

# THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The  
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores



Volume 38 No. 1

December 2016

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.



2017 Executive Committee



P/P Carol Promessi - MC



Getty Museum Tour



Thank You to  
P/P Joe Dowdell



2017 Auxiliary Executive Committee



2017 Humanitarian Foundation Officers & Board



Annual Meeting  
Saturday, October 22, 2016



**2017 Executive Committee**



**PRESIDENT**

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bgtreas@iobg.org

**IOBG  
2017 Winter Regional Meeting**

**March 3 & 4, 2017**



Clearwater Yacht Club

830 South Bayway Blvd

Clearwater, Florida 33767

727-447-6000

Web Site: [www.clwyc.org](http://www.clwyc.org)

The IOBG Winter Regional Meeting, March 3 - 4, 2017 will be hosted by the Clearwater Yacht Club in Clearwater Beach, FL (Tampa, FL metro area). Schedule your arrival for Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Room reservations are encouraged now since this time frame is "In Season". The Chart House hotel with our block of rooms is located directly next door to the Clearwater Yacht Club.

**Hotel Reservation Deadline: February 1, 2017**

See the hotel reservation information on next page...



## GROUP BOOKING RATES

### **IOBG 2017 Winter Regional Meeting**

**March 2 - 4, 2017**

Chart House Suites and Marina  
850 Bayway Boulevard Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

**Call For Reservations: 1-877-242-7899**

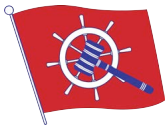
Mention: International Order of the Blue Gavel

Email: [Sales@charhousesuites.com](mailto:Sales@charhousesuites.com) Web Site: [www.charhousesuites.com](http://www.charhousesuites.com)

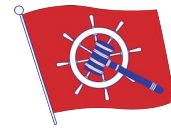
Contact: Diane Bates, Manager 727-449-8007

2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed with Bay View	\$192.10 total per night (includes 13% tax)
Queen Suite with Bay View (2 Queen Beds with Queen Sofa Bed)	\$220.35 total per night (includes 13% tax)
King Suite with Pool View (1 King Bed with Queen Sofa Bed)	\$209.05 total per night (includes 13% tax)

**Hotel Reservation Deadline: February 1, 2017**



# 2017 IOBG Winter Regional Meeting



March 3 & 4, 2017

**Hosted by: Clearwater Yacht Club, 830 South Bayway Blvd, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767**

Local Contact:	PC Hoyt Nichols	727-595-5899	hoyt.cpa@gte.net
District 8 Director:	PC Karen Shea	727-389-0675	ltsheak@gmail.com
IOBG SE Vice Pres:	PC Buzz Bisanz	770-337-8701	buzz8521@comcast.net

Note: The Clearwater Yacht Club prefers payment by credit cards. Accepted cards are American Express, Mastercard, VISA and Discover.

## Thursday, March 2

- 3:00 PM Check into room at Chart House Suites and Marina
- 5:30 – 9:00 PM IOBG Meeting Registration Desk at Clearwater Yacht Club
- 6:30 PM Dinner available at Clearwater Yacht Club – Dinner Special - Shrimp & Pasta (Yacht Club Casual)

## Friday, March 3

- 9:00 AM Meetings for both IOBG Executive Committee and the Auxiliary Executive Committee at the Clearwater Yacht Club (Uniform-Summer Whites)
- 10:30 AM Area Vice Presidents meet at Clearwater Yacht Club
- Noon Open Lunch Menu at Clearwater Yacht Club or Downtown Clearwater Beach
- 1:00 PM Explore Clearwater Beach (Transportation: <http://www.clearwaterjolleytrolley.com/> )
- 6:00 PM Cocktails – Bar available at Clearwater Yacht Club (Yacht Club casual)
- 7:00 PM Dinner – Off the Menu at Clearwater Yacht Club - Live Music until 10:30 PM (Yacht Club casual)

## Saturday, March 4

- 9:30 AM Winter Regional IOBG General Meeting and Regional IOBGA General Meeting at Clearwater Yacht Club (Uniform-Summer Whites)  
All IOBG Members Encouraged to Attend
- Noon Open Lunch Menu at Clearwater Yacht Club
- 1:00 PM IOBG Humanitarian Foundation Meeting at Clearwater Yacht Club
- 1:00 PM Casual Time (Transportation: <http://www.clearwaterjolleytrolley.com/> )
- 6:00 PM Dinner Cruise - Must Have Reservations Through IOBG Group (Yacht Club Casual)

## Sunday, March 5

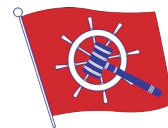
- 9:00 AM – 12 Noon Breakfast available at Clearwater Yacht Club: \$10 Depart for Home



## Registration Form

### 2017 IOBG Winter Regional Meeting

**March 3 & 4, 2017**



Hosted by: Clearwater Yacht Club, 830 South Bayway Blvd, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

**Registration Deadline: February 1, 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

IOBG Office Held (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check as applicable): Member of: IOBG \_\_\_\_\_ IOBGA \_\_\_\_\_ Humanitarian Foundation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Reservation Purposes List the # Planning on Attending the Events Below:**

Friday Lunch at Clearwater YC # \_\_\_\_\_ Order off Menu or Off Premises in Clearwater \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner at Clearwater YC # \_\_\_\_\_ Order off Menu \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch at Clearwater YC # \_\_\_\_\_ Sandwich Lunch \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Dinner – Dinner Cruise # \_\_\_\_\_ \$55.00/person for dinner & cruise Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(Make check payable to: Clearwater Yacht Club)**

**Note:** For all other charges at the Clearwater Yacht Club please use credit cards. Accepted cards are American Express, MasterCard, VISA and Discover.

**Announcement:** Schedule Your Arrival on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Contact is PC Hoyt Nichols with any questions (727-595-5899)

Room reservations are encouraged **“now”** since this meeting time frame is “In Season”.  
The Chart House Hotel with our block of rooms is located directly next door to the Clearwater Yacht Club.

**Call Now for Reservations:** 1-877-242-7899. **Mention: IOBG** **Deadline: February 1, 2017**

Local Contact:	PC Hoyt Nichols	727-595-5899	hoyt.cpa@gte.net
District 8 Director:	PC Karen Shea	727-389-0675	ltsheak@gmail.com
IOBG SE Vice Pres:	PC Buzz Bisanz	770-337-8701	buzz8521@comcast.net

**Send Registration form & check by February 1, 2017 to:**

PC Hoyt Nichols  
Clearwater Yacht Club  
830 South Bayway Blvd  
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767



## *President Rosalie Davis Green*

Thank you Immediate Past President Joe Dowdell for your steady leadership in 2016. I take the helm knowing the organization is on a good course. At the Fall Regional Meeting in Marina Del Rey, CA we had a spirited discussion about the IOBG image in our recreational boating community. How do we think we are seen and how would we like to be seen. We heard from the discussion many districts are making positive contributions but we aren't sharing the news. Almost every community has yachting news be it a section in a general newspaper or a separate boating publication. The more we are recognized as a positive contributor to the yachting community the more we are an attraction for members and potential members. Let's make sure our positive activities are in the news.

