but thank you everyone who assisted in the planning and set up and thank you EVERYONE who attended.....your participation is what made our picnic a success!

Continued...

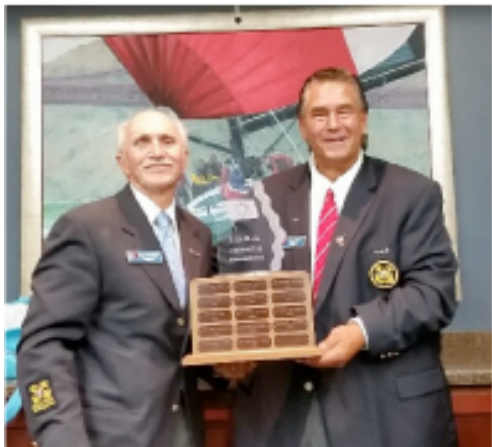
District 14 Report Continued...

District 14 also raises money for youth sailing scholarships. We donate to individual young folks who wish to take sailing lessons at any of our yacht clubs and we are now discussing supporting the Educational Tall Ship Foundation. <http://educationaltallship.org/>. This foundation is dedicated to helping at risk youth. The project will provide on the water and shore-based experiential education for students of all ages, not only on their existing vessel, The Seaward that services 5000 youth per year, but also on their new ship under construction, a complete Tall Ship from scratch - the 100' Mathew Turner. Programs focus on marine ecology, sustainability, teamwork, leadership and the rich maritime history of the Bay Area and will be able to service 12,000 youth per year.

District 14 is looking forward working towards a grant from the IOBG Foundation and our new Director, Susan West and her new leadership 2016.

District 15  
Kathy Smith, District Director

District 15 culminated our year with the Change of Watch Dinner and Ceremony, October 10, 2015, at Southwestern Yacht Club. Past President Jeanne Irwin inducted the 2015-2016 Board of Directors: President Bill Edwards, Secretary Gregg Hansen, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, Vice President Ned Knight, and District Director Kathy Smith.



Incoming President Bill Edwards is presented with the District 15 President's Trophy by outgoing President Jim Jenkins. The perpetual trophy will reside at Navy Yacht Club San Diego for the coming year.

In conjunction with the IOBG/IOBGA Change of Watch, the auxiliary held their "Genuine" Jewelry Exchange. Donated items were sold for \$2, \$5, or \$10, with several Silent Auction Items, and a table for Swarovski Crystal Jewelry. The event raised over \$800 for ElderHelp San Diego.

Our Website will be up and running, soon, and the Board of Directors, along with Past President Jim Jenkins, are continuing to plan for our first annual "Race Your BOD" Regatta. This event will also raise funds for our selected charity. Stay tuned!

District 16  
Clark Owens, District Director  
Shelly Berger, President

The Channel Islands Harbor is home to the Channel Islands Maritime Museum. District 16 Director Clark Owens and President Sheldon Berger approached the museum and their board earlier this year about initiating a yearly fundraiser for the museum. After much discussion it was decided that IOBG with the help of the local yacht clubs would create an event to

draw attention to the museum as well as raising funds for a young adult navigation center. The event, Chowderfest 2015 was off and running.

IOBG members and museum staff met on a weekly basis for several months to plan the event. Our goal was to have 6 or more local restaurants serve their clam chowder and raise \$5,000 for the museum. To our absolute delight, we worked hard on obtaining local restaurants, wineries, beer distributors and a host of entertainers to participate at the event.



Chowderfest was held on August 8<sup>th</sup> at the museum and we couldn't ask for better weather. Our time spent on promoting the event in the media and on social web sites ended up in a remarkable result for the museum. We had 17 restaurants serve chowder, several wineries serving local wines, a local beer distributor pour their favorites and three performances by local bands.



The results, just under 900 attendees, and a net profit to the museum of \$18,000. This was the largest ever event for the museum. The IOBG Foundation was an additional sponsor. This wonderful event

Would never have happened without the support of our local district members which include yacht clubs in two harbors. Planning is underway for Chowderfest 2016.

September found us once again enjoying the beautiful patio at the Ventura Yacht Club. The dinner was wonderful as always, the weather perfect, and we had excellent attendance for this lovely event. Our speaker was Tony Morgan, Ground Water Manager for the United Water Conservation District. He spoke about the severe drought conditions that we are so aware of here in California. The news is grim, but we have high hopes for an El Niño this coming year. We have enjoyed great interest from our members by supplying interesting speakers



The District #16 Christmas party was a delight. Members from Anacapa, Channel Islands, Harbour Island, Pacific Corinthian, and Ventura Yacht Clubs came together for a fabulous catered dinner. The director from the Maritime Museum spoke about the success of the Chowder Feast District #16 spearheaded.

To end the evening, everyone sang Christmas carols and then Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel.

District 19  
Sande Clark, District Director

Delta District 19 has had a very busy and productive year. We have 152 members in our district.

The change of watch was held on November 1, 2014 at Marina West Yacht Club. Sir Vern Bendsen was our master of ceremonies and Sir Gary McGrath administered the oath of office to the incoming board.

