

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

Minutes of Annual Meeting

Del Rey Yacht Club, Marina del Rey, CA

Saturday, October 22, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Joe Dowdell at 9:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by President-Elect Rosalie Davis-Green.

ROLL CALL: President Joe Dowdell, Immediate Past President Joel Kay, President Elect Rosalie Davis-Green, 1st Vice President Tony Durieux, 2nd Vice President Bud Higginson, Treasurer Marshall Nemo, Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle, North Central Vice President Mark Vadaj, Southwestern Vice President Sherry Barone, Southeastern Vice President Robert “Buzz” Bisanz, and Legal Officer Gary Green.

AGENDA: The agenda was approved as submitted.

INTRODUCTIONS OF PAST PRESIDENTS: Vern Bendsen, Steve Willing, Carol Promessi, Gary McGrath, Joel Kay

ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES: Districts present - 1,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16,19,21,25,50,75

QUORUM: The Recording Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present and all officers had signed the attendance log.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was regularly moved, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held in Marathon, Florida, October 24, 2015.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER MARSHALL NEMOY

Current assets \$171,952.06; total revenue \$78,934.16. Operating expenses \$44,924.58, budget \$58,111, with a favorable variance (-\$13,204), mostly from less travel expenses. A large expense for renewing trademark prepaid legal fees. Travel allowance expenses less than budgeted. AVP now divided by area travel and regional meetings. Membership statistics – 1569 members, down 36 from last year’s 1605. Budget was mailed to all delegates.

SECOND 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 and activities to be involved in and don't have interest in the same old things offered by their chapters. 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 area 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 of 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 AVPs taking the lead with the assistances 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.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT TONY DURIEUX

Tony thanked everyone for coming to the 2016 Change of Watch. Thanked President Joe Dowell for his many years of service and his leadership, for which we have been honored. Welcome to Rosalie, wish her fair winds and following seas. We talk about retention and growth. This is the time to grow your district with one new chapter and make a long-term commitment to increase your chapter growth by one every year. Have fun experiences everyone will enjoy. Include service projects or fund raisers. Work with your Auxiliary to help plan district activities. Form a joint committee whose primary job is to keep the district energized and engaged. Form committees from your chapters. Get more people involved. Be positive and show how inviting and desirable it would be to be a member of Blue Gavel. Let us work to make 2017 a very successful growth year.

PRESIDENT ELECT ROSALIE DAVIS-GREEN

Rosalie reported on the new brochure. All district directors received copies. When those are used, ask for more.

PAST PRESIDENT JOEL KAY

Joel approached this report with a strong sense of nostalgia and humility. Many significant changes in the organization in the last seven years, nearly all of which have been very positive, the brochure for example. Business is conducted transparently. There is still room for

improvement. Need to bring inactive districts back into viability. Leaving office with a great deal of confidence in future members. Nancy joins Joel in wishing everyone a wonderful 2017 year as part of the Blue Gavel family.

PRESIDENT JOE DOWDELL

Because the International Officers and Committee Members live far away from each other, the Executive Committee has monthly conference calls instead of meeting in person. The districts should consider using conference calls. Have a vacancy in Northeastern Area for AVP. If anyone knows someone interested in the area, please let the Executive Committee know. IOBG needs a west coast member on the Nominating committee, who must be a member-at-large, serving in no office. Executive actions for the year were announced. (*Actions listed under New Business.*)

SECRETARY MARY EIFFERT

Mary has downloaded all records on a zip to pass down to a new secretary, from District 1, one of these year. Sent out a couple of charter applications.

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORTS:

NORTHWESTERN VICE PRESIDENT LANI LIGHTLE

Lani asked how Ev Henry ever started this wonderful organization. In 1953 he put together an organization that in one year spread to Canada and eventually ten other nations. What procedure did they follow? 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. Lani will be passing along ideas from Tony Durieux and Bud Higginson's reports to build membership in the Northwest.