Our Executive Board is engaged in the process of reevaluating our focus as an organization to determine if our direction, plans and goals are in concert with member's desires and needs. Two membership issues stand out that are areas of concern. They are decreasing active participation in district activities and a high rate of non-renewal after the first year of membership. Under the leadership of First Vice President Bud Higginson, the Area Vice Presidents are preparing a survey to obtain direct feedback from the districts. Please participate and let us know your opinion.

We hope the survey will shed some light on how to approach these concerns. Once the data is gathered and aggregated, it will be shared with the membership. The Executive Board will gather data; provide guidance and support and information to the districts. It will then be up to the districts to review the information and determine how to use it to strengthen the district. In IOBG, most of the activity takes place at the local level. You, the members, have considerable influence in shaping the role of IOBG in your community. Grab hold and own your role. Take the action necessary to create the district you want.

**2016 Annual  
Meeting  
Marina del Rey,  
California**

**October 19 - 22, 2016**

















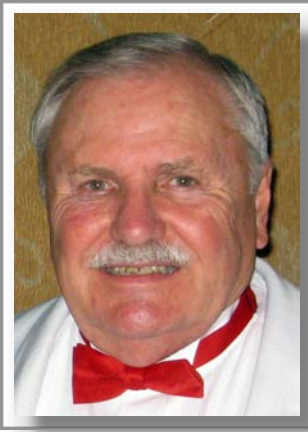












## *President - Elect Tony Durieux*

I want to thank everyone for coming to our 2016 change of watch. We are here to honor and thank past President Joe Dowell for his leadership and his many years of service to the International Order of the Blue Gavel. We also want to wish him well as he becomes the newest member of THE OLD GUARD, our distinguished past presidents.

Now, it is time to welcome our new president Rosalie Davis-Green and wish her calm winds and following seas as she takes the helm as our new president.

Each year, we talk about, retention and growth. This is also the time of the year our district executive boards give serious thought to the recruitment of our newest chapter past Commodores. This can be as easy as a personal visit with each chapter past Commodore. In addition, a good rule of thumb is, if your district has 15 chapters your growth should be very close to 15 new members. We might also say, if your district had more chapters, your recruitment potential becomes much greater.

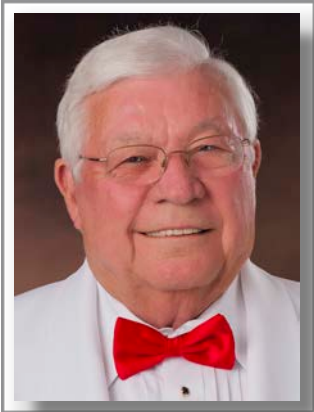
I would like to throw out a challenge to each district. Grow your district by one chapter next year and make a long-term commitment to increase your chapter growth by one every year. The thought is there is safety in numbers.

Please remember, your district has to be a fun experience for all and as always include the Blue Gavel family when planning district activities. Ask yourself, would my spouse or significant other enjoy this get together? I do not mean just a picnic. Include them in your plans for a service project or fundraiser. Your spouse or significant other will take as much pride in its success as you do.

Work with your Auxiliary to help plan district activities. By way of a suggestion, form a joint committee whose primary job is to keep the district energized and engaged.

If all of this sounds like a lot of work for a few people, broaden your e-board. Form committees from your chapters. Get more people involved. Everything you do at this point is positive and shows how inviting and desirable it would be to be a member of the Blue Gavel.

In closing, let us work to make 2017 a very successful growth year.



## *First Vice President Bud Higginson*

Member retention: The reduction in membership over the last several years, i.e. down from approximately 4,000 to approximately 1500/1600 members today is concerning. It is not only IOBG with the problem, other organizations have the same thing. Why does this problem exist? Members have other interests (activities) to be involved in and don't have interest in the same old things offered by their chapter.

Groups that keep updating their programs do not have a retention problem. Surveys and studies have been made in the past to try to resolve this problem with some success, but that has not totally solved the problem. What if areas of IOBG shared with each other what programs they are doing to keep their members interested and active?

In 2013, District 8 took a survey of all the activities or what each of the chapters was doing and published the results for all the chapters to see. The results were very good with some of the chapters using the activities of other chapters to create interest. It was especially good for younger and new chapters to get started on the right foot. A similar type of survey on an area/district bases might be useful.

With the blessing of the Executive Committee, the project began to move forward with the Area Vice Presidents taking the lead with the assistance of the district directors and others. The survey will be completed during the first quarter of 2017 with the results published for all to see and hopefully be used by some chapters to help reduce the decline in membership.

It is up to all of us to identify the areas of need and make a concentrated effort to resolve the issues. That will be one of my goals for the upcoming year.

## *To our photographers...thank you for the memories...*



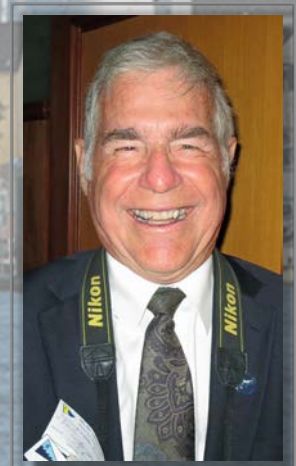
*Mary Nye Meyers*

*Phil Promessi*



*Vern Bendsen*

*Mike  
Blumenthal*





## *Second Vice President Sherry Barone*

I want to congratulate Rosalie-Davis Green as our new IOBG President and thank Joe Dowdell for his guidance this past year.



The Southwestern region adopted a pilot "On-line Dues Renewal" program for 2017. District 11, Santa Monica Bay Area, has agreed to host the pilot program and a link is on the IOBG web page. Thank you Director Susana Hernandez Araico and President Sheila Anderson for volunteering to host our pilot program as well as Mary Nye Meyers for creating the on-line application and server hosting. District 11 will now have the opportunity to pay either by mail or on-line. There is a slight on-line transition fee of \$1.95 to pay on-line.



I have challenged the Southwestern Districts at the annual meeting to grow 20% in 2017. I know new Southwestern AVP Kathy Smith will continue to grow the membership, enjoy IOBG and will do a terrific job.

The annual meeting in Marina Del Rey, California was a lot of fun as Rosalie-Davis Green was inducted as President of IOBG at our home yacht club Del Rey Yacht club (DRYC). The meeting was kicked off by DRYC Commodore Josh Merel welcoming IOBG to DRYC.

LaVon Plumlee, District 10 Director, co-hosted the annual meeting with District 11 Director Susana Hernandez Araico. The activities such as a harbor cruise in Long Beach to a tour of the Getty Museum as well as wonderful dinners at Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club, Long Beach Yacht club and the Del Rey

Yacht Club Gala were enjoyed by all the attendees. We enjoyed reconnecting with old friends as well as meeting new friends. Rosalie concluded the meetings with a break out discussion session to help grow IOBG which was wonderful.

