

**International Order of the Blue Gavel**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Venice Yacht Club, Venice, Florida**  
**October 19, 2018**

**Call to Order:** President Tony Durieux called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. EST

**Roll Call of Executive Committee:** Present: President Tony Durieux, Immediate Past President Rosalie Davis-Green, President-Elect Bud Higginson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sherry Barone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Buzz Bisanz, Secretary Mary Eiffert, and Treasurer Marshall Nemoy. AVPs present: SWVP Kathy Smith, SEVP Karen Shea, NWVP Lani Lightle, NCVP Mark Vadaj, and NEVP Steve Tisack. Appointed Officers present: Legal Officer Joe Dowdell, Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth, and Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers.

**Quorum:** After a roll call of the District and Alternate Directors, the Recording Secretary confirmed that 68 out of the 75 potential votes were represented and, therefore, a quorum was present.

**Agenda:** No additions were made to the agenda. Sherry moved to accept the agenda for the Annual Meeting; Buzz seconded the motion. The motion to accept the agenda was passed.

**Introduction of Past Presidents:** Stephen Willing, Rosalie Davis-Green, and Joe Dowdell were introduced.

**Self-introduction of Members and Guests:** John Sukis District 7, Doug and Marilyn Case District 8, Woody Jones District 8, Henry Wasilausky District 9, Larry Inguagiato District 9, Steve Hyder District 9, Dean Reamsnyder, District 9, Director Shelia Anderson District 11, Director Joyce Jackson-Coomber District 10, Rodney Coomber, Director Liz Allison District 14, Linda Loftis District 15, Gary Hall District 15, Audrey Hall District 15.

**Thanks to our Hosts District 8 and Venice Yacht Club:** On behalf of IOBG, President Tony Durieux thanked District 8 and Venice Yacht Club for their hospitality and hard work making arrangements for the wonderful convention.

**Annual Minutes:** Steve Willing moved to accept the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting. Mark Vadaj seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting was passed.

### **Executive Committee Reports**

#### **Treasurer Marshall Nemoy**

Marshall distributed three reports: Report of Members by Districts, Budget for 2019, and the Financial Statement. He reported that bank balance \$203,341.29. He reported that as of September 30, 2018 the net income for the first nine months is \$36,992.12, which is more than the budgeted expectations of \$22,111. While dues collections are \$1,115 lower than budget, the total expenses were \$23,289 lower than budget. IOC is less than budgeted. Executive Committee expenses for travel budget was \$5,613 lower than budgeted. Communications activity has stayed \$803 below budget. Membership total is 1,534. Copies of the proposed budget for 2019, which had been sent to the districts beforehand, was handed out at the meeting. The proposed budget does not propose an increase in the annual dues.

## **President-Elect Bud Higginson**

Bud spoke on reciprocity as a tool to grow the organization. The other item he reported on was the different organizations in which IOBG could be involved. He is holding the winter regional meeting in New Orleans to give the local yacht clubs a chance to become familiar with IOBG. Most of this year has been spent planning for the Annual Meeting, which was held in October this year at the Venice Yacht Club in Venice, Florida. The president of the Venice Yacht Club chapter of IOBG Melinda Short put together a great staff to help with decorating the clubhouse and scheduling all the events. Bud hopes that all in attendance enjoy their visit. He had many comments on the host facility and all of the staff including the kitchen and serving personnel. Looking forward to the future: IOBG's goals should be the same as in the past, which is recruitment and retention of new members. A new goal should be added, which is to explore areas of the country that IOBG does not exist. IOBG has already started this with the February 6-10, 2019 Winter Regional Meeting scheduled for the New Orleans area. Let all members put their heads together and come up with other areas of the country to pursue. Work together to make this another great year for the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

