

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL
WINTER REGIONAL MEETING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SESSION
OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI

The Winter Regional Meeting was called to order by President Stephen Willing at 9:00 A.M. at the Ocean Springs Yacht Club on Friday, February 3, 2012.

CALL to ORDER:

President Stephen Willing welcomed everyone and called for a moment of silence to honor the men and women of all our military services, we wish them all a safe journey home and a healing of physical and mental wounds suffered in service to our countries.

Past President Vern Bendsen led in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of Executive Committee and Past International Presidents by the Recording Secretary Marybeth Thayer.

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| President Stephen Willing | District 25 |
| President Elect Chuck Browning | District 27 |
| First Vice President Gary McGrath | District 19 |
| Second Vice President Joel Kay | District 7 |
| Treasurer Marshall Nemoy | District 15 |
| Past President Vern Bendsen | District 19 |
| Past President Ray Thompson | District 8 |

Mr. President, there is a quorum.

INTRODUCTION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:

President Stephen Willing introduced Past Presidents Vern Bendsen and Ray Thompson.

SELF-INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES AND GUESTS:

President Stephen Willing introduced our host John O'Shaughnessy, Ocean Springs Yacht Club from DISTRICT 50.

President of Ocean Springs Yacht Club Chapter John O'Shaughnessy welcomed everyone and we are very happy to have you all here.

DISTRICT 1:

North Western Vice President & Log Editor Mary Nye Meyers

DISTRICT 7:

North Central Vice President Tony Durieux

DISTRICT 8:

South Eastern Vice President Joe Dowdell District Director Lenworth Gordon
Guest Gordon E. Brown

DISTRICT 11:

South Western Vice President Rosalie Davis Green District President Sherry Barry

DISTRICT 14:

Past South Western Vice President Larry Draper District Director Mike Billington
Member Diane Billington

DISTRICT 15:

US Sailing Rep. Bill Thayer Past District Director Gary Hall
Recording Secretary Marybeth Thayer

DISTRICT 16:

Protocol Officer & Acting District Director Marsha Landreth

DISTRICT 19:

Legal Officer Herman Meyer District Vice President John Anthony
District Secty/Treas M. Estella McGrath Member Linda Bendsen

DISTRICT 27:

IOBG Humanitarian Foundation President & CEO Robert L. Howe

APPROVAL of WINTER REGIONAL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2011,
WINDSOR, CANADA:

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from October 15, 2011. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER MARSHALL NEMOY REPORT:

The financial statements presented in this report are as of December 31, 2011 and for the year then ended.

Our total expenses were lower than budgeted; most of the savings were due to lower than expected travel expenses related to the Annual Meeting, Executive Committee and Area Vice Presidents.

Overall our financial position remains strong.

In 2011 we decided to deliver THE BLUE GAVEL LOG electronically and savings have reduced the pressure to raise dues. Still many districts have not put the word out to their members about the cost if a member wants the printed copy mailed to them.

A few comments:

2012 DUES: We are mailing out membership cards within one week, we ask that the District Treasurers check their transmittals carefully before mailing them to IOC, so we get the right information the first time.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: We are finally running out of paper membership cards. This is an excellent opportunity to investigate plastic cards without buying special equipment. If anyone has information on this item, please contact me as soon as possible.

Email Address: If you do not want to receive THE LIGHTHOUSE please let us know by email. DO NOT CLICK ON THE UNSUBSCRIBE BUTTON. If too many members hit that Unsubscribe Button, the service can cancel our agreement. Be sure the members in your Districts know this or our savings will be lost.

Any member in good standing may request a copy of this report from the International Operations Center (IOC) office.

Any Questions? Asked about the "THE LIGHTHOUSE" and how it works. Between Log Editor Mary Nye Meyers and me we try to put out a brief little note between the LOG and the meetings thru THE LIGHTHOUSE. We are saving money by using this service. E-Mail services are constrained by anti-spamming laws, if too many members hit the Unsubscribe Button, the service can cancel our agreement. It is a good deal, a flat fee for the year and we can send out as much E-Mail as we want.

Report Submitted.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT JOEL KAY REPORT:

As liaison to IOBG Auxiliary, I have met with the 2012 President Ethel Keith and Secretary Nancy Kay. I pledged the support of my office for efforts and activities of the Auxiliary. It will be easy for me as IOBGA President Ethel Keith lives less than a half-hour from me and Nancy Kay is my wife.

I encouraged the officers and members of District 7 to read the "Lighthouse" for current information of what is happening in District 7 and thru-out IOBG International.