The new Think Tank group was formed and working towards recruiting more international members including Ireland, Australia and Holland. Our mission is to grow membership, energize/appreciate our members to participate and join IOBG and think "outside of the box" for long term sustainment and growth. A new introductory letter, application and on-line form was created for potential members outside of North America. There are a few of our members traveling this month and next and trying the new pilot program. To view the new form/letter, visit the IOBG home page and scroll down to the middle of the page. There you will find the

Please note that this form uses a secure and protected system that guarantees the safety of your information. Please be assured that we will not share or sell any of your information from this online form. The information gathered is for the exclusive use of IOBG only. We respect your privacy. A big thanks to Mary Nye Meyers our Communications Director for creating and hosting the new on-line applications.

I have enjoyed getting to know and represent the Southwestern area districts, chapters and yacht clubs over the past 2 years. Let's continue to grow IOBG membership and enjoy events. I am looking forward to my newly elected position as IOBG Second Vice President.

## *Past President, Joe Dowdell*



Serving as your President for the past year has been an honor and pleasure. Thanks to everyone for all the help and cooperation I received. I passed the gavel to Rosalie Davis Green secure in the knowledge that her enthusiasm and leadership effort will be rewarded by the renewed dedication of all the officers to support her and our mission.



The 2016 Annual Meeting was very successful. Rosalie and Gary and their volunteers from Districts 10 and 11 did an excellent job planning all the events for the Annual Meeting. A big Thank You to the Del Ray Yacht Club for serving as the host club, providing the meeting accommodations, box lunches, buffet lunches and the installation banquet. Thanks also to the Long Beach Yacht Club and the Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club for their dinners and hospitality. A good time was had by all. Congratulations to Rosalie and the 2017 Executive Committee and all the IOBG Officers.

To all the members; it has been a privilege to serve as International President of the International Order of the Blue Gavel for the year 2016. Thank you for letting me be your 2016 President

Looking back over the past year, some of the highlights of the Executive Committee actions that were ratified at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting were updating the brochure, adopting a program to directly bill all members of districts who asks for that assistance, or those districts whose membership rolls decreased by more than 20% from the 2014 base year, and adopting a program to provide membership cards to non-North American members for \$11 annual dues payment.

Of those, I consider the most labor intensive and most important accomplishment to be the updating of the brochure. The brochure we have been using for years was in sore need of updating. The Executive Committee over the course of several months undertook that chore. President-Elect Rosalie Davis Green led the effort and with input from Bud Higginson and others, we went through the revision drafts word by word, paragraph by paragraph and picture by picture. I think we were up to draft version #16 before we approved the final version for printing and distribution. The new brochure has been very well received. The feedback has been very complimentary.

I first became a member of the International Order of the Blue Gavel in 1983 when the Marathon Yacht Club Chapter received its charter. Many years have passed since then and my membership in Blue Gavel continues to be an extremely rewarding experience. We became friends with many Past Commodores and their significant others as we shared many fun times and delightful excursions together. We look forward to many more such memorable get-togethers with the friends we have come to know

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.



## *Treasurer Marshall Nemoy*

Financial Results: I presented the financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 to the members attending the Annual Meeting sessions at Marina del Rey in Los Angeles, California. IOBG had a net income of \$34,010 which is \$4,102 lower than last year at the same date. This occurred by lower than expected dues collections and expenses that exceeded budget. In spite of this we were able to increase our cash reserves and our total equity. The reasons vary according to the subject. The discussions of each activity will shed more light on the changes in the Balance Sheet.

International Operations Center: Dues collections for this activity were \$1,845 lower than budget and \$2,973 lower than last year. In addition, less people subscribed to the Log this year. Total expenses were \$560 lower than budgeted but \$767 higher than last year. Most of the variance from year to year was due to timing differences in payment of routine expenses.

Executive Committee: Most of the expense of this activity involves the travel budget. This year the total expenses were \$4,591 lower than budgeted but \$4,816 greater than last year. This occurs each year because the February and August meetings are in alternating years. This year we did not have a February meeting but did have a meeting in August.

Annual Meeting: This activity occurs in October. However, expenses related to the event are disbursed earlier in the year to the host committee and are purchased in advance of the meeting dates. As of September 30 the activity has spent \$316 less than was anticipated and \$57 more than last year at this date. The bulk of the expenses will occur in October and November.

Area Vice Presidents: Again, this activity has not spent the funds that were allotted to it. As of September 30, the total expenses are \$7,191 lower than budget and \$2,949 less than last year. The accounting for this activity was slightly modified by splitting the travel between travel within their area of responsibility and travel to attend Regional Meetings.

Communications Group: The activity which includes The Blue Gavel Log, The Lighthouse and our web site has stayed within their budget and has spent less than last year. The drop in subscriptions may be due to more members accepting the electronic version of The Blue Gavel Log.

The membership statistics: As of September 30, 2016 the report shows we lost 36 members this year. The Executive Committee has instructed the Treasurer to send dues billings for 2017 directly to the members of districts whose membership has dropped by 20 % or more. Such bills will be sent in early January of each year. The practice has been employed with districts that have suffered a lack of leadership and asked the IOC to assist thus allowing those members who wished to maintain their membership to do so conveniently.

2017 Budget: The 2017 Budget was discussed at the Annual Meeting and approved by a vote of the board of directors. The dues for 2017 will be \$50 per year. The approved budget contained slightly more expenses than revenues. While such an action was within the resources of the organization, if such a practice continues, it will not be possible to hold the dues at the \$50 per year rate.

2017 Dues: Dues are due in January of each year. As an accommodation to those who fly south for the winter, we will make every effort to get you your card as soon as possible. However, keep in mind we must wait until we have all the materials in place such as the president's letter before we can issue cards. For those who have already sent in their 2017 dues remember we must receive the dues from your district treasurer before we can process your card. If you have not received your 2017 membership card by early December, contact your district treasurer. District treasurers are provided a list of members receiving membership cards on the same date as the card is mailed to the member.

We thank all the district treasurers for their assistance in processing all the membership data during the year. Now that the days are getting shorter and the nights colder it is time for all the holiday celebrations. May your holidays be filled with happiness and joy.



*US Sailing Representative*  
*Mark Hansen*

Here is some US Sailing information from our new US Sailing Representative Mark Hansen...

**US Sailing Upcoming Important Dates and Information:**

US Sailing National Conference, Feb.14-15, 2017, Austin, TX. The conference is a unique opportunity for members to meet with US Sailing's leadership and exchange ideas on relevant topics facing the sport.

More info: [www.ussailing.org/events/symposium-and-meetings/national-conference/](http://www.ussailing.org/events/symposium-and-meetings/national-conference/)

National Sailing Programs Symposium, Feb.16-18, Austin, TX. The premier event for sailing education, bringing together program directors, instructors and parents.

More info: <http://nsps.ussailing.org>

New "Start Sailing" web site. The new site offers visitors an easy to follow introductory view of sailing, including information on types of sailboats, the basics of sailing and how to get access to boats and lessons. More information: <http://www.startsailing.org>

Safety at Sea Seminars

[www.ussailing.org/education/safety-at-sea/find-a-seminar-near-you/](http://www.ussailing.org/education/safety-at-sea/find-a-seminar-near-you/)





I went to both District 1 and District 5 change of watch meetings in September. They both have a common issue of membership growth and retention. District 1 is planning to send letters to past commodores to explain what Blue Gavel is all about and invite them to contact us and attend our functions. Along with a copy of our new brochure and aggressive follow up I think this will help.

