

# INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

WINTER REGIONAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2013  
VENICE YACHT CLUB, VENICE, FLORIDA

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Browning at 9:05 A.M. at the Venice Yacht Club in Venice, Florida, Saturday, February 9, 2013.

President Chuck Browning called on District 8 Secretary Bud Higginson.

Bud Higginson recognized Venice Yacht Club Commodore Tony Zumbano and introduced Mayor John Holic of Venice to the IOBG Members.

Mayor John Holic discussed a little of the history of the city of Venice. He then read an official proclamation declaring the February 9, 2013 as "International Order of Blue Gavel Day" and presented a framed copy. President Chuck accepted on behalf of the membership of IOBG.

CALL to ORDER:

President Chuck Browning asked for a moment of silence to honor the men and women of all our military services.

The Pledge of Allegiance led by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Joe Dowdell

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Chuck Browning	District 27
President Elect Gary McGrath	District 19
First Vice President Joel Kay	District 7
Second Vice President Joe Dowdell	District 8
Treasurer Marshall Nemoy	District 15
Past President Stephen Willing	District 25

Mr. President, there is a quorum present confirmed by Recording Secretary Marybeth Thayer.

Self-Introduction of attendees and quests:

DISTRICT 1:

Northwest Vice President Mary Nye Meyers

DISTRICT 7:

North Central Vice President Tony Durieux District Director Mark A. Vadaj

DISTRICT 8:

South Eastern Vice President & District Director Lenworth Gordon District President George Eichman

District Vice President Charles Ranson PIYC District 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bill Pittman

VYC District Secretary Bud Higginson District Treasurer Robert Pease Past Commodores:

VYC John Jepson VYC Horace Cook PIYC Peter Frank RPYC President Bob Minahan

PCYC President James E. Dupuy

VYC Mayor John Holic of Venice, Florida VYC Dick Guba VYC Shaun Graser

VYC Commodore Tony Zumbano VYC Bob Piel CYC Chapter President Sandie Ramsden

VYC Chapter Sec/Treas Audrey Rice

Guests: IOBGA President Renee Gordon VYC Judy Pittman PCYC Dolores M. Chambers-Dupuy

DISTRICT 11:

South Western Vice President Rosalie Davis Green District President Sherry Barone

DISTRICT 12:

District Director Vincent J. Core

DISTRICT 15:

IOBGHF COB/US Sailing Rep. Bill Thayer IOBGA Treas. Audrey Hall  
Member Gary Hall IOBG Recording Sec. Marybeth Thayer

DISTRICT 26:

District Director Ernie Odierna IOBGHF President & CEO Robert L. Howe  
Guest: Wendy Kravit

DISTRICT 27:

North Eastern Vice President Dave Grove

DISTRICT 50:

District Director Mark Vadaj

President Chuck Browning called for the approval of the Fall Regional Meeting minutes of October 20, 2012.  
Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

TREASURER MARSHALL NEMOY REPORT:

On the financial statements presented for 2012 we did not spend the money we had budgeted.

The IOC, Executive Committee, Annual Meeting, Area Vice Presidents and the Blue Gavel Log/Lighthouse all are under budget in 2012. Our 2013 dues are steadily arriving and our membership collection is a little over at this time of the year. By the June meeting we will provide a more clear picture of the membership situation.

On our new Membership Cards, this year's design was selected at the Annual Meeting. For 2014 we plan to change the design. We are working on a plan where the members can be more involved.

All members are welcome to contact us with questions. If we can not provide a good answer, we probably know who can. We are here to serve the membership.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT JOE DOWDELL REPORT:

I am the first member from District 8 to be elected to the International Executive Committee since Ray Thompson in 2006.

I recognize the burden of responsibility this honor carries. I look forward to working with President Chuck Browning and the Officers in the Executive Committee.

This year, the overriding goal, the number one objective for all of us is to increase our membership.

