

# INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2009

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Rudd at 9:08 A.M. on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea World in the Wedgwood Room.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE: Given by P/C Phil Promessi

ROLL CALL of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Jerry Rudd	District 1
President Elect	Ray Thompson	District 8
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Vern Bendsen	District 19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Marc Connelly	District 3
Treasurer	Marshall Nemoy	District 15
Past President	Richard Janiszewski	District 12
Executive Secretary	Mary Eiffert	District 1

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Recording Secretary Marybeth Thayer: Mr. President, there is a quorum.

Members present:

Past Presidents:

Louis A. Key Jr.	2000	District 7
Marion Hughes	2002	District 1
Art Theobald	2005	District 3
Harvey Sussel	2006	District 8
Carol Promessi	2007	District 19

District 1:

Art Kovarnik, Northwestern Vice President	Jim Hinckley, District Director
Mary Nye Meyers, Log Editor-In-Chief	Al Eiffert, Member

District 3:

Lewis Smith, District Director	Bill Pilkington, Member
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District 7:

Joel Kay, District Director	Wayne Durien, District 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
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District 8:

Tom Sullivan, Southeastern Vice President	Joe Dowdell, District President
Frank Hutchinson, District Vice President	Don Mercereau, P/District Director
John A. Schultz, President of Chapter VYC	Cliff Lewis, Member

Priscilla Netts, Member  
Bob Shogram, Supply Officer

Bill Sulser, Member  
James E. Dupuy, Member

District 11:

Gary Green, District Director

Rosalie Davis Green, Dist. President

District 14:

George Knies, Legal Officer

Lenworth Gordon, District President

District 15:

Jim Coburn, District Director  
Marybeth Thayer, Recording Secretary

Bill Thayer, US Sailing Rep.  
Gary Hall, Member

District 16:

Marsha Landreth, Protocol Officer

District 18:

Tom Sullivan, Southeastern Vice President

District 19:

Larry Draper, Southwestern Vice President  
Phil Promessi, Education Officer  
John Anthony, Supply Officer

Gary McGrath, District Director  
Linda Bendsen, Member  
Johnnie Owen, Dist. Past President

District 23:

Francis D. Ramsey, North Central Vice President

District 25:

Tom Lyon, Alt. District Director  
Steve Willing, Past North Central Vice President

District 26:

Ernie Odierna, District Director

District 27:

Chuck Browning, Northeastern Vice President  
Jim Wilson, Member

Robert Howe, District Director

District 51:

Bill Thayer, Alt. District Director

District 70:

Tony Razzell, District President

APPROVAL of AGENDA:

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL of ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES HELD THE PREVIOUS YEAR:

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes from October 25, 2008. Motion passed.

RATIFICATION of ACTIONS of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Ratification of Actions of the Executive Committee. Motion accepted.

REPORTS of OFFICERS

A. DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR JIM HINCKLEY REPORT:

District 1 bought into the Marketing Plan and used it sending letters to all Yacht Clubs to attend the 2009 Spring Joint Meeting with IOBG Yacht Club Members and Yacht Clubs not IOBG Chapters.

After two years we are beginning to see positive results with the IOBG Marketing Plan. We had 17 new inductees join District 1 in 2009.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR LEWIS W. SMITH REPORT:

We have been holding steady with our Membership and District President Warren Schafer and I have been visiting our Chapters and everyone we contacted seemed happy with the organization.

Report Submitted.

President Jerry Rudd announced that District 5 Director Ron Timmerman was taken ill and would not be attending the Annual Meeting.

At this time President Jerry Rudd introduced the Past Presidents in attendance:

- 2000 President Louis A. Key Jr.
- 2002 President Marion Hughes
- 2005 President Art Theobald
- 2006 President Harvey Sussel
- 2007 President Carol Promessi
- 2008 President Richard Janiszewski

DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR JOEL KAY REPORT:

We attended many functions throughout the year and enjoyed every single one of them.

On October 11, 2009 we had our Annual Meeting, at that time we had a long and serious discussion about retention of members, methods used to gain new members and what to do

about members not rejoining. Election of 2010 Officers, President Matt Schmidt and Vice President Perry (Bud) Ross was held.  
Report Submitted.

#### DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT JOE DOWDELL REPORT:

Yesterday at our District 8 Annual Meeting officers were elected, business conducted, and harmony prevailed. District 8 is alive and healthy in spite of a few bumps in the road that we have had to overcome.

Our goal for 2010 is membership, bring back those individual members who did not rejoin or have dropped out, and encourage chapters to rejoin. We will get it done. We have a website [www.d8iobg.org](http://www.d8iobg.org).  
Report Submitted.

#### DISTRICT 11 DIRECTOR GARY GREEN REPORT:

We are located in Santa Monica Bay, Southern Calif. Our District encompasses two ocean openings from Marina Del Rey and King Harbor; also, we are on two Lakes, West Lake and Lake Gregory. We have 13 Chapters and this year we had an Appreciation Luncheon, a new event for us. We did 4 "Windy Cues" called that because they are held outside consist of a speaker and a meal. When the "Tall Ships" came for a visit, we organized a sail on a Brigantine.  
Report Submitted.

#### DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT LENWORTH GORDON REPORT:

District 14 completed the year's activities schedule for year 2009 with great satisfaction. The Wheelchair Regatta is a great event held in our area, and more that 70% of the vessels volunteered were skippered by members of IOBG.  
Report Submitted.

#### DISTRICT 15 DIRECTOR JIM COBURN REPORT:

Looking forward to the coming year and with our Officers we have a list of events in the coming year, starting with the Yacht Club Officer's Management Seminar in January. Hope to plan fun events not just on fund raising.  
Report Submitted.

#### DISTRICT 16 ALTERNATE DIRECTOR MARSHA LANDRETH REPORT:

She reported for District Director Clark Owens: Our scholarship money we raised funded two sailing scholarships for the Boys and Girls Clubs in Oxnard, CA. We also collected both food and gifts for the local needy. We are having a hard time recruiting new members, but hope to resolve them this coming year.  
Report Submitted.

#### DISTRICT 18 DIRECTOR TOM SULLVIAN REPORT:

District 18 has been reorganized with an in place leadership team for 2010:

District President	Mike Barbrow
Vice President	Buzz Bisanz
Sec/Treas.	Randy Blalock

P/C Mel Sinclair reports that Western Carolina, SC will be having their Annual Hospice Regatta. This annual event has raised in excess of \$100,000.00.  
Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 19 DIRECTOR GARY McGRATH REPORT:

We had a good turn out for the elections of Officers for 2010 and everyone was upbeat for the coming year.

Our incoming District 19 President has come up with a suggestion for multiyear membership, which I have given to the Executive Board.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 23 DIRECTOR FRANCIS D. RAMSEY REPORT:

An article was printed in The Holland Sentinel Newspaper about the IOBG Summer Regional Meeting held in Saugatuck/Douglas, MI. After the Meeting and all the accounting was done, District 23 contributed funds to the local Historical Society.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 25 ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TOM LYON REPORT:

We had a very successful event at the Summer Regional Meeting in Saugatuck. We have instituted a mailing to each member with a dues renewal enclosed, we think this hands on approach will have a positive impact on the District. We have already had numerous returns on the mailing.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 26 DIRECTOR ERNIE ODIERNA REPORT:

Our first annual Thank-a-Vet.-Day, held Sept. 13th which was extremely successful.

We are looking forward to increasing our recruiting efforts in 2010.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 27 DIRECTOR BOB HOWE REPORT:

We will be hosting 2010 Summer Regional Meeting and we hope to put together a challenge to Districts and Chapters for a Golf Tournament and all funds received will be going to IOBGHF.

DISTRICT 51 ALTERNATE DIRECTOR BILL THAYER REPORT:

Reporting for District 51 Director Linda Loftis, the Houston and Austin Yacht Clubs have been contacted, and they are still thinking over the next winter regional meeting

In 2010 Walt Kaydk will be the new District Director for 51.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 70 PRESIDENT TONY RAZZELL REPORT:

Reporting for District Director Bill Young said at this time the membership is low, but we all keep in touch by phone. This year we will be making a decision for a charity with money we have in the Humanitarian Fund UK.

Report Submitted.

