

# **INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL**

## **Minutes of Annual Meeting**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

**Saturday, October 21, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Rosalie Davis-Green at 9:00 A.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sherry Barone led the Pledge of Allegiance for United States. P/P Steve Willing added for the Canadians, "God save the Queen."

**EIGHT BELLS** in memory of P/P Harvey Sussel (2006), P/P Jerry Rudd (2009), Past Director #8 Dee Ramsey, and Past Director #70 Bill Young.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS:** President Rosalie Davis-Green, Immediate Past President Joe Dowdell, President Elect Tony Durieux, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sherry Barone, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, Secretary Mary Eiffert, North Central Vice President Mark Vadaj, Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith, Southeastern Vice President Robert "Buzz" Bisanz, Legal Officer Gary Green, and Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth. District Delegates present: 1,3,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,18,19,20,23,25,26,27,50. Absent: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bud Higginson, Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle.

**QUORUM:** The Recording Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present and all members in attendance have signed the attendance log.

**AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as submitted.

**INTRODUCTION OF HOST:** District #7 members in attendance were recognized.

**INTRODUCTIONS OF PAST PRESIDENTS:** Louis Key, Carol Promessi, Steve Willing, Gary McGrath, Joel Kay, and Joe Dowdell. Rosalie welcomed them and thanked them for all they have done and continue to do for IOBG.

**SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:** Members and guests stood, stated their names and districts, and were recognized.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Marshall moved to approve the minutes, Sherry seconded. The motion to approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held in Marina del Rey, California, October 22, 2016 was carried.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TREASURER MARSHALL NEMOY**

Marshall distributed three reports: Report of Members by Districts, Budget, and Financial Statement. He reported, as of September 30, 2017, the net income for the first nine months of 2017 is \$31,629. Dues made up 99.6% of revenues. Dues \$77,400, \$20 interest, \$300 Log Subscriptions, \$100 other. Total Revenue \$77,820. Expenses: Annual Meeting expenses \$3,000, gifts and awards and supplies \$2,000, travel \$11,000. Most expenses come, 22.24%, from travel. Budget does not require a dues

increase. IOC is the second highest expense, which came in under the budget at \$39,000. \$131,000 in bank plus \$50,320 in savings account. The budget predicts revenue of \$77,820, and \$85,439 in expenses. Marshall does not recommend a dues increase.

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT SHERRY BARONE

Sherry issued a challenge to the membership to work on membership retention and growth. Retention and growth has been the focus of the AVPs and committee. Julie Albright, Central AVP Mark Vadaj, and Sherry have formed a committee and have been studying the value, branding, and benefit of IOBG and how to retain membership. Items studied and addressed: discounts with IOBG membership from Best Buys, Lowes, Target, restaurants, hotels, and auto rentals. P/P Stephen Willing and P/P Vern Bendsen have reviewed and support the committee on branding and membership growth. District 11 Director Sheila Anderson led a pilot program for online dues renewal with the help of Mary Nye Meyers for creating the online forms. Twenty-five percent of District 11 membership elected to renew online. There has been an effort for IOBG to support local sailing races and associations. IOBG membership is diverse and there is a value to joining IOBG and being active in this prestigious organization. With the updated website, led by Mary Nye Meyers, and new brochure, the message continues to spread. Sherry thanked Rosalie Davis Green for the tremendous job leading IOBG this year, Mary Nye Meyers for creating and updating the IOBG website for better communication and enhanced features such as online membership renewals, and Tony Durieux for creating the membership award.

## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT BUD HIGGINSON – written report

Bud was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a written report. He congratulates Tony Durieux as the new IOBG President and thanked President Rosalie Davis Green for her outstanding service this past year. During the past year there was much discussion about recruiting new members, retention of members, and establishment of new programs. This effort must continue, as other activities compete for members' time. The amount and location of regional meetings should periodically be reviewed to determine their effectiveness. The results of the membership retention survey were published and mailed to the district directors to determine if any of the results could be of value to and implemented by their district/chapters.

## PRESIDENT ELECT TONY DURIEUX

Tony welcomed everyone to the 2017 IOBG Change of Watch. He honored and thank President Rosalie Davis Green for her leadership and her many years of service to IOBG. He wished her well as she becomes the newest member of The Old Guard, the distinguished past presidents. Tony's emphasis has been on retention and growth; if retention is strong, strong growth will follow. He went on to remind the group of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bud Higginson's survey that showed that engagement was most important to retain members. District officers need to help chapters plan programs that all can take part in and follow up with district events that include all chapters. Always involve the auxiliary as the auxiliary will work to make the event a success and fun.