In February we had our general meeting and induction of new members where seven (7) new members were inducted. We enjoyed a great day at Pittsburg Yacht Club, along with a fabulous lunch.

During a board meeting in April we began the process of developing bylaws for District 19 with the guidance of Sir Vern Bendsen and Sir Gary McGrath.

In May we had our Commodores Appreciation BBQ at Delta Marina Yacht Harbor with eight (8) boats cruising in for the weekend and many more driving in for a fun day of BBQ and numerous door prizes. This is an event where the members enjoy the BBQ and the bar for free and the guests pay \$10.00 per person. Our board went above and beyond on donating door prizes. We also had a local dignitary, Bill Wells, join us for lunch. He authors the Delta Rat Scrapbook for the Bay and Delta Yachtsman magazine.

August found us at Village West Yacht Club for our nominations and general meeting. We had a great BBQ lunch and great fellowship for the afternoon. Several boats were on the dock for the weekend as well.

September we cruised to Bridge Marina Yacht Club for our election meeting. During this meeting the membership approved the bylaws.

Our change of watch was held at Stockton Yacht Club in November.

It has been my privilege to be the Director of Delta District 19 this past year, and I'm looking forward to many years of fun activities and fellowship with other like minded boaters.

District 21  
Richard Price, District President

It has been a fun and rewarding year for our District. Membership is approaching an all-time high. We did very well winning the Sweepstakes Award in the July 4th Old Glory Parade, as well as attending the famous end of the season Closing Day Ceremony at Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club.



The IOBG District 21 banner can be seen on the photograph, along with members of the IOBG and guests during the Old Glory Boat Parade. This parade has been one of California's largest and one of the nation's most well established Patriotic boat parades.

*North Central V.P.  
Mark Vadaj*



*Districts  
7, 9, 23 & 25*

The North Central Region comprising of Districts 7, 9, 23 & 25 has enjoyed another very successful year within the IOBG and has once again topped over 500 members. One of the many reasons for this success is the philosophy that no District is successful without the cooperation, support and interaction of the neighboring Districts. Several times throughout the year the Districts join together for events and for the good of a common cause including Cocktail Party Events, Regattas, Rendezvous Cruises, Fundraising, Chapter Events, Dinners and more.

This is a multi-faceted strategy that is good for the District, good for the member and good for the IOBG. Each District is an integral part of the puzzle and the assembled puzzle is larger than the sum of its pieces. We value your commitment to IOBG and appreciate your contribution which makes this organization so enjoyable. I would encourage all members of the North Central Region to become more active and join the festivities... local, regional and international. Some of the events are free.

We are actively investing in the effort to re-vitalize District 23. Many of you have expressed an interest in not only re-joining IOBG D-23 but also accepting a role as an Officer. I invite you to contact me and I will personally visit you, your Chapter and or Club. I am looking for a Host Club or Chapter to conduct a District Launch Event. Please advise me if you can assist and support this effort. Invite a Fellow Past Commodore and see what you are missing. This area is so very rich in yachting and steeped in honor, tradition and values. It is no surprise to hear the desire to renew this District. Thank You.

As you can read for yourself, each of our Directors has included a brief report on the activities, efforts and events within each District. I would invite all of our members to also view each Districts' web site for detailed descriptions of their calendar. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact me as I am willing to support them and assist you.

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you as I traveled the area either by boat or car and hope to continue in 2016. You do not need an invitation to join the fun, as a member of IOBG you have already been invited. I look forward to seeing you at the next IOBG Function.

Thank You for Your Commitment to "Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity"



District 7  
Submitted By:  
Gene McKeown, Past District Director

District has had a busy summer and fall. Following another successful Blue Blazer we added 22 new Past Commodores to our ranks. We all came together in June at the Greater Cleveland Boating Association annual Rendezvous in Huron, Ohio. On Saturday afternoon we hosted a reception for all GCBA members attending the Rendezvous, followed by a steak dinner and then partying under the stars.

Later in June we attended the Inter-Lake Yachting Association Regatta at Put in Bay on South Bass Island, Ohio. Together with District 9 and District 25, we hosted an afternoon reception at the PIB Yacht Club for the I-LYA Commodore, his bridge, and all members of I-LYA attending the Regatta.

Several members of the District traveled to Monroe, Michigan for District 9's monthly Sunday morning breakfast. This is a great get together and an opportunity to see our friends in their home port.

We closed out the summer at our annual Wine Tour in Geneva, Ohio. Geneva is in the heart of Ohio Wine County on the bluffs overlooking the eastern end of Lake Erie. We spent the weekend at the Geneva Lodge and toured four wineries on Saturday afternoon. Dinner at the Lodge and then some great fellowship in our hospitality suite.

District 9  
Larry Inguagiato, District President

The boating season is just about over in the Southeastern Michigan and Northwest Ohio areas. Some of us try to hold on until the bitter end however as cold weather sets in also does the reality that its over for another year. It has been a busy year for the Blue Gavel chapters in our District as much of their activities center around a relatively short boating season.