Report Submitted.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT GARY McGRATH REPORT:

In talking with my AVP's, I have come to determine that we have two problems that still need to be addressed, **Retention and Recruiting.**

Retention: 1. Try not scheduling a meeting over a holiday. 2. Try to schedule a Speaker for the meeting. 3. Try to hold the meeting in a central location. 4. Schedule fun events in lieu of a business meeting. 5. Send at least one snail mail 30 days prior to the meeting and then follow up with another snail mail or e-mail.

Recruiting: We should be looking all around us, there are many areas that have Yacht Clubs and have not heard about IOBG. I am aware that retention and recruiting in this economy is difficult, but this is our lifeblood and I will be reminding you of this throughout the year.

Report Submitted.

PRESIDENT ELECT CHUCK BROWNING REPORT:

We have discussed membership retention and what we need to do to help improve it.

We know the history of IOBG and now find out what your local Yacht Clubs think/know about the IOBG and educate them on who we are.

Things we could do: 1. Make sure the yacht clubs are getting a copy of the IOBG LOG and LIGHTHOUSE. 2. Get invited to speak at their Board of Directors meetings. 3. Invite the outgoing Commodore to dinner and personally invite him/her to join the IOBG. 4. Get an IOBG link on yacht club web sites. 5. Add a website to our district chapters addresses.

This is a job for all officers in your district. Don't put the responsibility on one person.

Attend the social functions at the different yacht clubs and let them know about IOBG.

Report Submitted.

PRESIDENT STEPHEN WILLING REPORT:

I would like to welcome everyone to Ocean Springs Yacht Club. We hope we can encourage more Past Commodores from the Gulf Coast to join the IOBG. Most clubs and organizations over the past several years have had some difficulty recruiting and retaining members. The more active the District is, the better it performs in growing the membership.

I believe that there are qualified Past Commodores who have never been asked or encouraged to join our organization and members who have dropped out, must be contacted to let them know they are not forgotten.

We ask all of our members to open the LIGHTHOUSE to get the most up to date information from your Organization.

Report Submitted.

PAST PRESIDENT VERN BENDSEN REPORT:

We –the IOBG- are a group of recreational boaters who band together in their yacht clubs. Through our yacht clubs we reflect the boating image to the society we live in. We refract the conditions of the boating community, meaning we change directions to do what is best for our boaters in the changing political scene. Today, we have a better communication system to keep our members up to date with the ever changing rules and regulations for the recreational boaters. We are better at sharing information with each other on what we are doing within our yacht clubs and communities.

Report Submitted.

AREA VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS:

NORTH WESTERN VICE PRESIDENT MARY NYE MEYERS REPORT:

I have been so lucky to have Districts 1 and 5 that are so self-reliant and motivated. The Districts have made it a focus to keep our members alerted and involved in governmental or political activities regarding water or boating issues. The Blue Gavel has developed a strong commitment to providing valuable avenues for communication...both educationally and political.

Speaking for District 1 as the Alternate District Director (District Director Ron Timmerman will speak for District 5) we are represented by the Recreational Boating Assoc. of WA. and National Boating Federation. NBF in conjunction with the US Coast Guard developed a new brochure, "DSC – Digital Selective Calling – Today's SOS". It enhances the Coast Guard's capability to more effectively respond to a DSC distress called. NBF has another brochure, about the advantages of having a VHF radio on your vessel, if a cell phone is your means of communication, there are specific instructions that should be followed. NBF web site is www.n-b-f.org.

Report Submitted.

SOUTH WESTERN VICE PRESIDENT ROSALIE DAVIS GREEN REPORT:

I represent California, Hawaii and Guam. My role is one of cheerleader and consultant, Hawaii and Guam Districts has had a few lean years but members are starting to step up and regroup. District 10 Director LaVon Plumlee has worked very hard with the members and now has at least one (1) activity a month. Districts don't do well if it is a one person show. District 15 Director Eileen Van Winkle invited me to attend IOBG Annual Yacht Club Management Seminar and it was very informative. District 16 Director Nancy Rowe is struggling right now, but is working hard to bring it up to speed. In Southern California it is fairly easy to attend the different events and District 14 and 19 (Northern California) are well represented by George Knies (14) and Herman Meyer (19).

Host John O'Shaughnessy introduced the General Manager Kendall Devkox. He welcomed everyone and talked about tomorrow's Mardi Gras Parade starting right in front of the Ocean Springs Yacht Club.

President Stephen introduced IOBG Auxiliary President Ethel Keith. President Ethel Keith discussed how she has been an active member of IOBGA for over twenty (20) years and will work hard this year as President of IOBG Auxiliary for IOBG.