Tony introduced the Blue Blazer Pin, which will be awarded to the district that shows the most improvement in retention and growth in each the AVP's area.

## PAST PRESIDENT JOE DOWDELL

Joe said that he has been waiting for five years to give this report. “No report!”

## SECRETARY MARY EIFFERT

Hawaii Kai Boat Club was added as a new chapter to District #6. The Executive Committee approved Port Ludlow Yacht Club. Mary will be issuing PLYC a charter and adding the PLYC chapter to District #1. Mary is providing a list to the Area Vice Presidents of all charters that have been established in their areas since the origination of IOBG. This is for information only. Many of the chapters no longer have members or are not even in existence. Mary thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Executive Secretary and looks forward to serving again next year.

## PRESIDENT ROSALIE DAVIS GREEN

Rosalie said that it has been a pleasure to be the president this year. She reported on progress made this year. The survey, meetings, and various discussions showed that members want engagement and better communication. Communication Director Mary Nye Meyers is updating the IOBG website. What she has accomplished will be shown later in the meeting. As Overseas Outreach, P/C Vern and Linda Bensen, P/C Steve and Shirley Willing, Susana Hernandez Araico, President Rosalie and Gary Green, and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Sherry Barone have traveled internationally, making the effort to visit yacht clubs, pass out brochures, and have some discussions. Interest in IOBG is lukewarm. What they want is reciprocal privileges, and publications with more international boating news. IOBG doesn't have control over reciprocal privileges. This year IOBG members might explore the yacht clubs in their area to determine if they have reciprocal privileges, and if not, perhaps they might consider it. The website could have a link to yacht clubs that offer reciprocal privileges and what the procedures and restriction are. Branding is a continuing project. IOBG has developed backup plans for officers who become ill or who fall by the wayside. IOBG has made progress but there is more to be done as the organization moves forward.

## AREA VICE PRESIDENTS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORTS:

NORTHWESTERN VICE PRESIDENT LANI LIGHTLE – report given by Jackie Rudd from District 1. District 1 is active. Summer picnic in La Conner, Washington. Fall Change of Watch was in Clarkson, Washington, hosted by Hell's Boat Canyon Club. District 5 - No report

## SOUTHWESTERN VICE PRESIDENT KATHLEEN SMITH

Districts in the Southwest region continue to focus on membership retention and community involvement. District 11 held a wine tasting fundraiser and a member-appreciation party. District 15 has an annual membership appreciation event and supports Make-A-Wish and ElderHelp charities. In addition, they continue to hold a very successful yacht club management seminar. District 16 again supplied volunteers for the Chowderfest 2017, benefiting the Channel Islands Maritime Museum. Over the past three years, nearly \$100,000 has been raised to run the Museum's Educational Programs. District 19 holds an annual nomination BBQ. The day also includes a Big Cat Poker Run, sponsored by the Discovery Bay Lions Club, raising thousands of dollars for local charities. District 6 will be holding their Change of Watch ceremony, and will induct a new chapter, the Hawaii Kai Boat Club on November 2. Gary and Kathleen will be in attendance.

## DISTRICT 15 DIRECTOR BILL EDWARDS

District 15 presented a yacht club management seminar, hosted by Mission Bay Yacht Club. The Participation Trophy for the most club members attending went to Silver Gate Yacht Club. Their annual membership appreciation event was attended by 40 out of 80 members and raised \$137 for ElderHelp. They supported the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Amazing Race for Children's Wishes on May 7, raising \$140,000 for Make-A-Wish. Their bike team raised an additional \$1360. The \$866 raised from the annual Race Your BOD Regatta Charity Regatta, sponsored Point Loma Yacht Club, was presented to ElderHelp.

## DISTRICT 14 DIRECTOR LIZ ALLISON

District 14 is District driven. Recent leadership has moved out of state. District 14 is in the position of having to rebuild. Liz thanked District 19 for including District 14 in their activities.

## DISTRICT 19 presented by Phil Promissi

Delta area district has had an active year. The annual August Nomination BBQ was well attended in spite of the over 100 degree temperature. The 2018 Election luncheon was held at Bridge Mariana Yacht Club, presented by the resident chef Julia. Change of Watch will be held November 4 at the Stockton Yacht Club. Goals for 2018 will continue to focus on membership retention and participation. District 19 actively promotes contributions to IOBG Humanitarian Foundation and the PICYA Foundation.