The District Fall meeting was held at the MBC. At the meeting, there was a sharing of information of activities held at the local chapters. A very popular fundraiser that works well for our chapters is to host dinners at club regattas. Several of our chapters have steak roasts, roast beef dinners, perch sandwiches and one club has a couple of pork chop dinners each year. Monroe boat club also has an annual car show and Mexican dinner.

Since most of the chapters hold various types of fundraisers to help support projects at their own clubs, the District will work this next year on getting information communicated to other club Blue Gavel members on any events a chapter may wish to open to BG members outside of their clubs.

The District is divided into six areas and we were pleased to add TSC P/C Barb Pflighaar as Vice President of the Maumee River Area for this coming year. Barb is closely associated with the clubs in that area and will do a great job for the BG.

As part of our Humanitarian efforts, a \$500 contribution was made earlier in the year to Wertz Warriors, an organization founded by a former Detroit Tiger to benefit the Michigan Special Olympic programs. At the fall meeting, several other potential future contribution recipients were discussed. We will solicit further input from the other chapters in the District to determine if they have any groups they would like us to consider.

District 9 was the host district at this year's I-LYA cocktail and appetizer reception. This is an annual event held at the Power Boat Regatta in August and is sponsored by District 7, 9 and 25. The event was held at Put In Bay Yacht Club to honor the I-LYA Commodore. The Commodore this year is Duane Burgoyne from District 9. This event is open to all P/C's and officers of the clubs in attendance at the Regatta and also those BG members who just want to come over for the day. We had about 100 in attendance.

District 9 Report Continued...

Blue Gavel Districts 7, 9 and 25 joined together to provide pizza on Friday evening of the I-LYA Fall Meeting for those in attendance at the weekend event. This year it was held at the Holiday Inn French Quarter on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a way for our districts to talk to club members and encourage support for the Blue Gavel at their respective clubs.

Our main fundraiser is a football pool, which lasts all season and is based on the scores of the Ohio State University and the University of Michigan. The district nets a profit of around \$600 and is used in part for its Humanitarian efforts.

District 25  
Jim Cyrowski, District Director

District 25 has struggled this past year in maintaining momentum and activities. With our new officers, we will continue to look forward to rebuilding on our past success. The passing of major supporters, Harvey Karpinski, and past District Director Charley Green have hurt our hearts but gives us encouragement to carry on. Just recently we have again lost a pillar of Blue Gavel and GLSBC, Ralph Pennybacker.

Ralph and Barb have carried the Blue Gavel flag high for years, his work ethic cannot be replaced. Fortunately for the Blue Gavel, District 25 enters the New Year with renewed enthusiasm being brought on by our President Bill Woods. Those of us that have worked with Bill, and of course his very active wife Connie, know they will bring the participation every District needs to carry on.

District 25 has started a Humanitarian Fund challenge where we ask each club to raise \$100 for the cause. SunSeekers Boat Club PC's have held a very successful fundraiser for Kids with Hair Loss, with some funds diverted to our District.

Sun Parlour Boat Club PC's, under the direction of President Bill Woods, recently held a BBQ Chicken Dinner to replenish our PC account, and of course, a donation to our District. Another event that attracts diners from all our neighbor clubs is the wildly popular Zukins Ribs and Chicken BBQ at GLSBC. That club's PC's come out enmasse, this year lead by PC Jack Berry. These events show the dedication that District 25 has, and will endeavour to carry on.

We in District 25 look forward to representing the BG proudly, and to encourage PC's of every year to join the BG.

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.

Northeastern V.P.  
Ernie Odierna



Districts  
3, 12, 20,  
26 & 27

District 3  
Lewis Smith, District Director

The District 3 summer cruise was held aboard the Grand Lady tour boat. Over 90 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful evening on the Niagara River. Since this activity is an easy opportunity to take advantage of a majority of our membership being present, our annual meeting and election of officers was incorporated into the event. P/C Steve Tussock was elected President. Although our Past President Paul Schneeberger will stay on as an adviser, his leadership will be missed. Several other new names were also added to our district officers.

At our monthly executive board meeting, Don Peacock, our Treasurer, reported that our latest membership was 67 paid members, down about 50 between 2012 - 2015. After a rather lengthy discussion, we've decided to canvas the local chapters to find out why they didn't pay and to encourage them to return.

District 3 is looking forward to hosting the 2016 Summer regional meeting. Tentative plans are already being discussed. Details will follow later in the year.

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www.commodoreinsignia.com

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

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, black & navy background and the price is \$23.95 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	Navy	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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Southeastern V.P.*  
*“Buzz” Bisanz*



*Districts*  
*8 & 18*

Submitted By:  
Past SEVP Bud Higginson

District 8 held its Annual Meeting at the Venice Yacht Club on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 with great attendance from throughout the District. The election of Executive Committee members was held during the meeting with P/C Shaun Graser being elected President of District 8. All other positions were filled as well.

President Graser announced that the Immediate Past President Bill Pittman, himself and our President-Elect Peter Franck are committed to trying to communicate the traditions of our District 8 members with our entire District. He added that they were hoping that by sharing local traditions with each other that those traditions will live on and be embraced by generations to come.