NORTH CENTRAL VICE PRESIDENT TONY DURIEUX REPORT:

My primary goal this year will be to be available to all the District members and hope to attend when possible the events of those Districts. The Districts have many social functions planned for the coming year.

District 7 has added a line on their dues notices for the Humanitarian Foundation, District 9's many individual chapters have been very active and hopefully that will mean more participation in chapter activities.

District 23 was a combination of successes of "firsts", The District has approved its own By-Laws and approved by the International this past year. Also, the District published its first newsletter in 2011. Membership is coming in slow.

District 25 is continuing its effort to improve communications between its members. District 25 Treasurer sent a letter with renewal invoices to current members and also those former members who did not renew last year.

Reports Submitted.

NORTH EASTERN VICE PRESIDENT DAVE GROVE REPORT: Given by Second Vice President Gary McGrath

Because of my work schedule I will be late in coming to this meeting, but should arrive by noon. District 27: The plans for President Elect Chuck Browning's Ball next year will be held at the Maryland Golf and Country Club. October 20, 2012. The task master for this has been the incredible result of District 27 President Dennis Taylor.

Enclosed is a letter concerning Ethanol E 15, which at this time may not be lawfully sold for use in marine engine. This is very good news so far.

District 12: This area is fundamentally a summer resort and over the past three years it has raised over \$12,000.00 for the Friends of Southern Sailing with a grant from the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation and this was done in only five (5) Yacht Clubs.

District 3 Director Lewis W. Smith reported that the Excalibur Foundation was again chosen as the recipient of their annual charitable donations.

At District 3 holiday 2011 dinner held at Buffalo Launch Club, and the awarding a special award to Past Commodore Marc Connelly for his years of dedication and services to the IOBG.

Reports Submitted.

SOUTH EASTERN VICE PRESIDENT JOE DOWDELL REPORT;

Attended the Annual Meeting at District 8 and will hold three (3) meetings a year, their newsletter will go out electronically and in the works is to start E-Mail to the members like IOBG's THE LIGHTHOUSE.

George Eichman and Past President Art Theobald have talked to Pelican Island Yacht Club in joining IOBG, the paper work for this will be coming.

Will get together with Marshall Nemoy to get authorization to have IOBG's emblem embroidery a clothing item, not to have to order a group of items all at once.

The Florida group is still actively pursuing our IOBG members to join their organization.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORTS:

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT SHERRY BARRY REPORT:

We held our first Wine Tasting event at the Port Royal Yacht Club raising funds for the King Harbor Youth Foundation. We will be having a Membership application luncheon at South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club on March 25th. We are continuing to grow our membership.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR LENWORTH GORDON REPORT:

Attended the Marathon Yacht Club's Blue Gavel Flag lowering ceremony and made a presentation of IOBG Humanitarian Foundation at Palm Island Yacht Club.

DISTRICT 14 DIRECTOR MIKE BILLINGTON REPORT:

There are 60 yacht clubs in our area and the problem we have is competing with the other fine boating organizations. We do point out that IOBG is the only organization which membership is limited to Staff Commodores and it is an opportunity for Blue Gavel members to share fellowship with other Staff Commodores. We have determined that phone calls and regular mail to existing chapters is the most effective way to reach our members and future members.

We are planning a management seminar for the America's Cup races in 2013. It will discuss how to get involved and help with this event and other matters of club management. We will assist the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association in its annual Wheel Chair Regatta. This is always a great event, more than half the skippers for the Wheel Chair Regatta are IOBG members.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 16 ACTING DIRECTOR MARSHA LANDRETH REPORT:

The District was talking about disbanding, but a vote was taken to continue and now we are waiting for the old District Officers to call a meeting and we then can elect new officers, at the next Regional Meeting we hope to have a better report.

DISTRICT 18 DIRECTOR JOE DOWDELL REPORT:

District 18 covers five (5) States and we are hoping to get a meeting this year to get new Officers and bring District 18 up and running again.

DISTRICT 19 DIRECTOR HERMAN MEYER REPORT:

District 19 has the following goals for 2012: 1. Membership to 150 2. Fund raising for President Elect Gary McGrath 2013 events 3. Cruise out to Power Squadron Island in the Delta 4. Summer BBQ 5. Induction of new members in February 6. Participation in America's Cup We have one new Club, Capitol City Yacht Club and we are active in Recreational Boaters of California, and P.I.C.Y.A. activities.

Report Submitted

DISTRICT 21 DIRECTOR LEO VOVORTOUNI REPORT: Given by Treasurer Marshall Nemo

District Director Leo Vortouni has agreed to continue as District Director and the Treasurer has asked and has received the information to send out dues notices. So it is hoped to have it up and running soon.