## **First Vice President Sherry Barone**

Sherry reported that the role of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President includes being a liaison to the AVPs in the Northeast and Southeast regions. She had the privilege this year to work with AVP Karen Shea and AVP Stephen Tisack. They both focused on retaining membership, strengths, opportunities for improvement and suggestions from our members. Innovation and commitment continue to be shown by both AVP Karen Shea and AVP Stephen Tisack, including looking at how to energize members to participate because they are involved in so many yachting activities. AVP Karen Shea worked very hard and spearheaded the IOBG letter and honorary application from President Tony Durieux to Commodore Jose Escrich of the Hemingway International Yacht Club, Havana, Cuba. On August 1, 2018, IOBG welcomed Commodore Jose Escrich from Cuba to IOBG. Karen also developed a recruiting display- Digital Photo, IOBG brochures, recruiting Power point slides and an embroidered IOBG table cloth she shared at the winter meeting. AVP Stephen Tisack traveled to New Jersey and through the east coast recruiting new chapters as well as new members in Halifax. With the updated webpage, conceived by Past President Rosalie Green and Mary Nye Meyers, and new materials power point slides, on-line renewal registration from some districts and brochures continue to let potential members know what IOBG is about, value, and comradery of our past commodores. Mary Nye Meyers continues to keep IOBG on the cutting edge. Communication of the Lighthouse and Log keep members informed as to what is happening locally and abroad. Since many members travel, it is always nice to know what is happening locally for a quick stop to districts and chapters. The IOBG-HF continues to support youth sailing and do so much for the boating community. President Tony Durieux's retention pin competition has helped maintain and grow IOBG in 2018. There is nothing like a healthy competition from districts. Tony has continued to guide and expand new ways to retain membership. Bud Higgins will lead and continue the IOBG tradition and continue to grow IOBG membership and enjoy events as well as new friendships.

## **Second Vice President Buzz Bisanz**

Buzz reported that IOBG is at the cusp of the end of the current fiscal year and the beginning of the new fiscal year. Buzz said that it has been a pleasure serving the organization as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President this past year. His responsibilities included the organization's public relations, liaison between the IOBG Executive Committee and with the IOBG Auxiliary and liaison with the Northwest Area Vice President Lani Lightle, and Southwest Area Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith. He reported a bit of sad news, which was that the IOBG Auxiliary President Al Eiffert passed away during this past summer after a short illness. Our thoughts

and prayers go out to Mary, Al's wife and the IOBG Executive Secretary. The IOBGA leadership process was called upon and Gary Smith, the IOBGA President Elect, stepped in and is serving as President of IOBGA. The IOBG Brochure was completely updated last year and is ready for use and to hand out to prospective members. Contact the International Office or an Area Vice President for a hard copy or a number of copies. There is an IOBG Organizational Presentation in a PDF. This is a great presentation to give at meetings to show briefly what IOBG is all about. Look for this presentation on the IOBG.org website. Throughout this year, the Executive Committee has promoted the IOBG membership retention and growth. The District Achievement Award (DAA) was created and promoted to each member. At this point in time, it looks like the DAA has been successful. Congratulations to all who have won this year's DAA pins. He is looking forward to serving as the IOBG International 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. The first Regional meeting is being planned for the end of February 2019 and he hopes to see as many members as time and travel allow at this meeting. If your District has an internet website please consider including a link to other IOBG sites including IOBG.org, IOBGA.org, IOBG-HF.org and other District sites like D8IOBG.org. Beginning with the official District membership numbers posted in August 2017, the Executive Committee will be awarding a District Achievement Award pin based on retention and growth. This distinctive pin will be awarded to five District executive boards in 2018. Please continue support of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. Website: IOBG-HF.org. To apply for Humanitarian Foundation funding of a local project access the website and complete the LAP (Local Area Project) application form.

### **Past President Rosalie Davis Green**

Rosalie reported that it has been her privilege and honor to have been on the Executive Committee for the last five years. One thing added to the IOBG Website is the community website page, which historically has been underused. Many Districts are doing activities that are worthy of being on the website but are not utilizing it. The tools are here to use, the Executive Committee has taken time to set it up, please take the time to use them. Use all of the tool to increase the membership. She asked the directors to challenge themselves to find more opportunities to reach out and present a more exciting image to the community at large and to the boating community. She wished the new board a good year and successful stewardship of the organization for 2019.

### **President Tony Durieux**

Tony reported that retention is the life blood of the organization. The better retention, the stronger the growth. How the members work to retain membership reflects the effort put forth to keep the chapters and districts active.