The lines of communications between District 8 and International are better than ever. If you want to ask for a change in the bylaws or policy, you need to take it to the district members as a whole and get a resolution passed in favor of your proposal at a District Membership meeting, first. Then your District Director can take the proposal to the Board of Directors at the next Annual Meeting. My area of responsibility this year are the districts West of the Mississippi, I will always have time to talk to P/C's from my home district. Let me hear from you.

I am also the IOBGA Liaison Officer as the late Past Commodore Ken McLeod when he held the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> International Vice President, "If your district doesn't have an active and involved Auxiliary, you need to start one! I have found it amazing the difference that an involved Auxiliary makes. Almost without exception every successful district will also have an active supportive and successful Auxiliary. It can only return benefits such as maintaining and increasing membership, harnessing a potent resource, and broadening the pleasure and enjoyment of Blue Gavel membership."

Let me end with a quote from Past President Carol Promessi, "Blue Gavel is a wonderful organization and as with any organization, it can only be as successful as its members are willing to make it"

Report submitted.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JOEL KAY REPORT:

The position of the First Vice President is covering the districts east of the Mississippi River. There is only one matter regarding this portion of the country – Hurricane Sandy and its devastation to the yacht clubs and marinas in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. Actually, I am concerned about our members who ply the water there, in general.

For our purposes, the area covered is located in Districts 12, 20, 22 and 26. In order for THIS body to ease the burdens of our members in these districts there have been considerable emails, and some telephone discussions about the Gavel's involvement. The problem is where to begin the debate and estimate its ending.

My opinion, is that we need to set a policy, then an amount and then determine who/what entities would benefit the most from our involvement.

Report Submitted.

PRESIDENT ELECT GARY McGRATH REPORT:

I will give a report sent in by District 51 Director Walt Kadyk who is unable to be here today.

The efforts of getting new members and finding past members for District 51 remains a very big challenge.

We are down to as few as 5 members as of last count. I will await the new roster.

I am continuing to attend "Opening Day" on behalf of Blue gavel and soliciting new members anytime I can.

I would suggest that IOBG overall come up with some marketing campaign that shows the benefits, that we can identify, that make IOBG "Invitational" membership attractive.

Report submitted.

For my report in general I have put on each table one copy of information on the Annual Meeting being held in Concord, CA at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. There is complimentary parking, easy access from Oakland and San Francisco Airports. We will have meetings on Thursday and Friday mornings and all day on Saturday. There will be a Boat ride up the Delta River, dinner at two Yacht Clubs and the Annual Ball. The room rate is guaranteed for up to 3 days before and 3 days after our convention. We also will have for the first time on line billing that will be set up by the June Meeting.

PRESIDENT CHUCK BROWNING REPORT:

I would like to personally thank everyone that visited Edgewood, Maryland to attend our 2012 Annual Convention. We had a lot of fun and received many good comments.

I would like to thank Joe Dowdell for putting me in contact with Bud Higginsons who worked very hard putting this meeting together. Thank you Bud and thank you Venice Yacht Club.

With the cost of fuel, its put limitations on how much boating we can do; however, we can move some of our boating fun inside our clubs. Some clubs take Land Cruises and see how many yacht clubs they can visit in one day, they take bus trips to visit Casino's or organize Dingy Poker Runs which is always a big event, How will these events help the IOBG? They can be planned, organized and conducted by your local IOBG Chapter or District which will not only help your clubs but will get past commodores from other clubs to join the International Order of the Blue Gavel. This is our main goal.

Report submitted.

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS and DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

NORTHWEST VICE PRESIDENT MARY NYE MEYERS REPORT:

I am also the LOG editor and the Deadline for articles and pictures is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I am working with District 1 and District 8 to put out an electronic bulletin with all their information and have embedded in it new membership applications, which is working very well.

District 5 is getting ready for our visit to Portland, OR for the Rosarians Knighting of our President Elect Gary McGrath.