## DISTRICT 16 DIRECTOR RICHARD OLSEN – report given by Marsha Landreth

District 16 is along the California coast from Morro Bay to Malibu, with most of the active chapters in the Channel Islands and Ventura Harbors. The District, under the direction of Sheldon Berger, has put its efforts into the third annual Chowder Fest, which has raised \$100,000 for the Channel Islands Maritime Museum's educational programs. Shout out to the Humanitarian Foundation for giving District 16 the seed money for the first Chowderfest. Members are looking forward to the Christmas Dinner/Dance on December 13<sup>th</sup> at PCYC.

## DISTRICT 11 DIRECTOR SHELIA ANDERSON

District 11 was the trial district for the National Online Registration. Twenty-five percent of their renewal were through the online registration. The annual Wine Tasting Event garnered \$285 for the King Harbor Youth Foundation. The District looks forward to 2018 with their new Constant Contact communications system, and better and more unique events.

## DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR JOYCE JACKSON-COOMBER

District 10 has had a very fun and rewarding summer: a dinner at Long Beach Yacht Club with a guest speaker from Ocean Defenders; a BBQ at Barney's Beach House in the Navel Weapon's Station in Seal Beach; a wine tasting fundraiser at the Navy Yacht Club Long Beach with donation to both Fisher House (Veterans Affairs) and the Houston Relief Fund. The district participated in the Annual Charity Regatta that helps support The Long Bach Children's Clinic. Jointly with NYC, they hosted a brunch raising \$1,400. They will be donation an International Beer Basket worth over \$100 for the Charity Regatta Race and Awards Ceremony. They are looking forward to a cruise at LBYC and Duffy Cruise in Huntington Harbor to view the holiday lights.

## NORTH CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT MARK VADAJ

The North Central Region consisting of Districts 7, 9, 23, and 25 has enjoyed a very successful and enjoyable year. It is the member who must take advantage of what benefit and or amenity is offered. Members' suggestions have been heard and are appreciated and valued. Sherry Barone, Julie Albright, and Mark have been working to develop a Benefit/Amenity program to add value to membership. District 7 has been planning three years an IOBG Exclusive Rendezvous and Social events, including a Boat Rendezvous in Cleveland, Ohio July 13-15, 2018 at the newly developed North Coast Harbor, overlooking the Cleveland skyline and adjacent to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Activities range from cocktail event to formal dinner with live entertainment, a discounted rate for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and an optional cruise. The intention of this event is to provide value to IOBG members without asking them for money. This is funded by corporate sponsors. One of the biggest little secrets of success of any district is having the spouses involved. Mark's wife Robin is currently Second Vice President of the Auxiliary which means they mirror each other in their planning and events, which becomes an all-inclusive organization. Always carry a burgee and brochures when visiting perspective members.

## DISTRICT 50 DIRECTOR MARK VADAJ

Idea is not to grow district 50 but to start a district in their area, or to mainstream them into active district where they live. Largest geographic area spanning the Great Mississippi River, east to the great State of Maine and south to the sunny state of Florida, and everything in between.

## DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR LLOYD BOGUE

District 7 has once again had a busy year. Unfortunately, the district has had to perform three memorial services. There were many summer activities and fundraising for District 7's President Elect Tony Durieux and IOBG Annual Convention. Half of the "cooler of cheer" was awarded to the IOBG Humanitarian Fund. District 7 P/P Warren Dempster was thanked for coordinating the fundraising, and Past International IOBGA President Trish Gravens for heading up the planning of the convention. The District, along with Districts 9 and 25, put on a cocktail party for The Inter-Lake Yachting Association. Next year's calendar looks as busy. Congratulations to Sandi Durieux for serving two years as IOBGA International President. District 7 is proud to be the home of the next International President Tony Durieux.

## DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR DEAN REAMSNYDER

District 9 has had another good year. In August, District 7, 9, and 25 sponsored a cocktail and appetizer reception in honor of I-LYA Commodore Andy Krotseng at the Put-In-Bay Yacht Club. District 9 put on its first Blue Blazer Event. Invitations were extended to Commodores and Vice Commodores, in hope that the torch will stay lit as they move up through the chairs and on to IOBG. They had a successful year of fundraising for the humanitarian causes. They made a sizable donation to Ovarian Cancer Connection, and also sent an underprivileged girl to study sailing skills at North Cape Yacht Club's Sail Camp.