This year IOBG presented the first District Achievement Award. Five deserving districts have shown by their retention and growth that their district has paid close attention and worked hard to maintain their existing members while taking care to recognize the new past commodores in their district by introducing them to the Blue Gavel. IOBG does this as a chapter member, district representative or in a casual meeting with a past commodore who is not a member. We need to recognize the possible talents this past commodore could bring to the boating community as a Blue Gavel member. After all, we are the boating community's ambassadors. This is not a difficult challenge. If you have 5 or 25 chapters in your district, the first challenge is to keep track of those who soon will be past commodores and find a way to introduce them to the Blue Gavel. Follow the LOG newsletter because any districts post the ways they keep in contact and how they introduce prospective past commodores to the Blue Gavel. The first and best place to look for members is the chapters in your district.

At the Spring Regional meeting in Portland, Oregon we added a new chapter...the Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club in New Zealand. We have others that we are debating and will announce their acceptance and soon as the paperwork is final.

I encourage you all to visit our web site (iobg.org). It is user friendly and recently enhanced and updated. There is a wealth of information available to all. History, current information and reports about how others got things done. Take the time to browse and be prepared to be amazed at the amount of information that is now available.

Communication is vital to maintaining an informed membership. Internally, we have asked our Area Vice Presidents to hold monthly conference calls with their district Directors and/or district Presidents. Our thought is to pass on important information or news as soon as possible and over time we hope district Presidents will follow with a monthly conference call to the chapters in their district.

With all that said, it's now my turn to say thank you for entrusting the helm of the International Order of Blue to me as your President. The gavel has moved forward with the strong leadership provided by the Executive Committee. We are in great shape and so is our future. In closing, I want to say our future is in the hands of a great team of talented people. Still, the ultimate challenge to our future is the responsibility of each and every Blue Gavel member.

I was deeply honored to have been selected to serve as your President and I'm a little surprised at how fast this year has gone by.

### **Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert**

Mary prepared a charter for District 1, Port Ludlow Yacht Club, and also for Tauranga Yacht and Power Club in New Zealand. Mary reminded the directors that if the chapter cannot find the original charter at their yacht clubs, contact her for a copy. Mary thanked everyone for allowing her to be the Executive Secretary. This coming year will be her final year. She is giving District 1 some time to find a replacement who will enjoy the job and have storage to archive documents in 4-5 storage boxes and a 2-drawer file cabinet.

### **Area Vice Presidents and District Directors**

#### **Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle**

Lani reported that District 5 has 11 members. District 1 has lost members to death and need to be stronger at recruitment. There will be no meetings in District 1 for another six months because of weather and the three hundred miles between the members; therefore, it is very important to have District conference calls. The next meeting will be a wine tasting in Prosser, Washington, 140 miles south of Portland. They expect a large turnout for this one. Many of District 1 members are RVers now and the sites are filling fast in Prosser. I want to be certain District 5 members will be invited.

On another subject, he talked about the funding of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. Funds come from a variety of sources including district donation, individual donations, chapter donations, district auxiliary donations, 50/50 drawings, and a variety of other sources including Amazon Smile. Here's what District 1 does. Our dues renewal form includes an optional choice to add \$10 that goes to the IOBG Humanitarian Fund. About 35% check that box. Other districts have similar methods to collect donations but many do

not. He encouraged the districts do something similar. Fifteen hundred members times 35% could be over \$5000. The foundation is a 501C (3) tax deductible organization.

### **Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Smith**

Kathleen Smith reported that it has been a very busy year. Soon after the Annual meeting in Cleveland, she and Gary, the IOBGA President elect, attended the Change of Watch for District 6, at the Waikiki Yacht Club, including inducting their newest chapter. In December, they attended the District 11 Change of Watch in Marina Del Rey, where they were impressed with the speaker, a photographer for the America Cup. In January, they were at Huntington Harbor Yacht Club for the District 10 Change of Watch. They traveled to Pittsburgh for the Districts 14 and 19 induction of new members in February. That event drew around 125 members! After the whirlwind of Opening Days, and summer activities, they were at the after race party for District 15's Charity Regatta. This was the third annual regatta, and IOBGA again held their Jewelry Exchange. All proceeds go to ElderHelp San Diego. Finally, in September, they were at Channel Islands Yacht Club for the District 16 dinner meeting. The Channel Islands yacht clubs are under the same threat as many yacht clubs where the civic entities are looking for a higher revenue source. The Smith's enjoyed the meetings in Portland and Erie and are looking forward to New Orleans!