District 1 is preparing for their Spring Regional Meeting where local wineries will visit us during the week-end meeting.

Our member retention is a concern for all of us. This year District 1 will be using a 4- step progress. Steps 1 & 2 of our plans have been showing great success.

The process centers around three words: Evolve, Connect, Grow...

1. Through our electronic newsletters members are kept informed of District 1's activities. The same newsletter carried the Dues Renewal form that our members print out and mail in.
2. The next step is to send out via snail mail a letter from District 1 President asking/reminding the members to renew their dues. We include pictures of the current Board; from all are events and a calendar of events for the year. Also, a Dues Renewal Form and a self-addressed envelope for the members to use.
3. Contact by our Board to those member who have not renewed and to find out why not.
4. Next year District 1 will be offering an Online Dues Renewal procedure. Plans are in the works to also have an Online meeting registration form and an Online New Member Application.

We will see how this works and report back if this is the way to go.

Report Submitted.

**SOUTHWEST VICE PRESIDENT ROSALIE DAVIS GREEN REPORT:**

My area consist of the Southwest area districts, two (2) in Northern CA, one (1) in Hawaii and five (5) in Southern CA. The Hawaii group love to have visitors. Let them know if you will be in the area and their will show you their "Aloha" hospitality. All districts are having some activity and are working hard to retain their membership. The Commodores seem to want to be invited to be a Blue Gavel Member but to retain them is the hard part. I seem to notice that if the Districts have activities the members want to do they will participate, but also if the activities are the same year after year the members get bored. Talk to your members to see what they would like to do different each year. Also, the Districts that have a philanthropic activity with their events seem to do well.  
Report submitted.

**DISTRICT 19 DIRECTOR JOAN MARSH HARDY REPORT: Given by President Elect Gary McGrath**

District 19 will be holding installation of 19 new members on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding four (4) functions this year for social events. We have had two (2) functions for President Elect Gary McGrath for the Annual Meeting. The Auxiliary has a raffle of very good liquors, the funds collected will be used for the convention.  
Report Submitted.

**DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT/ALTERNATE DIRECTOR SHERRY BARONE REPORT:**

We have started the New Year with our first event held at Port Royal Yacht Club. Wine tasting fundraiser for the King Harbor Jr. Sailing Scholarship Fund was held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be attending the America's Cup from Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup> experience on the water races via a boat as well as many festivities from the yachting community in San Francisco.  
Report Submitted.

**DISTRICT 15 DIRECTOR MICHELE WOLD REPORT: Given by Alternate Director Bill Thayer**

District 15 held another successful Yacht Club Management Seminar at Mission Bay Yacht Club. Thank you to District 15 President David Lancaster for organizing this event. This year District 15 IOBG member Gregg Hansen will be putting together a team in a charity event for the Make A Wish Foundation this coming April. In August a midsummer hamburger barbecue will be held for all members at the home of Dick and Michele Wold.  
Report Submitted.

President Chuck Browning introduced Venice Yacht Club Past Commodore Shaun Graser.

Past Commodore of Venice Yacht Club Shaun Graser invited everyone to look out on the Bay to see the Prams (now called Optis) racing. It was started here at Venice Yacht Club in 1962. Also, we have Lasers and 420s.

**NORTH CENTRAL VICE PRESIDENT TONY DURIEUX REPORT:**

Districts, 7, 9 and 25 continue to show strength during a very difficult time in the boating community. The economy as a whole is having an adverse affect on club membership throughout the Great Lakes. We are seeing renewed effort by the club management or bridge to offer a variety of local social activities to maintain membership.  
Report Submitted.

**DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR MARK A. VADAJ REPORT:**

District 7 is actively pursuing the goals to not only match the 2012 membership status but to increase the 2013 Membership by 25% or greater. Each Area Vice President within the Chapter has pledged to dedicate 15-30 minutes of their time weekly for IOBG efforts. District 7 has a full social calendar planned, starting in March participating in the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade to December Annual Holiday Celebration. In between Blue Blazer invitation, a Cruise on Nautica Queen, a visit to the USS Cod, a rendezvous within Huron Boat Basin, Huron, Ohio. It's all in our District 7 newsletter, check us out.  
Report Submitted.

**DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR BECKY VINCENT REPORT: Given by NCVP Tony Durieux**

District 9, together with District 7 and 25 sponsored a pizza table at the winter Inter-Lake Yachting Assoc. gathering. We have done event for the past few years in an effort to promote Blue Gavel. We especially want to let members of the boating community know of

the Humanitarian projects we do. District 9 has an Ohio State/Michigan football pool and a Pig Roast that contributes to our Humanitarian donations.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 25 DIRECTOR BILL WOODS REPORT: Given by NCVP Tony Durieux

After years of discussion about better methods to communicate District 25 has incorporated an emailing distribution list for all its members. The response to the list has been enthusiastic about the new means of communication from the board.

Last year all our functions were well attended and we look forward to 2013. With the current small influx of past members renewing, we are looking forward to renewed enthusiasm.

Report Submitted.

NORTH EASTERN VICE PRESIDENT DAVE GROVE REPORT:

My area of responsibility is District 3 (Central Ontario), 12 (New Jersey), 20 (Eastern New York & New Jersey), District 22 (New Jersey South), 26 (Long Island Sound, New York) and 27 Maryland, Delaware & Pennsylvania). I will start with District 3 report.

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR LEWIS W. SMITH REPORT: Given by NEVP Dave Grove.

Due to the recent loss of District President Warren Schafer's wife Kathy and Warren's subsequent health problems, District 3 has gotten off to a slow start this year. Member support continues to be strong. We have a dedicated slate of officers and I'm sure we will be up and running shortly.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 27 NEVP DAVE GROVE REPORT:

What I'm seeing and hearing is the devastation that the Home and Club members of New York and New Jersey have suffered. Right now I would like you to hear from two District Officers involved in the Hurricane Sandy.

DISTRICT 12 DIRECTOR VINCERT J.CORE REPORT:

District 12 consists of five yacht clubs located on Long Beach, a barrier island situated on the New Jersey shore, just north of Atlantic City.

All of the yacht clubs situated right on the bay, were severely impacted. Many of the members also suffering damage to their homes and businesses (you all have probably seen the pictures of "Sandy").

With all that, I would propose waiving the 2013 dues. If the Board approves, the 2012 membership should be renewed for 2013 and the five incoming past commodores be added to the roster for a total of 40 members, in return, if the Board thinks it appropriate, District 12 could be precluded from exercising any vote in 2013.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this recommendation. Again, I'm of the opinion that this could be instrumental in determining the future of District 12.

Report Submitted.

DISTRICT 26 DIRECTOR ERNIE ODIERNA REPORT:

We have all been impacted all up and down the New York and Conn. Coastline. Getting everything repaired is a constant challenge to all the Clubs. We did have warnings and moved everything downstairs up stairs. Still the water and wind did their damaged.

IOBG District 26 members got together and are planning to have an all day conference with government officials, State Senators and environmentalist people to walk us thru all the regulations we have to follow to rebuild. We will reach out to all the clubs even those not IOBG affiliated to come. Plan to have the conference in the Spring.

North Eastern Vice President Dave Grove Report continues:

Many of the Club members in Districts 12...22...and 26 have not only lost boats, docks, clubs and in several cases homes. For this reason I would like to recommend that IOBG make special consideration to these Clubs with regard to their 2013 membership Dues. Asking them to pay \$40.00 dues for this year on top of the hardship they have already suffered could possibly result in a loss of membership of many of them. I believe this gesture on our part will go a long way in letting them know that we share their pain in a small way.

Report Submitted.

SOUTH EASTERN VICE PRESIDENT LENWORTH GORDON REPORT:

Thank You to my predecessor Joe Dowdell for his hard work for the past two years.