District 5 continues to do a terrific job with their IOBG Nautical Safety Foundation. They have a website that I invite you to check out. It is at <http://www.iobg-nsf.org/>. While you are at it you should also check out the IOBG Humanitarian website at <http://iobg-hf.org>.

Now here is something most people don't know. If you use Amazon to shop you should sign up for AmazonSmile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. So far they have donated over 32 million dollars to charities and both the Nautical Safety Foundation and the Humanitarian Fund are choices you can make. It will cost you nothing.

1. You must first have an Amazon account set up.
2. You will then need to log onto [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to create an AmazonSmile account. You can then enter "International Order of the Blue Gavel". You will have 2 choices to pick from; The Humanitarian Fund or the National Safety Foundation.
3. Then, whenever you shop on Amazon, be sure to log on using [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so the donation will automatically go to the charity of your choice.

We are all looking for ways to improve our membership but it got me thinking – how did Ev Henry start this wonderful organization to begin with? In 1953 he put together an organization that in one year spread to Canada and eventually 10 other nations. I wonder what sales pitch he and his crew used to make such gains so fast. What procedure did they follow? Of course those were different times but to make such gains in such a short time is remarkable. Maybe we should look through our archives to see if there is any information that would help us today.

The last reports by Tony Durieux and Bud Higginson were inspiring and I hope to pass along ideas to build our membership in the Northwest. We cannot expect our organization to thrive without the continuous efforts by all.

Ahoy from District 1,

We in District 1 had a fairly busy 2016 after a Winter's nap. In April we had our Spring District Meeting in Yakima, Washington. We had good attendance and made progress on membership issues, and plans for the balance of the year. One of the highlights for me was to lunch at the Miner's Hamburger place in Yakima with several other District 1 members; a place that reminded me of In-N-Out in California. We had a wonderful formal dinner with a D.J. providing dance and listen pleasure. We had a nice raffle with baskets donated by the participating clubs attending, and silent auction featuring fine woodworking items made by John Gordon, I.O.B.G.A., Captain to our Recording Secretary Jeanne Gordon. Thanks for your fine donations John. Special Thanks to V.P. Mary McCollum for her valiant work and efforts on the weekend.

The First weekend in May in Seattle is Opening Day Festivities bringing National and International participation to Seattle Yacht Club. IOBG has been a longtime invitee to the flag ceremonies, thanks to the efforts of Mary Eiffert several years ago in getting IOBG recognized. Laurie and I were very proud to represent the Order as our flag was raised. Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle accompanied me, and several other District 1 members attended the weekend's festivities also. In 2017 we will have our IOBG parade boat, volunteered and captained by past District 1 President Bob Weber, complete with our banners advertising our fine Organization. In July we ventured to La Conner, Washington to enjoy a Summer "picnic" get together with the District members and guests that weren't on cruises, vacations and such. A small but enthusiastic gathering, highlighted by a potluck brunch held at Alan and Mary Eiffert's former residence. We had a great time and good fellowship, as everyone contributed to the effort.



Our Fall Change of Watch meeting was held in September. We met in Clarkston, Washington and was hosted by Hells Canyon Boat Club. We had a fun evening hosted at their clubhouse with burgers and hot dogs and a pirate theme with lots of pirate characters. Arrgh Matey!

Our meetings were robust and we set our schedule for 2017 and elected a new slate of officers for 2017. Chuck Havens has taken the helm as District 1 President, Mary McCollum, 1st V.P. and Butch Brown as 2nd V.P.

The maritime theme was continued during the Gala Dinner festivities. Sailor hats were distributed upon registration with instructions to "decorate" the hats for judging at the Gala Dinner. Past District 1 President David Kutz and Past IOBGA District 1 President Janice Kutz won a \$200 gift card to Costco for winning the contest.

One of the new features thanks to an idea from V.P. Mary McCollum is to fly all the burgees from the participating clubs attending our meeting weekends. We want to fill up the wall with burgees, so we need to get more clubs participating. This is just one of our goals in District 1

Continued...



## District 1 Report Continued...

A big thank you to Hells Canyon Boat Club for everyone's contribution to a successful weekend and we will do it all over again there in 2017 as our next District 1 President will also be from Hells Canyon Boat Club. So for the next couple years we have "flipped" our meetings to reflect the respective area our president comes from. Next years Spring meeting will be on the "west" side, 2019 will see a return of the Fall Change of Watch. Until then we are very much looking forward to our leadership from Hells Canyon and the clubs on the "east" side of Washington State.

We are continuing as well as everyone else, to cultivate more membership and with everyone's help we can grow in district 1 and continue being "District 1, Second to None"



Southwestern *V.P.*  
Kathleen Jo Smith



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

Submitted by Past SWVP  
Sherry Barone

The year flew by with many activities from our districts. The membership appreciation, golf events, change of watch, opening days, charity activities, and regattas continue to be a critical part of IOBG.

The Southwestern region adopted a pilot "On-line Dues Renewal" program for 2017. District 11 - Santa Monica Bay Area - has agreed to host the pilot program and a link is on the IOBG District 11 web page. Thank you Director Susana Hernandez Araico and President Sheila Anderson for volunteering to host our pilot program as well as Mary Nye Meyers for creating the on-line application and server hosting. District 11 will now have the opportunity to pay my mail or on-line. There is a slight on-line transition fee of \$1.95 to pay on-line.

From the main IOBG site, Click on "District Information", Under the Southwestern Region...Click on District 11 link, scroll to the bottom of the page and Click on the "2017 Dues Renewal Form" link.

An IOBG Southwestern Survey went out to the Directors and board members. The survey will be used to guide plans, better serve our membership and grow of our community. Findings highlighted IOBG members input, strengths, opportunities for improvement and suggestions. Let the findings inspire each of you for continued improvement for IOBG. There were 11 survey questions and the response rate was 45%.

Survey Questions in survey were as follows:

1. What is the mission of IOBG?
2. When and why did I join IOBG?
3. What do you enjoy at IOBG?
4. What improvements would you like to see at IOBG?
5. What charities would you like to support at a regional level? Example local charities, Sailing regattas or Veterans Association
6. What type of activity can members help with?
7. How can we retain and grow our membership
8. How well are we engaging our new members?
9. Do we have a system of mentoring new members?
10. Is someone assigned to contact a new member, asking them any questions about membership and personally invite the new members to join them at the next event?
11. Suggestions

It is difficult to energize members to participate in IOBG because they are involved in so many yachting activities. A copy of the survey was sent out to all members and presented at the annual meeting.

Continued...

Recommendations included the following:

- Share specific results with IOBG
- Develop additional survey questions for all IOBG members
- Provide Comments & Suggestions
- Distinct 11 has a pilot program for “On-line Dues Renewals” and expand to all districts
- Develop and send out a joint survey to all IOBG members
- Focus On Seven Ways To Improve Engagement: 1) Adapt to our membership 2) Standardize Ombudsman program to contact new members 3) Enhance Communications 4) Retention Program 5) More engagement with new members 6) Increase Social media 7) Add more international districts and chapters

I have enjoyed getting to know and represent the Southwestern area districts, chapters and yacht clubs over the past 2 years. Let's continue to grow IOBG membership and enjoy events. I am looking forward to my newly elected position as IOBG Second Vice President.