DISTRICT 70 DIRECTOR BILL YOUNG REPORT: Given by President Stephen Willing

Have not heard from District Director Bill Young in England in awhile, will contact him and see what is going on.

DISTRICT 75 DIRECTOR KEITH WARDELL REPORT: Given by Recording Secretary Marybeth Thayer

Heard from District Director Keith Wardell, everything is moving slowing and looking forward to better days. Coming to U.S. in the summer (our) and hope we can get together. He said to say hello to everyone and have a good meeting.

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

HISTORIAN ART THEOBALD REPORT: Given by President Stephen Willing

Art Theobald asked if anyone has anything of interest of the history of IOBG, let him know.

LEGAL OFFICER HERMAN MEYER REPORT:

Have not heard from anyone and have an on going litigation in CA. George Knies sends his best wishes.

LOG EDITOR in CHIEF MARY NYE MEYERS REPORT:

Deadline for the LOG is February 18, 2012, Saturday.

PROTOCOL OFFICER MARSHA LANDRETH REPORT: No Report.

RECORDING SECRETARY MARYBETH THAYER REPORT: No Report.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARY EIFFERT REPORT: No Report.

REPRESENTATIVES:

AUXILIARY LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE JOEL KAY REPORT:

Met with the IOBGA Members this morning and have their full support for our organization.

BOAT US REPRESENTATIVE MARSHALL NEMOY REPORT:

They put out a publication with a lot of information about government affairs and alerts on what to be aware of. Remember we have a group number that will get you ½ off their membership.
Report Submitted.

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE VERN BENDSEN REPORT:

We are putting all the IOBGHF records in one place.
IOBG Humanitarian Foundation President & CEO Robert Howe announced a meeting this afternoon and all are invited to attend.

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE DAVE KUTZ REPORT: No Report.

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVE LARRY DRAPER: No Report.

US SAILING REPRESENTATIVE BILL THAYER REPORT:

The Independent Panel Reports on the 2011 Chicago to Mackinac Yacht Race capsizing, the Youth Sailing 420 Tragedy on the Severn River and the capsizing of Rambler 100 during the 2011 Fast Net Race were published and discussed at the Annual Meeting, 29 October and are on the Web Site. Over 200 members attended the Annual Meeting in Annapolis, MD.

Over 250 program directors, instructors, volunteers, parents and industry representatives looking to rejuvenate their sailing programs, attended US Sailing's 2012 National Sailing Symposium, held in Long Beach, CA.

Susan "Charlie" Arms, Director of Sailing for the California Maritime Academy and the daughter of the Late Past President Phil Arms, has been named the California Educator of the Year by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Report Submitted.

COMMITTEES:

AUDIT CHAIRMAN VERN BENDSEN REPORT: No Report.

BY-LAWS and POLICY MANUAL CHAIRMAN VERN BENDSEN REPORT:

Only District 8 has some questions about By-Laws and the By-Laws Committee is dealing with it.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW CHAIRMAN VERN BENDSEN REPORT:

Everything with the President Elect Chuck Browning is going well.

NOMINATIONS CHAIRMAN VERN BENDSEN REPORT:

The Nomination Committee consists of Past President Ray Thompson, President Stephen Willing, Eastside Member Thomas Ellis, Westside Member James Colburn and I. The positions of President and President Elect are automatically moved up. For all other officers let the Committee know who would like to move up, stay in the same position or not continue as an Officer.

ANNUAL MEETING 2012 CHAIRMAN CHUCK BROWNING REPORT:

The Annual Meeting will be held in Edgewood, Maryland, 18-21 October, 2012. It will be sponsored by the Bush River Yacht Club and assisted by other IOBG Chapters in the area. President Dennis Taylor and his Officers has spent time putting this together, you will enjoy visiting upper Chesapeake Bay and District 27.
Report Submit.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

GOOD of the ORDER:

President Stephen Willing discussed the Spring Meeting being held in Portland, Oregon, June 7-9. It will be the 100th Year Anniversary of the Royal Rosarians. More information will be coming out in the LOG and THE LIGHTHOUSE.

Announcement was made by President Stephen Willing that the National Boating Federation Representative Dave Kutz will not be able to serve next year, 2013. Anyone who would be interest let us know.

President Stephen Willing presented an IOBG plaque to John O'Shaughnessy and Ocean Springs Yacht Club for hosting our Winter Regional Meeting. Chapter President of Ocean Springs Yacht Club John O'Shaughnessy discussed the history of the different Yacht Clubs in the area, their being the young one of 43 years and thanked all who came.

MOTION to ADJOURN:

Motion was made and second to adjourn at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marybeth Thayer
Recording Secretary