## DISTRICT 25 DIRECTOR BETTY TYSON

Elections and Change of Watch were held October 15<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations and best wishes for a great year. Past International President Steve Willing donated a plaque to be awarded to the chapter with the most IOBG members, mates, and auxiliary attending meetings and events. The plaque was awarded this year to Seaway Boat Club. First event this year was a bus trip to Cadieux Café for a Belgian game of Featherbowling. They had a Spaghetti Dinner at Seaway Boat Club, which was a fun event. The Ladies Auxiliary had a Bicycle Bar event downtown Detroit. Their 200 Club drawing allowed them to make donations.

#### NORTHEASTERN AREA VICE PRESIDENT STEVE TISACK

District 3 IOBG membership count is 102. They are experiencing a substantial growth this year by reaching out and visiting chapters and opening lines of communication. Two dormant chapters have asked to have some of their past commodores inducted into the IOBG. Some of the feedback from visiting some of the chapters in District 12 follows: Positive: Camaraderie, association with other PCs, learning of other YC functions and social programs. Negative: Some PCs familiar with and previously active in IOBG and found it to be largely a time waster. IOBG dues, although rather inexpensive, were thought nothing more than travel allowances for IOBG officers. Others thought IOBG may conflict with the Long Beach Island Yacht Racing Association and the North Jersey Yacht Racing Association which are locally focused. There is a sense of redundancy and misunderstanding. For IOBG to be successful in District 12, some differentiation and explanation is necessary. Steve will visit Districts 12, 20, 26, 27 and give presentations in order to promote IOBG.

#### DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR LEWIS SMITH

District 3 was chartered in the early 1950's. The summer regattas of Buffalo Yacht Club and Buffalo Canoe Club are still large events. The sailing programs remain strong; however, the yachting traditions has diminished. District 3's Summer Sail toured the waters of the Buffalo River, grain milling district where many of the silos still stand. After the city tour, the Grand Lady headed out to Lake Erie and all enjoyed the spectacular sight of 80-90 sailboats competing in their weekly race. The district's Holiday Party will be held at the Buffalo Launch Club, where the Boating Family of the Year award will be presented.

#### SOUTHEASTERN VICE PRESIDENT BUZZ BISANZ

District 8's current membership stands at 230. The Southeastern area incorporate District 8 in Florida and 18 in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. Congratulations to District 8 for retaining first ranking in membership. Leadership team continue to be assigned to contact the different chapters. Must continue communication to keep members. Have a good website but still need links to the chapters. District 18 is still struggling, and has gone down in membership. Meetings are planned in November and December to help.

#### DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR KAREN SHEA

This year has been very challenging for District 8. October Annual Meeting and Change of Watch began during Hurricane Matthew at Pelican Isle YC in Naples. Hurricane Irma struck all of Florida the beginning of September, the largest in history. Yet, District 8 ranks number 1 in membership. Carry burgees to trade. The key to keeping members interested is to inform them via website, newsletters, letters, emails, and phone calls.

## APPOINTED OFFICERS REPORTS:

### HISTORIAN CAROL PROMESSI

Mail information to Carol; she is keeping a scrapbook. A tab will be added to the website to highlight history. Mary Eiffert will provide archived material of the early days of IOBG.

### LEGAL OFFICER GARY GREEN

IOBG has two trademarks: the United States trademark is good for ten years, and the Canadian trademark is good for fifteen-years. If anyone sees infringement of the IOBG trademark, send a picture to the Legal Officer. Insurance policy premium will be paid shortly. Gary thanked the directors for allowing him to serve as Legal Officer. He will be commodore of SCYA and will not have time for both. P/P Joe Dowdell will take Gary's place as legal officer.

### EDUCATION OFFICER PHIL PROMESSI

No report.

### PROTOCOL OFFICER MARSHA LANDRETH

Marsha presented motion handouts.

### RECORDING SECRETARY MARSHA LANDRETH

Marsha reminded everyone to sign in.

COMMUNICATIONS report by Rosalie Davis Green.

Log articles are due November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Rosalie asked Mark to show Mary Nye Meyers' temporary site for IOBG. Toolbar on left-hand side of screen has a fresh look. Links have been provided. Everything is easy to find. All agreed that the work-in-progress site is very professional and thanked Mary for her continuing hard work. Rosalie charged everyone to send in community service pictures and articles.

## REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:

### AUXILIARY LIAISON 2<sup>nd</sup> VP SHERRY BARONE

All spouses and significant others are welcome at the Auxiliary meetings. Sherry thanked the Auxiliary for staffing the Hospitality Room, which was open at all times.

### BOAT US REPRESENTATIVE MARSHALL NEMOY

Supporting member to Boat US receive reasonable boating insurance and all other benefits.

### HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION CAROL PROMESSI

Handouts were provided with information about the Humanitarian Foundation. Carol sent out letters to all Districts, but many were returned as the addresses were not current. Please take back information to the members. The HF website is up and running, thanks to Mary Nye Meyers and Buzz Bisanz. Local Area Application is on the website. It is easy to fill out. The board reviews every application that comes in. HF board has monthly conference calls. Founded four grants this year: District 1, PICYA scholarship, Dublin Ireland, Dana Point boating scholarships. Have funded cancer research, Katrina destruction, New Zealand earthquake damage. HF \$100 pins will go through the AVPs.

#### IOBG AUXILIARY REPORT SANDY DURIEUX

The Auxiliary has 323 members. Have a couple of board position openings to fill. The book exchange project discussed has been moved to the district level, with District 7 being the pilot program. All main body members were encouraged to have whomever accompanies them to the convention attend the auxiliary meetings. Congratulations to the 2018 board: President Al Eiffert, President Elect Gary Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Robin Vadaj, and Treasurer Audrey Hall.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE: Marshall Nemoy passed out the travel allowance forms and asked voting members fill out the form.

BUDGET: Expected Revenues: \$77,820. Expected Expenses: \$85,439. Excess Expenses \$7,619. Marshall recommends adopting budget. Past President Carol Promessi moved to adopt the budget; District Director Bill Edwards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF 2018 OFFICERS: President Tony Durieux, President Elect Bud Higginson, First Vice President Sherry Barone, Second Vice President Buzz Bisanz, Immediate Past President Rosalie Davis-Green, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert, Northeastern Vice President Stephen Tisack, Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle, North Central Vice President Mark Vadaj, Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith, Southeastern Vice President Karen Shea, District 50 Director Mark Vadaj.

#### 2017 ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO BE RATIFIED:

1. Offered Non-North American dues to New Zealand. They tabled it until next year at their annual meeting
2. Overseas outreach to clubs in several countries was done in person by traveling members with minimal response. These interactions generated feedback and suggestions to have a Log with International Boating news, boating regulation news, and reciprocal privileges. The non-north American dues topic is tabled for further work in 2018.
3. Approved a change in the Policy and Procedure Manual relating to the IOBG-HF. Changing from the HF is a charitable organization, to is the principal organization. No district or chapter is allowed to use IOBG in their name to form a 501(c)(3) charity without the express written permission of the IOBG Executive Committee.



4. Approved an updated website, a new fresh look with a tab for community involvement and community service projects which is almost done.
5. Duplicate backup coverage is now in place for the Blue Gavel Treasurer and Communication Director.
6. IOBG District Directors can be reimbursed for travel in their districts to reach out to new potential chapters according to the current policy as long as the plan is preapproved by the AVP.
7. Membership survey completed. Results sent to District Directors for use.
8. Data harvesting from the website occurred and bogus emails were sent out. The Excon felt this is the cost of doing business with electronic communications. Everyone needs to have some malware to protect their computer. Emails of the Excon, AVPs and appointed chairs are cloaked. If someone wants their information removed from the website it will be done on a case by case basis.
9. Approved a written policy for timeliness of payment of reimbursement requests and invoices.
10. Approved new chapter in District 6 Hawaii Kai Boat Club and a chapter in District 1 Port Ludlow Yacht Club.

PP Carol Promessi moved to accept the actions of the Executive Committee during the past year. Jackie Rudd seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and no votes against. Motion carried.

A motion to remove from the table a motion dealing with the HF, which was presented in the Executive Meeting, was ruled out of order. An unofficial discussion followed. The legal officer explained that the addition of *"No district or chapter is allowed to use IOBG in their name to form a 501(c)(3) charity without the express written permission of the IOBG Executive Committee"* in the Policy and Procedure Manual was written for the protection of the HF so that no other group could unilaterally use the IOBG HF name.

President Rosalie Davis Green turned the gavel over to 2018 President Tony Durieux with her congratulations.

ADJOURNMENT:

Past President Steve Willing moved to adjourn the meeting. District 9 Director Dean Reamsnyder seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Landreth

Recording Secretary