B. AREA VICE PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

NORTHEASTERN VICE PRESIDENT CHUCK BROWNING REPORT:

The Northeastern Region has settled down, and some Districts are getting stronger. A lot has been going on in the different districts, Junior Sailing program, Veterans Appreciation Day and we are still growing. Only District 20 is not doing too much this year, but we are working on it as we speak.

Report Submitted.

#### NORTH CENTRAL VICE PRESIDENT FRANCIS D. RAMSEY REPORT:

Information given at the Summer Regional Meeting is still going strong and I keep in contact by phone and E-Mail.

#### SOUTHEASTERN VICE PRESIDENT TOM SULLIVAN REPORT

Read the full report from District 8 for the report.

#### NORTHWESTERN VICE PRESIDENT ART KOVARNIK REPORT:

New officers for 2010, a strong group is in place. We are working hard with our Canadian Districts to get together with them more often.

Report Submitted.

#### SOUTHWESTERN VICE PRESIDENT LARRY DRAPER REPORT:

The big event that District 14 and 19 participated in was the Wheel Chair Regatta, had over 600 people out for the sail on the Bay.

District Directors in Southern California have kept in touch via email.

With Deanna Tomei, I will co-chair Vern Bendsen's installation next year in October, 2010.

Report Submitted.

#### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARY EIFFERT REPORT:

Since 2008 Annual Meeting we have added five new chapters. If you need a copy of a lost charter etc., let me know, send an email or snail mail will be fine.

Report Submitted.

#### C. APPOINTED OFFICERS:

#### EDUCATION and DEVELOPMENT PHIL PROMESSI REPORT:

If you do not have a copy of "What the Duties and Responsibilities are for All Officers", which should have been in your package, I have extra copies, give me your address and I will mail them out to you,

President Jerry Rudd said also, there is a Binder for new District Directors to explain all the dos and don'ts. It should be passed on down, if you can't find the one for your District, contact me or Marshall Nemoy and we will get one to you.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Marc Connelly also mentioned that he will get together with Mary Nye Meyers to put the Marketing Program on the website.

#### LEGAL OFFICER GEORGE KNIES REPORT:

The By-laws Committee is making rapid progress revising and adding long needed additions and changes to our By-laws. The current economic crisis facing our nation today is causing retention and enlistment problems for clubs and other volunteer organizations.

Youth programs sponsored by clubs, etc. require a background check for adults involved in the programs. Said checks are required by local statute as well as your insurance carrier.

The IRS is scrutinizing 501 (c). Check my article in the July 2008 edition of The Blue Gavel Log "Reciprocal Arrangement with 501 (c) (7) Clubs – The unrelated Income Controversy".

Prosecution of Copyright Infringement has increased especially in the music industry. Revisit your club's music license requirements.

Our name and logo are registered with U. S. Patent Office and the Canadian Patent Office This gives us exclusive rights of use.

A reminder that information contained in the IOBG Roster i.e. addresses, phone number and email addresses are not to be used as mass marketing tools. Meaning we are not to use the email addresses to send out unsolicited business, advertising or personal political statements, regular mail, mail or fax solicitations.

Report Submitted.

#### LOG EDITOR-IN CHIEF and WEBMASTER MARY NYE MEYERS REPORT:

The deadline for articles for the next LOG is November 7, 2009. The mailing of this issue will be mid-January, 2010, because with no Winter Regional Meeting we want to spread out the LOG issues and the next deadline for the LOG will be March 13, 2010 and that will be closer to our Spring Regional Meeting

If you wish to get the LOG by email let me know, you will get it much faster than by mail and save IOBG some money.

As to the IOBG Website, I would like to put on the website a link called Project Page that would tell all Districts what is going on in all our areas. We are getting more "hits" on our website over 1200 and this would let people know what we are about and a great marketing tool for us.

#### PROTOCOL OFFICER MARSHA LANDRETH REPORT:

Passed out a paper on Parliamentary Procedure and explained it.  
Report Submitted.

RECORDING SECRETARY MARYBETH THAYER: No Report.

SERGEANT at ARMS PHIL PROMESSI: No Report.