District 10  
LaVon Plumlee, District Director

Winter is already here and District 10 has been busy every month hosting enjoyable events supported by our chapter clubs. District 10 hosted the IOBG Annual meeting with the Del Rey Yacht Club.

We hosted a Wine Tasting fundraiser at the Navy Yacht Club Long Beach. The San Clemente Winery served wine to 60 plus attendees from District 10 chapter clubs and their guests. We thank all the clubs for their support. As a result of this fundraiser \$900 was donated to the IOBG Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting. We hosted the Thursday night Annual meeting at LBYC – enjoyed by all attendees.

In addition to all the planning for the Annual Meeting, District 10 hosted a land cruise to the historic Olvera Street in Los Angeles, hosted a BBQ at Barney's Beach House aboard the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. We have two events to complete the year: a Cruise-out at Long Beach Yacht Club on October 28<sup>th</sup> weekend, our very popular and fun Duffy cruise in Huntington Harbour to view the many houses and boats decked out for the holiday season.

District 10 participated in the Annual Charity Regatta that supports the Long Beach Children's Clinic again this year. We donated a much sought after International Beer Basket with over 24 bottles of beer from around the world worth over \$100.

Our Treasurer reports our bank account is slim since we are approaching the end of the year. Not to worry – it is time to send out membership dues for next year to our members. Our count of District 10 membership was down slightly this year, but we will take count and make up the for it next year. Communication is our top priority

District 11  
Susana Hernández Araico, District Director

The main activity for District 11 in the final quarter of 2016 has been preparing for the October international meeting coming up at Marina del Rey. Several district members have been attending meetings and assuming various responsibilities to

get things ready for this big occasion. District 11 feels particularly proud to be the incoming president's home district and therefore especially committed to contribute to the success of the upcoming annual meeting where Rosalie Davis-Green was installed as president.

We were saddened by the unexpected loss of our secretary Dana Hutton who died suddenly mid-June. We were shocked to hear the news right after our IBOG regional meeting in Portland. This loss set us back in our communication effectiveness with our members. Our second windy-q, therefore, had low attendance as the announcement was distributed with a very short notice. Our third and last windy-q, which took place October 4, was quite successful with the October Fest theme that President Shelia Anderson came up with. This event also served to bring even more to the attention of our members the annual meeting coming up.

At our last board meeting, September 28, board members presented reports and evaluations on their activities for 2016 and recommendations for the following year. As a result of this discussion, the board looks forward to instituting a speakers program in conjunction with our windy-q's. In addition, we started and will continue to explore ways in which our district can make IOBG more actively visible in our sailing community of Marina del Rey and King Harbor with the support of the Humanitarian Association.

At our last board meeting, planning also took place for the forthcoming elections. President Shelia Anderson will step up to Director while also remaining President, as 1st Vice President Mary Ho cannot step up to that position. Charlene Perron will step up to 1st Vice President, Allan Bertik remains as Treasurer, Susana Hernández Araico will continue serving on the board as Alternate Director. Board members are actively seeking candidates for the office of Secretary and 2nd Vice President. Elections will be taking place in November. Our installation brunch will take place the second Sunday in December at Del Rey Yacht Club.

District 15  
Kathleen Jo Smith, Past District Director



District 15 had a very successful inaugural Race your BoD Regatta. Thanks to Point Loma Yacht Club, who handled the race committee tasks and hosted the party. We had 6 boats registered, and 5 raced a very competitive race.

Thanks to Cynthia Sinclair for use of regatta photo.



The after race party was held at Point Loma Yacht Club, with burgers and dogs around the pool. The silent auction and raffle raised \$1090, and the IOBGA Jewelry Exchange raised an additional \$1272 for ElderHelp San Diego. Continued on next page...

District 15 Report Continued...

SeaMaiden, out of Southwestern Yacht Club, took home the perpetual trophy.



Our 2016 Change of Watch Dinner and Ceremony was held on October 14, 2016. District 15 Past President Jeanne Irwin installed our new officers: President Ned Knight, Vice President Gregg Hanson, Secretary Jim Murtland, Secretary/Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, and District 15 Director Bill Edwards.



IOBG Outgoing President Bill Edwards, and IOBGA Treasurer Dawn Nemoy presented checks to ElderHelp San Diego Director of Philanthropy Gretchen Veihl.



We were pleased Southwest Vice President Sherry Barone was able to join us, and congratulate Sherry on her upcoming installation as the Second Vice President on the International Board.

District 19  
Sande Clark, District Director

Delta District 19 currently has 147 members.

We have had an active year and had/attended the following events:

- February – General Meeting and Induction of new members at Pittsburg Yacht Club
- March – IOBGA Cruise out to Ebony Boat Club for St. Patrick's Day
- May – Past Commodores Appreciation BBQ at Delta Marina Yacht Harbor
- June – International Spring Meeting in Portland Oregon
- August – International Summer Meeting in Buffalo New York
- August – General Meeting and Nominations at Stockton Yacht Club
- September – General Meeting and Election of Officer at Bridge Marina Yacht Club
- October – International Change of Watch in Marina del Ray
- November 5 – Change of Watch at Stockton Yacht Club.

At each International meeting this year there were representatives present from Delta District 19.

2017 Slate of Officers for Delta District 19:

District Director	Roger Beebe
President	David Breninger
Vice President	Jack Michael
Secretary	Karen Mann
Treasurer	Mike Billington



We wish International President Rosalie Davis-Green and her board success in 2017.

It has been my privilege to be the Director of Delta District 19 this past year.



North Central V.P.  
Mark Vadaj



Districts  
7, 9, 23 & 25

Congratulations to President Rosalie Davis-Green for leading us into the 2017 year of IOBG as our next President. A Special thank you to Past President Joe Dowdell for his outstanding leadership during the past 12 months and beyond. Thank you to all Officers of IOBG from the International level to the District levels and Chapters levels. A Special thank you to our members for the continued support by renewing their membership and contributing to good of the order. Without your valued contribution and continued support the fundamental premise and good of the organization could not be successful. I ask that all of our members continue their commitment in 2017 and become more involved so that each and every member can enjoy the benefits and privileges of IOBG.

Please take a moment to ask how you can be involved and what IOBG can do for you, your District, your Chapter and the Good of the Order. I assure you that your voice and opinion matter and will be heard. You can easily find all points of contact from the President level to the District level through the IOBG web site at [www.iobg.com](http://www.iobg.com). I promise that I myself will accept your phone call, email or text.

From the North Central Area which includes District 7, 9, 23 and 25, we are continuing our efforts to improve our value proposition and include all Past Commodores. Congratulations to District 7 President Debbie Light and District Director Rich McKee. Congratulations to District 9 President Dean Reamsnyder and District Director Larry Inguagiato. District 25 will be holding their election shortly and I will post the results in my next article. We are still recruiting a District Director for District 23. Should anyone be interested please contact me as soon as possible.

As North Central Vice President, I will continue to serve these Districts and only ask that you become involved in at least one event and bring a fellow Past Commodore. We welcome all current members and invite all past members to return to IOBG. Take a few minutes to experience the New IOBG. I can assure that we plan on New incentives in 2017 to increase the value and benefits of membership. I invite all members to consider joining us at the 2017 Regional Meeting in March in Clearwater, Florida. See [www.iobg.org](http://www.iobg.org) for additional details. We welcome your participation.