President Graser then announced the schedule for next year's Regional Meetings as: St Augustine Yacht Club, January 29-30, 2016, Gulf Harbor Yacht, May 20-21, 2016 and the Annual meeting October 7-8, 2016 at Pelican Isle Yacht Club.

In a meeting at Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club attended by myself and President Elect Joe Dowdell, we met with Commodore Mike Sowzak of the Gulfstream Sailing Club of Ft. Lauderdale who expressed an interest in establishing an IOBG Chapter at their club. All information has been forwarded to him and we expect some action in the near future.

District 18 remains optimistic in achieving their goal of reorganizing the District. Efforts are continuing in recruiting more Executive Committee members and various yacht clubs throughout the District.

In preparation of being elected Southeastern Vice President in Marathon, Buzz Bisanz, District 18 Director, attended the last two District 8 meetings in order to become familiar with the members and activities of District 8. The last meeting was held at the Venice Yacht Club on October 2, 2015 which was District 8 Annual Membership meeting where new officers were elected for 2016.

District 8  
Karen Shea, District Director

A follow up has been made with the Key Biscayne Yacht Club to see what can be done to help them in their effort to rejuvenate their IOBG Chapter. At last report, they expected to have their membership application completed and forward to District 8 Treasurer Bob Pease.

P/C William Potts, a former member of the Blue Gavel with the Kent Island Yacht Club in Chester, Maryland has moved to Cape Coral, FL and would like to join District 8 as a member at large. His application has been processed and he is now a member of our District.

District 8 Report Continued...

District 8 Secretary Heather Wood, District 8 Director/SEVP Bud Higginson and International President Elect Joe Dowell attended an event at the Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club sponsored by Lighthouse Yacht Club Chapter of IOBG. Many Blue Gavel members in the area were invited with several members from the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club including their President Hal Bishop in attendance. While at this event, SEVP Bud Higginson met with Commodore Mike Sowzak of Gulfstream Sailing Club who expressed an interest in establishing an IOBG Chapter at their club. All information has been sent to them and we expect to receive their applications in the near future.

District 8 held its annual membership meeting at the Venice Yacht Club on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The business began at 1:00 pm with an Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The minutes of previous meeting was approved and reports were made by the Executive Committee Members. President Bill Pittman gave the Treasurer's report in Bob Pease's absence and reported that we have a balance of \$6528.87 as of 10/1/15 and that we have a total of 224 members from 23 active chapters and 3 members at large. Our budget for next year includes a total of 230 members.

President Bill Pittman then called for an election of the Executive Committee and after determining that we had a quorum present for the election, the votes were tallied and result were as follows: District 8 International Director, Karen Shea, Gulf Harbor Yacht; President Shaun Graser, Venice Yacht Club; President Elect Peter Franck, Pelican Isle Yacht Club; 1st Vice President Doug Case, Vero Beach Yacht Club; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Leonard Tower, Coral Ridge Yacht Club; Secretary Heather Wood, Lighthouse Point Yacht Club and Treasurer Bob Pease, Royal Palm Yacht Club. The Alternate District Director remains vacant. The evening festivities began with a Flag Pole Ceremony followed with cocktails at the Tiki Bar and then dinner in the Sunset Room. International President Elect Joe Dowell had the honors of swearing in the newly elected Executive Committee.

Past President Bill Pittman's parting comments were that District 8 over the past year increased its membership and added two chapters making it very close to being the largest District in the International Order of the Blue Gavel. This was due to the efforts of all involved and even during the period of dues increase where there was some decline in membership in some of the other Districts. President Graser along with President Elect Franck committed to the going forward program of "initiate New Chapters: and "Invigorate Existing Chapters". President Graser also stated that we as a team are committed to communicating the traditions of all our District 8 members with our entire District. He added that they were hoping that by sharing local traditions with each other that those traditions will live on and be embraced by generations to come.

District 18  
Robert 'Buzz' Bisanz, Past District Director  
Dave Kowert, President

After a very busy summer season, there is growing interest in the Blue Gavel once again. A meeting is being planned at Hobcaw Yacht Club to bring together a bunch of Past Commodores to build a strategy to re-engage this Chapter.

Richard is willing to remain as our Treasurer for another year. We hope to finalize positions of Vice President and Secretary. Leading candidates for Vice President are Gary McManus (ChYC) and JD Rosser (Hobcaw).

Secretary is still being recruited and we are talking to several individuals in both clubs.

District 18 Report Continued...

The big hot button in the Charleston Area of District 18 seems to revolve around Junior sailing and we hope to build a strategy that will provide some real organizational visibility around the growing number of Junior Sailors here in the Charleston area. Ideas include having Blue Gavel members coach and chaperone the high school sailing team and potentially raise money for the Community Sailing Association in Charleston which does a great job of training the very young sailors in the area.