#### HISTORIAN ART THEOBALD REPORT:

Collecting information and so far I have collected the LOG since 1985 and now I would like to collect Districts and Chapters Newsletters.

Report Submitted.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Marc Connelly announced that Art Theobald besides being IOBG Historian as of yesterday he is the Secretary for District 8.

President Jerry Rudd introduced International Order of the Blue Gavel President Audrey Hall brought to the meeting by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Marc Connelly.

#### IOBGA PRESIDENT AUDREY HALL REPORT:

We had some bumps this year to overcome and I believe we have taken care of them and we are on to do what we do best, support you the main body and to make new friends and renew old friendships as we travel place to place.

Report Submitted.

#### D. APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:

AUXILIARY LIAISON MARC CONNELLY: No Report.

#### BOAT U.S. JAMES HINCKLEY REPORT:

Discussed the problem with Muskrat that is causing hardship for all boaters coast to coast and what can be done about it. There is an article printed in the Seaworthy Magazine October, 2009 by Bob Adriance.

Report Submitted

#### HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON OFFICER JIM HINCKLEY REPORT:

This is a tough time for the HF and we are looking for new ideas to generate more interest in getting funds into HF. A new idea is to send your CD or digital on your charity projects in your District and Webmaster Mary Nye Meyers will do a DVD that would be passed on to every IOBG member. It would show what you are working on and if HF could help you in your own projects in your area.

Then Humanitarian Foundation President Jim Hinckely presented to Past President Richard Janiszewski a check for District 12 to help fund the Youth Sailing Program in Long Beach Island, NJ.

Report Submitted.

#### NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION DAVID KUTZ: Not Present.

President Jerry Rudd said the National Boating Federation Report is here for you to take with you today.

This organization is for the whole nation not just one area. David Kutz has set up E-Mail for those members who would like to be alerted on what is going on in all areas and from that might learn something new in your own area, let David Kutz know and you will be notified by E-Mail.

Interesting also was that Boaters aren't doing a good job for their own safety. Noted was causality of war 4221 people and causality of loss of life on boats 4180. WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKETS!

#### U.S. SAILING ASSOCIATION BILL THAYER REPORT:

The 2009-2012 edition of the US Sailing Judges Manual is now available on line for free to members.

The IOC has confirmed 10 sailing event classes for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The Tornado Multihulls has been dropped.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomas Clagger Jr. Memorial Regatta for sailors with disabilities and vision impaired was held at the Rhode Island Public Sailing Center, Sail Newport in August.

US Sailing has begun accepting nominations for the Rolex Yachswoman and Yachtsman of the year and will continue through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Report Submitted.

#### US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY LARRY DRAPER REPORT:



Had a few requests where the US Coast Guard holds classes thru out the United States. Let me know if you want this information, it is a good learning tool.

US POWER SQUADRON BJ URSIN: Not Here.

President Jerry Rudd mentioned that the books on education for children is free, all you would have to pay for is the postage. Contact BJ Ursin and he will give you their address.

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING MARC CONNELLY REPORT:

Marking Program is working.

E. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

TREASURER MARSHALL NEMOY REPORT:

Pass out Delegate Travel Allowance forms.

The financial statements in this report are as of September 30, 2009 and the nine months then ended. In spite of the lower than expected revenues, IOBG will be able to meet all of its obligations for the remainder of the year.

International Operations Center provides certain services, membership card processing and other tasks assigned by the Executive Committee. It is under the direction of the Treasurer and it's available to all members. The IOC was created to serve the membership. Please feel free to contact us with your questions.

Report Submitted.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT MARC CONNELLY REPORT:

To me 2009 has been an interesting year. More use of the marketing program, very successful mail in ballot, by-law changes and the new code of conduct.

I would be remiss not to mention all the new members and new interest in IOBG in different areas of the country.

Report Submitted.

1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT VERN BENDSEN REPORT:

The By-law changes will be posted on the website by November 15, 2009, send your comments and suggestions to me.

Looking over this year's reports from the Area Vice Presidents, I have to say this year has been an interesting year for our Blue Gavel Districts and Chapters, the members in our Chapter or in our District. We need to let the members of the Districts and Chapters know that they have a responsibility to themselves, to do what is best for them, within the context of the Blue Gavel's framework. Communication to all members is our goal.