Thank You for your continued support and commitment to Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity.

District 7  
Rich McKee, District Director

Congratulations to Debbie Light, our 2017 IOBG District 7 President.

Great year planned for next year - District 7, 9 and 25 will be hosting a pizza party at the I-LYA Fall Meeting in Perrysburg at the Holiday Inn in December.

In March we will be attending our annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, will hold our annual Blue Blazer Social and our annual Sunday Brunch at an affiliated club.

April is when our Auxiliary schedules their annual brunch aboard the Nautica Queen. It is also when we are busy getting our boats ready for the upcoming season.

In May, the Greater Cleveland Boating Association holds their Memorial Day Parade to the USS Cod and we invited to attend and speak at the ceremony.

June we hold our Cocktail Party for members at the GCBA Rendezvous at Huron Boat Basin. August is our second Cocktail Party held at the end of the I-LYA Powerboat Regatta, along with District 9 and District 25.

District 9  
Larry Inguagiato, District Director

The District 9 Fall Meeting and Change of Watch was held on Sunday, October 16th at the Toledo Yacht Club.

The newly elected President is Dean Reamsnyder. Dean had been the Vice President representing the Michigan South clubs. Larry Inguagiato, 2015 & 2016 District President, was elected District Director and Arne Hansen moves from District Director to Advisor & Alternate District Director replacing Steve Berry. All other current officers remain the same for 2017. It was also announced that P/C Steve Hyder from the Detroit Beach Boat Club joined the Executive Board as Vice President representing the Michigan South area vacated by Dean Reamsnyder.

The District is organized into six geographic areas. Steve is closely associated with the clubs in his area and will do a great job for the District 9 Blue Gavel. Steve is also a Past Commodore of the Associated Yacht Clubs, an umbrella organization of thirty-four boating clubs in Michigan and Ohio. He also serves as a Trustee for the Inter-Lake Yachting Association.

As part of our local Humanitarian efforts a \$500 contribution was approved for the Ovarian Cancer Connection. It is a worthy organization helping those who are coping with this disease. Also approved was a \$400 contribution to the North Cape Yacht Club Sail Camp. This 501c(3) organization sponsored by the club has provided yachting skills to kids from the community for many years. They are not only taught sailing skills but general life skills, which have proved invaluable, as they become young adults. Our contribution will provide two one-week scholarships for kids from the community selected by the NCYCSC based on need.

At this meeting, those in attendance were brought up to date on the IOBG HF and its efforts to provide limited grants to worthy projects sponsored by IOBG chapters. General discussion was had on the new HF web site ([www.iobg-hf.org](http://www.iobg-hf.org)) and the application process used to submit a grant request.

District 9 will again be one of the Districts sponsoring a cocktail and appetizer reception. This is an annual event held at the I-LYA Power Boat Regatta in August. District 7, 9 and 25 of the North Central Region, has historically sponsored it for over 40 years. The event is held at the Put In Bay Yacht Club for our members to honor the I-LYA Commodore. The 2017 Commodore will be Andy Krotsing from District 7. This event is open to all Past Commodores and flag officers of the clubs in attendance at the Regatta and also those Blue Gavel members who came over for the day. We normally have about 100 in attendance.

Continued...

District 9 Report Continued...

We plan on having a social event later this year. It will be a visit to the Toledo Zoo's Lights Before Christmas. After the visit, we will go to a nearby yacht club for fellowship and refreshments.

Next year, with the help of the District 9 Auxiliary, we plan on setting up a boat ride on the Sandpiper. This is a replica of the canal boats of the past which traveled up and down the Maumee River.

Our main fundraiser is a football pool with weekly winners based on the scores of the Ohio State and the University of Michigan games. The district this year will net a profit of around \$1,000. These profits are used in part for District 9's humanitarian efforts.

District 25  
Bill Woods, District Director

This year our auxiliary hosted a chicken dinner in April with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House. We also hosted a District 25 cocktail party in June, sponsored with contributions from District 25 members, our Auxiliary and a couple of clubs in the district.

The Auxiliary's Bike Bar outing in Detroit was a success. The Bike Bar was a new experience for most of us and one that will probably be repeated next year.

Our "Commodore 200 Draw" was able to bring in enough funds to help keep our District in the black.

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

Please Print

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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Northeastern V.P.*

*Stephen Tisack*



*Districts*

*3, 12, 20,  
26 & 27*

*Introducing our new Northeastern Vice President Stephen Tisack...*

District 50  
Mark A. Vadaj, District Director

Thank You to all current and new IOBG members within District 50. Our geographic area spans from the top of Maine to the bottom of Florida and from the Mississippi River to the East Coast where there are not active Chapters or Districts.

As you may already know District 50 serves a dual purpose.

1. To provide a method for Membership where an IOBG Chapter and or District do not exist and to provide communication and support services to these members.
2. To assist a D50 member by transitioning them into an active Chapter and District.

We have engaged with several organizations in the Greater New England Area on a Group as well as an Individual basis. We at IOBG respect and recognize the history and legacy of each organization and welcome those groups and members to take the next step towards membership within IOBG.

As an IOBG Member, should you know of a Current Member or Non Active Member that that has relocated, please engage with them and direct them to us where we can support and assist them. If there is not an active Chapter or District but a desire to join us, IOBG welcomes them and will willingly support them.

I look forward to hearing from all D50 Members as well as any other groups inquiring into membership.

Mark A. Vadaj – Director, District 50.

Email: [mvadaj@att.net](mailto:mvadaj@att.net)

Cell: 440-479-0064

*Southeastern V.P.*  
*“Buzz” Bisanz*



*Districts*  
 8 & 18

Congratulations to District 8 (Florida) and the leadership team lead by District Director Karen Shea and President Shaun Graser on being the #1 District in IOBG membership. Hard work was invested by all members of the team to successfully communicate with the District membership.

The communication with the District Chapters continues with each of the Officers assigned up to 5 Chapters to contact and follow-up on the survey question on identifying what the Chapters are doing to retain membership. The results are expected to be turned in by November 12<sup>th</sup> with the summary published back to the Chapters around the first of the new year.

District 18 (AL, GA, TN, NC and SC) is looking to start a fall membership drive. While last year did not meet with the expected success, we believe this fall will be more rewarding. District 18 President Dave Kowert, stated that several different clubs indicated during the Southeastern regatta season that they were interested in taking a more active role in IOBG. Several past commodores indicated a willingness to step up and help get a few things organized to see where it might lead us.

The District 18's first membership info meeting will be in late November at the Hobcaw Yacht Club. The plan is to have an informal gathering, oyster roast and an open discussion as to how we as a group can impact youth sailing here in Charleston. The second membership event will be an informal Christmas Party at The Charleston Yacht Club. We are hopeful that these two events will provide District 18 with a committed VP, Sec and Treasurer.



Just a Reminder: The IOBG 2017 Winter Regional Meeting, March 3 - 4, 2017 will be hosted by the IOBG Chapter Clearwater Yacht Club in Clearwater Beach, FL (Tampa, FL metro area).  
 Schedule your arrival on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact is PC Hoyt Nichols with any questions.