My Districts are 8 and 18, also I'm District 8 Director this year.

I have a short film to show you about what is happening in my area, my wife IOBG Auxiliary President Renee Gordon did the filming.

DISTRICT 50 DIRECTOR MARK J. VADAJ REPORT:

District 50 is a unique District none the less a very important segment of our Membership. My goals are very simple, recognized:

1. To contact each and every Member by phone or email.
2. To inform each Member all the activities, Issues, Status and changes within IOBG, IOBGA and IOBGHF on a regular basis.
3. Develop our own District 50 newsletter.
4. To reach each and every legacy Member.
5. Ensure that each and every Member has a voice in IOBG.

Report Submitted.

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

LOG EDITOR in CHIEF MARY NYE MEYERS REPORT:

Deadline for the LOG is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

REPRESENTATIVES:

AUXILIARY LIAISON JOE DOWDELL REPORT:

Just to announce that IOBGA President is Renee Gordon and South East Director is June Thacker.

BOAT US MARSHALL NEMOY REPORT:

IOBG Members can get half off their BOAT US dues and Magazine with your IOBG Membership card. Also they have Insurance policies and I have heard good things about it from some of our Northeast Members.

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION VERN BENDSEN: Excused. No Report.

IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION PRESIDENT & CEO BOB HOWE REPORT:

We have approved two local projects one in California and one in Detroit. That is what our role is to help our members and of course we are always looking for support for the Foundation to continue our mandate.

US SAILING ASSOCIATION BILL THAYER REPORT:

The US Sailing Board of Directors, with the affirmative vote of the House of Delegates has passed a series of bylaws and regulations in an effort to reorganize their leadership structure. Highlights of the reorganization are the House of Delegates has been retired, the councils were transitioned into new committees and new composition has been established for the Nominating and Governance Committees, and the Board of Directors nomination process has been revised. There will be no more contested elections.

US Sailing is accepting the nominations for its 2012 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year awards, widely acknowledged as the foremost individual sailing honors in the nation,

US Sailing and the America's Cup have entered a new partnership. The America's Cup will provide US Sailing members special rights to purchase VIP hospitality tickets to America's Cup events taking place in the U. S.

Report Submitted

COMMITTEES:

AUDIT, ANNUAL MEETING and NOMINATIONS STEVE WILLING REPORTS:

I have three reports.

The first on the Audit: Received the Audit report from International Treasurer Marshall Nemo and the committee will start to work on it.

The second on the Annual Meeting: Is under way and we should have a report later this year.

The third is Nominations: The nominating committee is charged with presenting a slate of offices for the following year (2014) to the membership and the board for consideration and election.

Notice is given in accordance with our by-laws, that members in good standing wishing to be considered for an elected office, submit their letter for consideration to the nominating committee.

Anyone who is a Past District Director wishing to move into International position of Area Vice President may submit a brief bio about yourself and any International Officer who wishes to maintain their position currently held or any one member who wishes to advance in the organization should submit an email or letter to me. If you send it to me by mail, send it by May 15<sup>th</sup>, the mail is very slow between United States and Canada.

My address is: P/P Steve Willing, 292 Esdras Place, Windsor Ontario, Canada N85 2M5 or

Email: [stevewilling12@gmail.com](mailto:stevewilling12@gmail.com).

Currently the nominating committee needs a delegate from the east of the Mississippi for a two (2) year term. All the work will be done by email (no traveling to meetings), the delegate cannot hold a current position in the IOBG.

Please contact the chairman with a brief bio, to the email address above.

Report Submit.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

President Elect Gary McGrath confirmed that a new Chapter Application for Delta Bayliner Club, Rio Vista, CA was voted on yesterday and approved.

GOOD ORDER OF THE ORDER:

President Chuck Browning reminded everyone that IOBG Chapter 8 has invited all to their meeting this afternoon.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marybeth Thayer  
Recording Secretary