As we look forward, 2016 looks like a much better year for the organization. Several individuals (PCs) who have been very favorable to the Blue Gavel in the past are retiring and are looking for new ways to channel their organizational skills into something appear ready to commit to helping build the organization and we are optimistic that we have planted enough "seeds" so the local chapter can grow. Once we get some legs under the local Charleston market we can send ambassadors out to other clubs to further expand the building process.

Finally, we are planning to "pilot" a program offering Blue Gavel experience to any club in South Carolina that needs some outside expertise. We hope that offering to act as unpaid consultants can help improve the visibility as well.

**District 70 - United Kingdom**  
Bill Young, District Director

On Sunday, June 14, 2015, P/P Stephen and Shirley Willing had the good fortune to spend the day in Southampton, England, with District 70 Director Bill and Sue Young.



We had a traditional English Sunday lunch, while reminiscing about, what else, Blue Gavel. A terrific time was had by all! (Submitted By: Shirley Willing)

District 50  
Mark A. Vadaj, District Director

2015 is a very successful year for District 50 with an increase in membership with additional membership on its way. We have not only expanded our total membership but we have expanded or geographic footprint as well. Please Note: District 50 is designed as a Member at Large District for IOBG Members from the Mississippi River to the East Coast, from Maine to Florida and in between to remain an active part of our overall membership. This includes but not limited to; Members of IOBG that may relocate to a part of the U.S. that does not have an active District or Chapter or for those that may find themselves on a continuous cruise or travel that cannot possibly find themselves in one place to be a part of a specific chapter.









Recently we were joined by P/C Gary McGonagle, one of our newest D-50 Members who hailed from Boston where there is not an active Chapter or District and is now cruising the great loop and then some. Gary is the P/C that introduced myself and the IOBG to the Commodores Club of America and the Massachusetts Bay Yacht Clubs Association that we are trying to blend into the IOBG. Gary traveled from Boston to Key West by boat this year but was not able to make it to Marathon for the Annual Meeting.



He writes: Hope you had a great cruising season and all is well. After 3 1/2 months on the move it is nice to be tied to a dock in Stock Island (Key West). This will be our winter home. We were in Marathon for only one night last Saturday. Now it is time for cleaning, maintenance and laundry. That is when we are not doing the Duval Crawl seeing the parrot-heads are in town. One pic is of me and my wife Sue at a friends in Ft. Lauderdale. The other is our boat in her new home.

This is just one of the flexible options for our Members to be a part of IOBG. I can only hope that more Past Commodores who have either left their club, left their IOBG membership or left their area, to remain an active member and enjoy the benefits of IOBG. I want to hear from you. Your Membership matters and is greatly valued. Please contact me and I will personally extend the invitation to "Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity".

**2019-2020  
 EXECUTIVE  
 OFFICERS**

	<p style="text-align: center;">President</p>	<p><b>Sandi Durieux - Dist. 7</b>                  13804 Crescent Cove Ave NE                  Thornville, OH 43076</p> <p>Tel: 740-242-4001                  Cell: 740-334-7675                  Email: <a href="mailto:ssdurieux@columbus.rr.com">ssdurieux@columbus.rr.com</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">President- Elect</p>	<p><b>Al Eiffert - Dist. 1</b>                  39906 Black Mesa Lane                  Palm Desert, CA 92260</p> <p>Tel/Cell: 206-819-5809                  Home: 760-567-8824                  Email: <a href="mailto:meiffert@earthlink.net">meiffert@earthlink.net</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</p>	<p><b>Gary Smith - Dist. 15</b>                  815 Ethel Pl                  National City, CA 91950</p> <p>Tel: 619-479-6292                  Email: <a href="mailto:kathyswyc@aol.com">kathyswyc@aol.com</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</p>	<p><b>Robin Vadaj - Dist. 7</b>                  7505 Thatchum Lane                  Concord, OH 44060</p> <p>Cell: 440-479-0065                  Email: <a href="mailto:robins@metatechsales.com">robins@metatechsales.com</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p>	<p><b>Nancy Kay - Dist. 7</b>                  2112 Campus Drive                  South Euclid, OH 44121</p> <p>Home: 216-382-7123                  Email: <a href="mailto:seawind@stratos.net">seawind@stratos.net</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p>	<p><b>Audrey Hall - Dist. 15</b>                  2063 Grandview St.                  Oceanside, CA 92054</p> <p>Home: 760-757-6796                  Email: <a href="mailto:hulakai2@cox.net">hulakai2@cox.net</a></p>





## International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary

*President Sandi Durieux*



First, I would like to thank President Joe Dowdell and Lady June Thacker for a wonderful annual meeting. His committee and Marathon Yacht Club did a great job. All were extremely kind and friendly to us all...and the food was delicious. On a personal note, I won a swim with the dolphins day. That was topped off by my becoming an honorary member of the Conch Republic at the Change of Watch dinner. A high honor indeed.

For the first time in a while, the Auxiliary has an almost full slate of officers. We are missing only a Southeast director. If anyone in that area would like to volunteer it would be greatly appreciated. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the job.