Clearwater Yacht Club  
 830 South Bayway Blvd  
 Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

727-447-6000  
<http://www.clwyc.org>

Room reservations are encouraged “now” since this meeting timeframe is “In Season”.  
 The Chart House hotel is located directly next door to the Clearwater Yacht Club.  
 Call Now For Reservations: 1-877-242-7899 Mention: International Order of the Blue Gavel

Hosted by: Clearwater Yacht Club - IOBG Chapter

Local Contact:	PC Hoyt Nichols	727-595-5899	email: <a href="mailto:hoyt.cpa@gte.net">hoyt.cpa@gte.net</a>
District Director:	PC Karen Shea	727-389-0675	email: <a href="mailto:ltsheak@gmail.com">ltsheak@gmail.com</a>
IOBG SE Vice President:	PC Buzz Bisanz	770-337-8701	email: <a href="mailto:buzz8521@comcast.net">buzz8521@comcast.net</a>

District 8  
Karen Shea, District Director

As we gear up for 2017, I intend to send out letters again to all charters that are no longer active, along with our Presidents contacting at least 10 of those charters and 7 yacht clubs that are members of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs (FCYC) but do not have an IOBG Charter. Now I will have to use and see how effective the tools I have developed this past year and put them into further action.



Another idea I tried was the traditional exchange of burgees. In May at our District 8 meeting everyone came with burgees to exchange. While I was traveling this summer, I exchanged burgees with several yacht clubs in New England and talked about the IOBG. Now I will carry the new IOBG brochure everywhere I travel. While at the Summer International Meeting I exchanged burgees with LaSalle YC, Niagara Falls, NY and Buffalo Launch Club, Buffalo, NY. I intend to exchange burgees with several yacht clubs in California also.



Please take a look at our [www.d8iobg.org](http://www.d8iobg.org) web site which we are very proud of. We all agree that it helps a lot with information for current and future members. We made improvements to our District 8 web site to include many of the traditions that our member yacht clubs observe. Another tool which I think members enjoy is a roster of all the District members in a simple alphabetical format. I understand that there are only two districts that have a membership directory & handbook. As social media continues to expand we have also started a Facebook page.









On October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> we had our Change of Watch at Pelican Isle YC where Peter Franck took charge as our current President. Hurricane Matthew put a damper on our event as he crashed into the Florida East Coast even though we were sunshine and rain free in the Southwest. Our thoughts and prayers went out to them. We had enough proxy's to conduct our Annual meeting. Past District 8 President Joseph Tringali who was to be our keynote speaker had to cancel also. There were still 8 IOBG



Chapters represented. Our 2017 meetings are in April at Lighthouse Point YC, Lighthouse Point, FL and in June at Isles YC, Punta Gorda, FL.

As of October 1, 2016, District 8 has a total of 230 members, 24 Chapters and Members at Large which is now the largest District in the IOBG. Now we have to stay there.

**2017  
 IOBGA  
 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:gsaco@aol.com">gsaco@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:robinvadaj@gmail.com">robinvadaj@gmail.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*



The Auxiliary meeting was very interesting and was full of discussion and the exchange of ideas. The main topic was not only member retention but how do we get more members active. This seems to be an ongoing problem no matter what part of the country you are from. Social gatherings where we can get to know one another seem to be the most popular idea.

Joan Marsh came into our meeting and gave a very good presentation about the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. The their new board has hit the ground running and I am sure only good things are in the future for the HF.

During our Summer Regional Meeting in Marina del Rey, California we went to the Aquarium of the Pacific, a lot of fun. I discovered I have a real love affair with sea horses and sea dragons.

The Long Beach Yacht Club and Santa Monica Windjammers YC were very kind hosts and our Change of Watch Gala was lovely at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

I must apologize to my IOBGA Northwestern Regional Director Mike Meyers. I mentioned in my last article that our President-Elect and First Vice President were gentlemen. I forgot to mention Mike and he certainly is a gentleman.

The winter regional meeting is in Clearwater, Florida. Hosted by District 8 and the Clearwater Yacht Club. I hope to see many of you there.

As always, remember to check our website for more information about IOBGA.

District 15 IOBGA  
Audrey Hall, President

We had our change of watch on October 14, 2016 at Southwestern Yacht Club. We combined our change of watch with our District IOBG. We had a great turn out with a great dinner.

The auxiliary held another jewelry event and we raised over \$300 for Elder Help San Diego. The total raised for the year was over \$1,200.

We thanked the 2016 board for their service and installed the new board which the 2016 board decided that they would run for another year. Our 2017 board are VP Grace Hanson, Secretary Marybeth Thayer, Treasurer Dawn Shaffer Nemo and myself as President. We look forward to working together for another successful year.

We will started the new year off with a jewelry event on October 15th in Santa Margarita Yacht Club. Thanks to Santa Margarita Yacht Club we were able to raise \$60 for Elder Help.

We look forward to have new members join with us to make 2017 another great year.

After the holidays are celebrated and the new year starts we will be having our auxiliary seminar in January. Everyone is invited join with us. More details will be on our District 15 Facebook page, Thanks to 1st VP Gary Smith.





# 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.

## IOBG Humanitarian Foundation



## 2017 Officers & Board

Carol Promessi	<a href="mailto:cpromessi@att.net">cpromessi@att.net</a>	Pittsburg, CA	President & CEO
Robert “Buzz” Bisanz	<a href="mailto:buzz8521@comcast.net">buzz8521@comcast.net</a>	Woodstock, GA	Vice President
Lani Lightle	<a href="mailto:lanilightle44@gmail.com">lanilightle44@gmail.com</a>	Seattle, WA	Treasurer & CFO
Dr. Julie Albright	<a href="mailto:recherche2@gmail.com">recherche2@gmail.com</a>	Los Angeles, CA	Secretary
Larry Inguagiato	<a href="mailto:larry.inguagiato@mac.com">larry.inguagiato@mac.com</a>	Monroe, MI	Director
Joan Marsh	<a href="mailto:jmarsh6607@yahoo.com">jmarsh6607@yahoo.com</a>	Pittsburg, CA	Director
Gary McGrath	<a href="mailto:gmac6262@aol.com">gmac6262@aol.com</a>	Concord, CA	Director
LaVon Plumlee	<a href="mailto:lavon@nyclb.com">lavon@nyclb.com</a>	Westminster, CA	Director
Jackie Evans Rudd	<a href="mailto:jerry10jackie8@gmail.com">jerry10jackie8@gmail.com</a>	Auburn, WA	Director
Nancy Bisanz	<a href="mailto:buzznan1111@yahoo.com">buzznan1111@yahoo.com</a>	Woodstock, GA	Ambassador
David Breninger	<a href="mailto:dbreninger@surewest.net">dbreninger@surewest.net</a>	Roseville, CA	Ambassador
Gary & Audrey Hall	<a href="mailto:hulakai2@cox.net">hulakai2@cox.net</a>	Oceanside, CA	Ambassador
Richard Hardy		Pittsburg, CA	Ambassador
Mary Kay Inguagiato	<a href="mailto:mkinguagiato@gmail.com">mkinguagiato@gmail.com</a>	Monroe, MI	Ambassador
Lee Lightle	<a href="mailto:leelightle@gmail.com">leelightle@gmail.com</a>	Seattle, WA	Ambassador
Bill Plumlee	<a href="mailto:wplumlee@nyclb.com">wplumlee@nyclb.com</a>	Westminster, CA	Ambassador
Phil Promessi	<a href="mailto:ppromessi@tat.net">ppromessi@tat.net</a>	Pittsburg, CA	Ambassador
Charlie Thome	<a href="mailto:stogy@gmail.com">stogy@gmail.com</a>	Alameda, CA	Ambassador
David Welles	Not Available	Staten Island, NY	Ambassador
Mike & Susie West	<a href="mailto:westdoublej23@aol.com">westdoublej23@aol.com</a>	Ripon, CA	Ambassador