To the members who refuse to let the past go, we must work around them, and over them, so we leave them in the past as we move into the future.

Report Submitted.

PRESIDENT ELECT RAY THOMPSON REPORT:

My message is when you are President Elect you get to put on the Annual Meeting and with District 8 in turmoil we weren't sure if this event would happen. The group from my own Yacht

Club said YES WE COULD! YES WE WOULD! AND HERE WE ARE! Thanks to each and every one for all their hard work. Hope you all are having fun.

PAST PRESIDENT RICHARD JANISZEWSKI REPORT:

This year my responsibility was the Audit Committee, and Nominating Committee, which have been completed. I only have one more duty that will be revealed this evening. Thank you, all the years went by too quickly.

PRESIDENT JERRY RUDD REPORT:

This has been a very, very interesting year dealing with situations that seems to be working their way out.

Meeting with all of you and having conversations with you. Thank you to my Executive Committee for all their hard work, a lot of phone calls back and forth likewise Emails back and forth. It will be good and most interesting in the next few years; the Executive Committee is working hard to streamline the Blue Gavel.

OLD BUSINESS:

SUPPLY OFFICER EARL HOHLMAYER, COMMODORE INSIGNIA: Not Here.

President Jerry Rudd said IOBG has signed a contract with Prestige Flags to supply the heavy-duty burgees.

Prestige Flag Co. didn't want to deal with 4 or 5 Supply Dealers, so David Kutz will be the one who will handle the heavy-duty burgees for IOBG. Will notify the other Suppliers and it is already on the Web site for you to use. Commodore Insignia will not handle the heavy Burgee only the light ones.

UPDATES ON ALL OFFICERS PAST PRESIDENT CAROL PROMESSI REPORT:

P/P Carol Promessi announced all updates of new offices should be sent to her, so she can get the information out.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVAL of NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET:

Motion was made and seconded to accept next year's Budget. Motion was passed.

DONATION to ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTE:

President Jerry Rudd presented a check from IOBG to District 70 President Tony Razzell for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

ELECTION of OFFICERS FOR 2010:

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT VERN BENDSEN OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE ELECTION:

The IOBG Nominating Committee has made the following nominations for Officers for the year 2009-2010 read by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Vern Bendsen.

President Ray Thompson, District 8

Immediate Past President Jerry Rudd, District 1  
(The President and Immediate Past president are included on this list for continuity only, as those offices are automatic).  
President Elect Vern Bendsen, District 19  
First Vice President Marc Connelly, District 3  
Second Vice President Stephen H. Willing, District 25  
Financial Officer Marshall Nemoy, District 15  
Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert, District 1  
Northeastern Vice President Chuck Browning, District 27  
Northwestern Vice President Arthur Kovarnik, District 1  
North Central Vice President Tom Lyon, District 25  
Southwestern Vice President Gary McGrath, District 19  
Southeastern Vice President Tom Sullivan, District 8  
District 50 Director Damian Pflgebraar, District 9  
(East of Mississippi River)  
District 51 Director Walt Kadyk, District 21  
(West of Mississippi River)  
Report Submitted.

Do I hear any nominations from the floor?  
Move and second that the nominations be closed. Motion passed.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Vern Bendsen then read each name that was nominated and asked twice at each name if there was a nomination from the floor. It was moved and seconded that nominations be closed for each nominee.  
Motion made to accept the ballot and seconded. Motion passed.  
Motion made for the entire slate of Officers and seconded. Motion Passed.  
Ladies and Gentlemen, we have our New Officers for 2009-2010.

President Jerry Rudd gave a great Thank You to District 8 Palm Coast Yacht Club for this wonderful event.

President Jerry Rudd presented IOBG Gavel for 2010 to President Ray Thompson and wished him the best of luck.

President Ray Thompson spoke of this honor being a two edged sword; both exciting and humbling, everyday it will be onward, upward and forward. Thank you.  
The announcement of Appointed Officers is not yet complete for next year, have not heard back from a few.

President Ray Thompson adjourned the meeting at 11:58 A. M.

Respectfully submitted

Marybeth Thayer  
Recording Secretary