Our spring meeting will be June 9-11 in Portland, Oregon. The summer meeting will be in Buffalo, New York, August 18-21 and our annual meeting will be in Marina Del Ray, California, October 20-24. We would love to see as many of you there as possible. Information for these meetings can be found on our website [www.iobga.org](http://www.iobga.org)

Also on that website is information about the Humanitarian fund and how they support local charities.

I am looking forward to being your president and seeing as many of you as possible in the future.



District 1 IOBGA  
Gretchen Emerson, President

Hi...my name is Gretchen Emerson and I am honored to be the new President of IOBGA District 1. My home boating club is Tacoma Outboard Association in Tacoma, Washington.

I would like to introduce you to our 2016 Board

Regional Director Mike Meyers - Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma  
President Gretchen Emerson – Tacoma Outboard Association  
Vice President Shelly Kester – Kingston Cove Yacht Club  
Secretary Theresa Gano – Carling Yacht Club  
Treasurer Laurie Martinson – Tacoma Outboard Association  
Historian John Gordon – West Seattle Yacht Club  
Sunshine Chairman – Lee Lightle – West Seattle Yacht Club



In 2014 we added a new foundation to our list; C.A.S.T. For Kids and with the support of both District 1's IOBG and IOBGA we were able to provide a substantial cash donation to all three of our charities. Make A Wish, Wishing Star and the new kid in the block - C.A.S.T. For Kids

At each meeting items and gift baskets are donated by each yacht club and the raffles are very competitive and fun. We also encourage our members to go to their individual yacht clubs and promote IOBG/IOBGA to share ideas and promote our fundraising goals for all those children, Past President Janice Kutz donated metal art and Historian John Gordon makes beautiful wood bowls and containers out of wood which they donate at silent auction. When it comes time to mail those checks to our foundations it is a very proud and fulfilling experience.

The 2015 spring meeting was hosted by Spokane Yacht Club in Post Falls, Idaho. Our summer picnic was in Anacortes, Washington in August, and our Change of Watch fall meeting was hosted by Tacoma Outboard Association in September. IOBG/IOBGA District 1 continues to support all IOBG Districts and International. Our organization is a dedicated group, we support our members and most all of our needs to help others. I feel blessed to be part of this organization.



From IOBGA District 1, we wish you all the best and safest 2016-2017 Cruising Season.



# 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.



## Humanitarian Foundation 2016 Officers & Board

Joan Marsh	jmarsh6607@yahoo.com	Pittsburg, CA	President & CEO
Carol Promessi	cpromessi@comcast.net	Pittsburg, CA	Vice President
Jackie Evans Rudd	jerry10jackie8@gmail.com	Auburn, WA	Treasurer & CFO
Dr. Julie Albright	recherche2@gmail.com	Los Angeles, CA	Secretary
Joel Newman	Not Available	Cleveland, OH	Legal Officer
Jerry Rudd	jerry10jackie8@gmail.com	Auburn, WA	Supply Officer
Robert "Buzz" Bisanz	buzz8521@comcast.net	Woodstock, GA	Director
Jerry Key	jkeysails@aol.com	Wickliffe, OH	Director
Lani Lightle	lanilightle44@gmail.com	Seattle, WA	Director
LaVon Plumlee	lavon@nyclb.com	Westminster, CA	Director
Gary & Audrey Hall	hulakai2@cox.net	Oceanside, CA	Ambassador
Harold Weaver	thphotos@aol.com	Detroit, MI	Ambassador
David Welles	Not Available	Staten Island, NY	Ambassador

Submitted By:  
Carol Promessi, HF Vice President  
&  
Past IOBG International President

The mission of the Foundation states that it provides the boating community the ability to create real differences in others' lives. It provides resources to existing charities and benefits the communities through new initiatives involving boating activities. So, what does that really mean to you? It means that there is, within the Blue Gavel organization, a 501(c)(3) Charitable and Educational entity that can help you in your community service efforts.

A community project that your district, chapter or yacht club is interested in helping can apply to the Foundation for funds to implement their program. The individual contributions by members that are not tax deductible when the club collects them will be deductible when they are donated directly to the Foundation. We hope this sounds interesting to you and that you will want additional information.

A specific community service program is not a prerequisite--your contributions to the Foundation are already helping others. This year the Foundation has provided funding for a summer sailing program benefiting students from the community's elementary and middle schools at Huntington Harbor Yacht Club in District 10. In District 5, we funded Next Door which partners with Safe Kids Columbia Gorge, to purchase 320 life jackets for the kiosks. The goals for this program are to increase life jacket wear during water-based activities by having a variety of PFDs readily available at major water play areas where boating and swimming are undertaken. The most recent grant was approved for District 16 for The Channel Islands Maritime Museum for the Youth Navigation Exhibit that benefits their Youth Education Programs, to focus on history and marine science. The Youth Learning Center will be learning chart reading and celestial navigation on land and on a boat. At the present time we still are awaiting more information on the project from District 7 for the Lake County Yacht Club for the event "Len Anderson Dean Palmer Day" and District 11, for the Life Sail Program. Your contributions make these things possible.