The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation provides the boating community the ability to create real differences in others' lives. It provides resources to existing charities and benefits communities through new initiative involving boating activities and education. You, the members of Blue Gavel, are members of the Foundation. This is a volunteer non-profit 501(c) (3) California public benefit corporation which:

- \*Support worldwide humanitarian causes
- \*Provides grants to Local Assistance Programs and Youth Assistance Programs
- \*We have sponsored special Olympic Sailing Programs

The main focus is on: Fundraising - Education - Grants to approved causes etc,

Each IOBG Chapter can support the Foundation by:

- \*Annual Fundraising Events
- \*Individual Member Contributions
- \*Memorial Fund, which you can honor someone, remember a birthday or a good wish, etc.

I look forward to working with all of you and if you should have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me, at [cpromessi@att.net](mailto:cpromessi@att.net).

I would also like to welcome our new Ambassadors, which spread the good will and support the Humanitarian Foundation:

Nancy Bisanz, Mary Kay Inguagiato, Lee Lightle, Jerry Rudd, Phil Promessi, Richard Hardy, Gary & Audrey Hall, Bill Plumlee, Charles Thome, Susie & Mike West and David Breninger.

If you would like to become an Ambassador, please contact me, the more we can grow and talk about what the Foundation does is very important to our Organization.

I would also be remiss not to congratulate our new officers, Vice President Buzz Bisanz, Secretary Julie Albright and Treasurer Lani Lightle and our new Director IOBG P/P Gary McGrath. Serving their second term in office are: IOBGA P/P Jackie Evans Rudd and Director LaVon Plumlee.

Again, I want to thank all the Districts for their generous contributions at the Annual Meeting.



*Thank You for your Generous Contributions  
to the Humanitarian Foundation*



## 2017 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>#1 PRESIDENT - Northwest</b><br/>Charles Havens (Pat)<br/>2889 Grandview Dr<br/>Clarkston, WA 99403-2918<br/>Tel: 509-758-6482<br/>pathavens5963@msn.com<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/>Peter Franck (Louise)<br/>425 Dockside Drive Unit 404<br/>Naples, FL 34110<br/>Tel: 239-592-6056<br/>peterfranck@comcast.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/>Penticton, 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/>Dean Reamsnyder (Karla)<br/>1642 Grand Bay Dr<br/>Oregon, OH 43616<br/>Home: 419-690-5726<br/>Cell: 419-376-0536<br/>deanream@aol.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Open</p>  | <p><b>#18 PRESIDENT - Southeast</b><br/>Dave Kowert (Christy)<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/>Betty Tyson<br/>504 Chestnut St<br/>Wyandotte, MI 48192<br/>Cell: 313-510-0311<br/>bhppy777@yahoo.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>John Rose (Fran)<br/>21667 Meridian<br/>Grosse Ile, MI 48183<br/>Tel: 734-676-4387<br/>glycrose06@hotmail.com</p>   |
| <p><b>#3 PRESIDENT - Northeast</b><br/>Stephen Tisack (Marie)<br/>5843 Buffalo St<br/>Sanborn, NY 14132<br/>Tel: 716-998-7938<br/>crew92fm@hotmail.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/>joyceveelyn@verizon.net</p>        | <p><b>#19 PRESIDENT - Southwest</b><br/>David Breninger (Linda)<br/>425 Websters Court<br/>Roseville, CA 95747<br/>Tel: 916-771-5685<br/>Cell: 916-798-3980<br/>dbreninger@surewest.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Karen Mann (Scott)<br/>4815 Discovery Point<br/>Discovery Bay, CA 94505<br/>Cell: 510-612-5122<br/>karen@mannappraisal.com</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/>Sheila Anderson<br/>2307 Harriman Lane Apt. C<br/>Redondo Beach, CA 90278<br/>Tel: 310-372-9730<br/>Cell: 626-484-7822<br/>toymaker56@yahoo.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Dana Hutton (Bob Via)<br/>8512 Tuscan Ave<br/>Playa Del Rey, CA 90293<br/>Tel: 310-902-0654<br/>Cell: 310-962-9213<br/>MdRSailorGirl@yahoo.com</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: 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 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/>bluesil@hotmail.com</p>  |
| <p><b>#6 PRESIDENT - Southwest</b><br/>Ron Dodini (Becky)<br/>44-128 Keaalau Place<br/>Kaneohe, HI 96744<br/>Tel: 808-235-2470<br/>Tel: 808-294-0135<br/>huiana808@gmail.com<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/>Liz Allison<br/>1700 San Carlos Ave #302<br/>San Carlos, CA 94070<br/>Tel: 650-593-4649<br/>chocho2479@aol.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Sam Benson (Christina)<br/>245 Los Banos Ave<br/>Walnut Creek, CA 94598<br/>Tel: 925-708-1899<br/>sam@sambensonrealty.com</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/>William G. (Bill) Mitchinson (Myrna)<br/>4 Bannockburn Lane<br/>Bethlehem<br/>Tauranga, New Zealand 3110<br/>Tel: 0064-75791098<br/>Cell: 0064-277173724<br/>bmmitchinson@clear.net.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/>Deborah Light<br/>2480 Dorset Dr<br/>Seven Hills, OH<br/>Tel: 216-973-1076<br/>dlightful759@sbcglobal.net<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Warren Dempster (Marianne)<br/>33545 Lori Ann Ln<br/>Eastlake, OH 44095<br/>Cell: 440-725-7731<br/>wyc40@yahoo.com</p>  | <p><b>#15 PRESIDENT - Southwest</b><br/>Ned Knight<br/>P.O. Box 6577<br/>San Diego, CA 92166<br/>Tel: 619-847-4426<br/>nedknight3@yahoo.com<br/><b>SECRETARY</b><br/>Jim Murtland (Liz Sloan)<br/>2958 Sunset Hills<br/>Escondido, CA 92025<br/>Tel: 760-741-8686<br/>jimurtland@aol.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: 269-857-2123<br/>Cell: 269-355-8508<br/><a href="mailto:bsapita@frontier.com">bsapita@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/>dschorffhaar@earthlink.net</p> |  |



*International Order of the Blue Gavel  
3517 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 208  
San Diego, CA 92108*

*Return Service Requested*

*Annual Meeting Hosts:  
Southwestern Region - California*

*Happy New Year*