District 5 continues to do a terrific job with their IOBG Nautical Safety Foundation. They have a website – www.iobg-nsf. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. International Order of the Blue Gavel Nautical Safety Foundation is one of the choices. Just search by entering 'nautical safety' and enter it as your charity and you can donate with no cost to you. You can also donate to the IOBG Humanitarian Fund using AmazonSmile.

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR JIM MARTINSON

Jim reported on the year's activity. After a winter's sleep, the District became active. Spring meeting was held in Yakima, Washington, in April. Opening Days in Seattle was huge. Summer picnic in La Conner, Washington. Fall Change of Watch was in Clarkson, Washington, hosted by Hell's Boat Canyon Club. 2017 agenda is ready to go.

SOUTHWESTERN VICE PRESIDENT SHERRY BARONE

Southwestern region is proud to host the 2016 Annual Meeting and proud of Rosalie. District 11 has adopted a pilot program to renew dues online for a slight \$1.95 charge. They still have the choice to pay by mail. Other countries are interested in paying online. Survey for retaining and recruiting went out to directors and board members. Survey recommendations include: share results, develop additional questions, provide comments and suggestions, online dues, and focus on seven ways to improve engagement: adapt to our membership, standardize Ombudsman program to contact new members, enhance communications, retention program, more engagement with new members, increase social media, and add more international districts and chapters.

District 7 – Hawaii wishes everyone well.

District 10 – District 10 has been busy co-hosting the IOBG Annual Meeting. They had a wine Tasting Fundraiser resulting in \$900 to the Planning Committee. In addition to 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. They will have a Duffy Cruise in Huntington Harbour see the holiday lights, and participate in the Annual Charity Regatta that supports the Long Beach Children's Clinic. Report submitted by Director LaVon Plumlee.

District 15 – Had a very successful inaugural Race your BoD Regatta. After race party held at Point Loma Yacht Club. SeaMaiden winner of regatta. Silent auction and raffle raised \$1090, and IOBGA Jewelry Exchange raised an additional \$1272 for ElderHelp San Diego.

DISTRICT 11 DIRECTOR SUSANA HERNANDEZ ARAICO

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 will be installed as president. The board looks forward to instituting a speakers program in conjunction with our windy-q's. Our installation brunch will take place the second Sunday in December at Del Rey Yacht Club.

DISTRICT 14 DIRECTOR SUSIE WEST

Raise funds for junior sailing awards. Thanks HF for matching scholarships. Information about protecting water ways, waterway cleanup.

DISTRICT 16 presented by Marsha Landreth

District 16 is along the California coast from Morro Bay to Malibu, with most chapters in the Channel Islands and Ventura Harbors. The District has put its efforts into the second annual Chowder Fest, which raised \$40,000 for the Channel Islands Maritime Museum. Members are looking forward to the Christmas Dinner/Dance on December 7th.

DISTRICT 19 presented by incoming Director Roger Beebe

Delta area district has had a busy year beginning in February with a general meeting and induction of new members at Pittsburg Yacht Club. For St. Patrick's Day, IOBGA cruised to Ebony Boat Club. Past Commodores held an appreciation BBQ in May. After two general meetings, the district will look forward to Change of Watch on November 5th. Submitted by Director Sandee Clark.

DISTRICT 21 presented by President Richard Price

The district is the geographical area of Newport Harbor, Dana Point Harbor, and Lake Arrowhead. Dana Point wins "Club of the Year" Award. They successfully renewed a long-term lease with Orange County that ensures a stable environment for the years to come. This year was the 17th Anniversary of DPYC's "Richard Henry Dana Regatta" benefiting the Dana Point Youth Sailing Foundation. DPYC Juniors have formed sailing teams at South Orange County High Schools focusing on the CFJ and 420 fleets. New club house for Newport Harbor Yacht Club; old yacht club will be closed after the Newport Christmas lights

SOUTHEASTERN VICE PRESIDENT BUZZ BISANZ

The Southeastern area incorporate District 8 in Florida and 18 in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. In the draught area, District 18 is looking for more growth. In hurricane area, District 8 is doing well but needs to communicate to continue. Introducing officers and tell them of the Clearwater regional meeting. Challenge to other areas to beat membership of 289.

DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR KAREN SHEA

As of October 1, 2016, District 8 has a total of 229 members, 24 Chapters. Karen will send letters again to all charters that are no longer active, and the presidents will contact at least ten of those charters and seven yacht clubs that are members of FCYC but do not have an IOBG Charter. Karen also exchanges burgees and talks up IOBG. Proud of D8IOBG.ORG website, thanked Mary Meyers for her help. Another tool they use is a roster of all the District members in a simple alphabetical format; rosters for members only. They also have a Facebook page. Oct 7-8 Change of Watch at Pelican Isle Yacht Club. Hurricane Matthew put a damper on the event. Karen thanked HF for three scholarships for underprivileged children in the sailing program.

NORTH CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT MARK VADAJ

Congratulated Rosalie and Joe. Thanked all officers of IOBG. Thanked members, without members there would be no Blue Gavel. Best organization is one that is well informed. As North Central Vice President, he will continue to serve these districts and only ask that they become involved in at least one event and bring a fellow Past Commodore.

District 7 has a great year planned for next year. With Districts 9 and 25, will host a pizza party at the I-LYA Fall Meeting in Perrysburg at the Holiday Inn in December. They will be marching in the Patrick's Day parade. They will host a Blue-Blazer social, designed to recruit perspective members. April is when the Auxiliary schedule their annual brunch aboard the Nautica Queen. The Greater Cleveland Boating Association holds a Memorial Day parade aboard USS Cod, IOBG is invited to attend and speak at the ceremony. Report submitted by Rich McKee.

District 9 had a fall meeting and Change of Watch on Sunday, October 16th at Toledo Yacht Club. As part of their local Humanitarian efforts, a \$500 contribution was approved for the Ovarian Cancer Connection. Also approved was a \$400 contribution to North Cape Yacht Club Sail Camp. Later this year, they will visit the Toledo Zoo's Lights Before Christmas. Next year, with the help of the auxiliary, they plan a boat ride on the Sandpiper, a replica of the canal boats of the past, which traveled up and down the Maumee River. A \$1000 fundraiser for the Humanitarian efforts will take place during the football season. Submitted by Director Larry Inguagiato.

DISTRICT 25 presented by Past President Steve Willing

The auxiliary hosted a chicken dinner in April with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House. District 25 hosted a cocktail party in June. The auxiliary's Bike Bar in Detroit was so successful that the bike-bar-crawl will be repeated next year. Most of the get-togethers are with AYC because AYC puts on lavished affairs where they put carpeting down over carpeting to keep from staining carpeting with wine. The Commodore 200 Draw was able to bring in enough funds to help keep the district in the black. Submitted by Bill Woods

DISTRICT 50 DIRECTOR MARK VADAJ

Idea is not to grow district 50 but to start a district in their area, or to transfer into another district where they live.

DISTRICT 75 DIRECTOR BILL MITCHINSON

Bill and his wife traveled from New Zealand to attend this meeting. Rosalie sent a letter of invitation. New Zealand has 123 yacht clubs; Blue Gavel has seven chapters. District Directors' job is to organize a gathering like this one, which is call Annual General Meeting. South Island, originally a French settlement was the setting for the last AGM. All have commodores but have trouble getting them into BG. Formed membership committee, which decided to give past

commodores a free membership for one year and hope they will continue on. Statistics say that 20% of population has disabilities. BG started up Sailability branches for the disabilities by supplying special boats and facilities. Solicitor Andrew Morrison gave his advice, saying: Blue Gavel is a society for aging past commodores, not charitable. If Blue Gavel wishes to support charitable causes, then the correct course is to establish a "Blue Gavel Charitable Foundation" which can sit alongside the Society, and be used as a fundamentally charitable organization which can raise money for charitable purposes (and perhaps receive bequests or legacies which will enable it to build a strong capital base, and thus continue to support charitable purposes in future.) So they established a distributional organization. Other purpose is youth sailing. Started a coaching program three years ago for youths up to 20 years old. The program had four in last Olympics and all scored medals. New Zealand has an office called patrons, those who have come through the chairs. Jack Steer, Chief of Navy, has been put up for patron.