Recently LaVon Plumlee, District #10 Director, had their IOBG dinner at the Long Beach Yacht Club for the presentation of the HF Foundation check for the Huntington Harbour Sailing Foundation .

In the photo from left to right: LaVon Plumlee, District Director, District 10; Dr. Mark Monroe, President; Tracy Lee, Huntington Harbour Sailing Foundation Fundraising Director; Bill McCormick, Executive Director, Sailing Foundation; plus Huntington Harbour Yacht Club Flag Officers: Kimberley Harrison, Commodore, Jon Schmidt, Vice Commodore; and Dean Oliver Rear Commodore.

There are still challenges ahead and the need for donations to continue. Please consider sending a contribution directly to the Humanitarian Foundation by using our easy and secure online donation link found on the HF web site's home page.

We also, need you to get involved in the Foundation as an Ambassador or as a Director and also the Auxiliary in your area. Please take a moment and go the IOBG-HF website at [www.iobg-hf.org](http://www.iobg-hf.org) and take a look at what we do.

**We want to move forward and we need your help!**

## 2016 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>#1 PRESIDENT-Northwest</b><br/>Jim Martinson (Laurie)<br/>2911 Briarwood Ct S<br/>Puyallup, WA 98374<br/>Tel: 253-841-0142<br/>Cell: 253-318-4162<br/>jimandlaurieto@comcast.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Jeanne Gordon (John)<br/>10906 SE 179<sup>th</sup> PL<br/>Renton, WA 98055-6561<br/>Tel: 425-226-8872<br/>Cell: 206-790-5421<br/>gordon5050@comcast.net</p>            | <p><b>#8 PRESIDENT - Southeast</b><br/>Shaun D. Grazer (Paula)<br/>628 Cadiz Road<br/>Venice, FL 34285<br/>Tel: 941-488-0445<br/>sdgrazer1@verizon.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Heather Wood<br/>1800 Embassy Drive #108<br/>West Palm Beach, FL 33401<br/>Tel: 561-201-7763<br/>guns2lace@comcast.net</p>  | <p><b>#16 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Sheldon Berger (Nancy)<br/>2011 Jamestown Way<br/>Oxnard, CA 93035<br/>Tel: 805-312-7653<br/>shelly@beachhomes.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Karen Lorenz (Alan)<br/>Tel: 626-641-7241<br/>herway2560@yahoo.com</p>  | <p><b>#24 PRESIDENT- Northwest</b><br/>Carol Zumpano<br/>60 Calgary Ave.<br/>Pentiction, BC V2A 2T6<br/>Canada<br/>Tel: 250-292-8750<br/>czumpano@vip.net<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/>skicondo@telus.net</p>  |
| <p><b>#2 PRESIDENT - Canada</b><br/>Ed Ackerman (Marilyn)<br/>308-10461 Resthaven Dr.<br/>Sidney, BC<br/>Canada V8L 3H6<br/>Tel: 250-656-7799<br/>Fax: 250-656-1242<br/>eimut88@shaw.ca<br/><b>SECRETARY/TREASURER</b><br/>John Biggs (Carole)<br/>6406 McKenzie Dr.<br/>Duncan, BC<br/>Canada V9L 5R9<br/>Tel: 250-746-4941<br/>Bus: 250-754-8435<br/>johncarole@shaw.com</p>         | <p><b>#9 PRESIDENT- North Central</b><br/>Larry Inguagiato (Mary Kay)<br/>c/o Monroe Boat Club<br/>7932 N Harbor Drive<br/>Monroe, MI 48161<br/>Cell: 419-819-0484<br/>larry.inguagiato@mac.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Jack White (Joanne)<br/>P.O. Box 95<br/>LaSalle, MI 48145<br/>Tel: 419-893-6730<br/>Cell: 419-261-2329<br/>commodorej@aol.com</p>  | <p><b>#18 PRESIDENT- Southeast</b><br/>Dave Kowert (Christie)<br/>1236 Oak Hill Terrace<br/>Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466<br/>Tel: 843-412-0137<br/>davekowert@bellsouth.net<br/><b>SECRETARY/TREASURER</b><br/>Open</p>  | <p><b>#25 PRESIDENT- North Central</b><br/>William Woods (Connie)<br/>1704 Balfour Blvd<br/>Windsor, ON<br/>Canada N8T 2S1<br/>Cell: 519-800-1626<br/>woods@searose1.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>John Rose (Fran)<br/>21667 Meridian<br/>Grosse Ile, MI 48183<br/>Tel: 734-676-4387<br/>jivycrose06@hotmail.com</p>  |
| <p><b>#3 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>Paul Schneeberger (Susan)<br/>11 Bywater Ct.<br/>Williamsville, NY 14221<br/>Tel: 716-688-3032<br/>paulschneeberger@msn.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Gerald Hathaway (Arlene)<br/>28 Niagara Shore Dr<br/>Tonawanda, NY 14150<br/>Tel: 716-693-1739<br/>reanjer@aol.com</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/>romida777@yahoo.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Joyce Jackson<br/>4380 Johanna Ave<br/>Lakewood, CA 90713<br/>Tel: 562-377-0056<br/>joyceevelyn@verizon.net</p> | <p><b>#19 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Roger Beebe (Mickey Johnson)<br/>1104 Nantucket Place<br/>Modesto, CA 95355<br/>Tel: 209-521-1400<br/>Bus: 209-484-2666<br/>rbeebe@mymea culpa.