APPOINTED OFFICERS REPORTS:

LEGAL OFFICER GARY GREEN

Renewing the Canadian Trademarks, expiring in March, through Canadian counsel. Will be good for ten years.

HISTORIAN CAROL PROMESSI

Mail information to Carol.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR MARY NYE MEYERS

The brochure can be download from the IOBG website to use for recruitment.

November 1st watch emails to start the Change-of-Watch. Need list of new officers.

Log deadline is November 5th. Rosalie reminded everyone not to be late as then Mary is late getting the Log out. Mary is donating her time and has other clients.

PROTOCOL OFFICER MARSHA LANDRETH

Marsha presented handout on how to vote by ballot. Email her for a copy.

RECORDING SECRETARY MARSHA LANDRETH

Reminded everyone to sign.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:

BOAT US MARSHALL NEMOY

If you join Boat US, you will receive 50% off the annual fee.

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON VERN BENDSEN

50/50 raffle was successful. Besides the 50/50 winner, June Thatcher won the beautiful necklace that was donated by Jackie Rudd.

IOBGHF PRESIDENT JOAN MARSH

Thanked everyone who has donated today. Thanked everyone.

IOBG AUXILIARY REPORT SANDY DURIEUX

The Auxiliary had 11 members and board present. They are in the process of getting new cards for all of our Past Presidents. They are working with Marshall to get them made. The other topic discussed was increasing attendance at both the international and district events. All main body members were encouraged to have their other halves attend the auxiliary meetings. Also the board for 2017 was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the actions of executive committee:

- Authorized District 5 to form a 501c3 charitable organization named Nautical Safety Foundation. Used to have four meetings, but have dropped to three because of budgetary restraints.
- Log was four, dropped to three because of the drop in meetings, but will return to four.
- Revised rules to give AVP funds to come to the regional meetings.
- Created a new brochure.
- Adopted program for direct billing for districts that drop more than 20% or if district requests it.
- Promote Non-North American membership by providing a reduced membership rate of \$11.
- Adopted a survey to find what is successful so everyone can use. Modify the regional agendas to have roundtable discussions.

It was regularly moved, seconded and approved to accept the actions of the Executive Committee during the past year.

Approval of 2017 Budget: Total expenses \$87,880 for budget. Past President Vern Bendsen moved to accept the budget. Past President Gary McGrath second the motion. Motion carried.

Election of 2017 Officers:

President Elect Rosalie Davis-Green read the list of officers up for election.

President Rosalie Davis-Green, President Elect Tony Durieux, First Vice President B.E. “Bud” Higginson, Second Vice president Sherry Barone, Immediate Past President Joe Dowdell, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert

Northeastern Vice President open, Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle, North Central Vice President Mark Vadaj, Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Smith, Southeastern Vice President Robert “Buzz” Bisanz, District 50 Director Mark Vadaj, District 51 Director Walt Kadyk

Ballots were distributed, tallied by Bill Thayer and Phil Promessi, and announced to the assembly that 61 votes were casted and that all candidates received affirmative votes.

President-Elect Rosalie Davis-Green announced the calendar for 2017.

- Winter Meeting will be in Clearwater, March 3-4. Hotel \$170 plus taxes.
- Spring Meeting will be in Portland, June 8-9.
- Annual Meeting will be in Cleveland, October 18-22.

1st Vice President Tony Durieux shared information about the Annual Meeting in Cleveland: in a suburb of Cleveland on the west side, in the heart of shopping, Crooker Park. Poker run shopping for the women. Two yacht clubs Beaver Park and Cleveland Yachting Club. \$109 for room. Transportation from airport. Working on bus availability. Should be an enjoyable weekend.

Chapter Applications: None

President Joe Dowdell turned the gavel over to 2017 President Rosalie Davis-Green.

ADJOURNMENT:

AVP Buzz Bisanz moved to adjourn the meeting. Lani Lightle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Landreth

Recording Secretary