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</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/>e.levine@redsail2.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>James E. Oxley III (Loretta)<br/>1202 Magnolia Ct<br/>Hackettstown, NJ 07840<br/>Tel: 908-850-5265<br/>Bus: 973-906-8966<br/>jeo111@att.net</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/>rdefieux@shaw.ca<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/>bettyharrispeake@hotmail.com</p> | <p><b>#11 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Susana Hernandez Arabic<br/>3922 Minerva Avenue<br/>Los Angeles, CA 90066<br/>Tel: 310-391-3733<br/>shernandezar@hotmail.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Lisa Falk (Marty)<br/>120 S Juanita #5<br/>Redondo Beach, CA 90277<br/>Tel: 310-780-1255<br/>kaholo@earthlink.net</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/>staszziel@aol.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</p>  | <p><b>#27 PRESIDENT- Northeast</b><br/>Jack Fitzgerald (Sandy)<br/>3802 Hazel Ct<br/>Abingdon, MD 21009<br/>Tel: 410-671-6870<br/>fitzandcompany@aol.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Frank Abbott (Peggy Adams)<br/>116 Jupiter Road<br/>Neward, DE 19711<br/>Tel: 302-593-8095<br/>fabbott102@aol.com</p>   |
| <p><b>#5 PRESIDENT-Northwest</b><br/>Mike Kondrat (Chris)<br/>1445 NW 116<sup>th</sup> Ave<br/>Portland, OR 97229<br/>Tel: 503-644-4816<br/>Cell: 503-819-2775<br/>mike@kondrats.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Bill McKinney (Margo)<br/>15100 NE 12<sup>th</sup> Way<br/>Vancouver, WA 98684<br/>Tel: 360-953-8835<br/>Cell: 503-539-8748<br/>billmckinney3@aol.com</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/>sailcore@att.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</p>   | <p><b>#21 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Richard Price<br/>416-2 Via Lido Nord<br/>Newport Beach, CA 92663<br/>Tel/Fax: 949-922-2473<br/>bluegavel21@gmail.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</p>   | <p><b>#70 PRESIDENT- England</b><br/>Ron Judd (Caroline Dodd)<br/>Crofters Cottage 41 Glyn 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/>bluesil@hotmail.com</p>   |
| <p><b>#6 PRESIDENT - Southwest</b><br/>Ellis Abram (Cathy Pratt)<br/>45-423 Ihilani Street<br/>Kaneohe, HI 96744<br/>Tel: 808-247-1746<br/>Tel: 808-382-0650<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Donna B. Salisbury (Ed)<br/>98-988 Palula Way<br/>Aiea, HI 96701<br/>Cell: 808-256-3731<br/>Tel: 808-485-0002<br/>donnaed@earthlink.net</p>  | <p><b>#14 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Mike West (Susie)<br/>P.O. Box 1226<br/>Ripon, CA 95366<br/>Tel: 209-233-6210<br/>westmike2003@yahoo.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</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/>dploughran@comcast.net<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/>Bill Mitchinson (Myrna)<br/>4 Bannockburn Lane<br/>Bethlehem<br/>Tauranga, 3110 New Zealand<br/>Tel: 0064-75791098<br/>Bus: 0064-277173724<br/>chrisandlorna1@xtra.co.nz<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Christine Conn (Martin)<br/>65 Omokoroa Country Estate<br/>Private Bag 12026<br/>Tauranga, 3141 New Zealand<br/>Tel: 0064-75481400<br/>Bus: 0064-274791871<br/>bluegavel@gmail.com</p> |
| <p><b>#7 PRESIDENT - North Central</b><br/>Rich McKee Jr. (Beth)<br/>5965 Olive Ave<br/>North Ridgeville, OH 44039<br/>Tel: 216-509-2862<br/>bethelou2@aol.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Dominique Sorbo (Rick)<br/>1707 East Erie Ave<br/>Lorain, OH 44052<br/>Tel: 419-288-8470<br/>Cell: 419-370-3484<br/>Radfsorbo@roadrunner.com</p>   | <p><b>#15 PRESIDENT- Southwest</b><br/>Jim Jenkins (Tamara)<br/>1429 Calle Marbella<br/>Oceanside, CA 92056<br/>Tel: 760-910-4141<br/>Cel: 760-967-3975<br/>roughiron@cox.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Ned Knight<br/>P.O. Box 6577<br/>San Diego, CA 92116<br/>Tel: 619-847-4426<br/>nednight3@yahoo.com</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/>bksapita@frontier.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Don Schorffhaar (Sue)<br/>9829 High Banks Drive<br/>Cheboygan, MI 49721<br/>Tel: 231-627-2908<br/>dschorffhaar@earthlink.net</p> |   |



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