**District 10:** Director Joyce Jackson Coomber reported on their activities, including a brunch that raised \$1145 for the Children's Clinics of Long Beach. At Huntington Harbour Yacht Club, 25 IOBG members heard IOBG member Dr. Mark Monroe speak about qualifications to become Coast Guard Auxiliary members. The district will donate an International Beer Basket to the Charity Regatta to benefit The Children's Clinics. Members are looking forward to the Duffy cruise in December to view the holiday season decorated houses and boats.

**District 11:** Director Sheila Anderson reported that the district is currently working with Sherry Barone to plan the activities and events for the 2019 Annual Convention. They have formed a committee to spearhead this undertaking, planning wine tastings, painting parties and other fund raising activities to help with the cost of the convention. They have installed six new members during Opening Days and planned several events: Peterson Automotive Museum trip, wine tasting events, members' appreciation event, co-hosted ASMBYC Home Port Regatta, Hollywood Bowl Fundraiser, and Windy Qs casual get togethers.

**District 14:** Director Liz Allison reported on a full and busy year. They gave out their third scholarship for disadvantaged youth to sail for a week on the schooner Matthew Turner. They held a Member Appreciation Picnic, participated in the annual Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association Wheelchair Regatta. This is an event for veterans living institutional lives in VA homes and hospitals in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. There were 180 vets and attendants attending the boat ride and BBQ lunch. Each of the vets received goodie bags.

**District 15:** Linda Loftus, representing Director Bill Edwards, reported that District 15 has been busy with a Yacht Club Managements Seminar, an annual membership appreciation event, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Amazing Race for Children's Wishes, which raised \$1,480 for Make-A-Wish, and their Third Annual Charity Regatta.

**District 16:** Marsha Landreth, representing Director Dick Olsen, reported that the fourth annual Chowderfest event was successful and has raised over \$120,000 for the Maritime Museum in the four years. The district is also involved in saving the Channel Island Harbor's yacht clubs and recreational boating from developers who plan to turn the harbor into a residential harbor, which is contrary to the harbor's primary purpose as a recreational boating and visitor-serving harbor for all.

**District 19:** Liz Allison report for Director David A. Breninger and Alternate Director, Past President Vern Bendsen. The Delta District continues to have an outstanding leadership team with strong membership retention and involvement. February 25 saw 110 people gathered at Pittsburg Yacht Club/Chapter for the annual combined Districts 14 and 19 general membership and new member induction meeting and luncheon. District 19's membership totals 150 and the auxiliary has 62 members. They had several BBQs, luncheons, and dinner meetings.

**District 51:** Director Walt Kadyk's written report said that the efforts of getting new members for District 51 remains a very big challenge. There are not many yacht clubs that do not fall within an existing district. He continues his on-going efforts to recruit by attending Opening Day ceremonies on behalf of IOBG. One comment he heard is that many yacht clubs do not recognize IOBG for reciprocals. This is something that should be addressed. Also, what occurs if a IOBG member finds that it is no longer possible to be a member of a yacht club? He sends his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting.

*The reports from AVPs and Directors were suspended to accommodate the schedule of the Humanitarian Foundation.*

**Humanitarian Foundation:** Vice President Jackie Rudd of the Humanitarian Foundation announced that they have a beginning balance of \$37,146 and an ending balance of \$37,790 after giving out four grant requests: \$1000 to Jolly Roger Junior Sailing Club, \$400 to Santa Monica Yacht Club, \$1820 to Life Save for four sailing lessons, and \$1122 for student sailing. The ability to fund these programs comes from donations and fifty-fifty raffles. Jolly Roger Sailing Club and Margareta Yacht Club thanked the Humanitarian Foundation for their grant. Jackie announced the new board: President Larry Inguagiato, Vice President Audrey Hall, Treasurer Lani Lightle. Directors: Carol Promessi, Nancy Bisanz, Larry Inguagiato, Linda Leff, Susan Rodriguez, Jack White, and Lee Homyock.

#### **North Central Vice President Mark Vadaj**

**District 7:** John Sukis reported on the activities of the year. Blue Blazers meet and greet gathering is their biggest recruiting tool. District 7 had four reinstatements. St. Patrick's parade in Cleveland participation gives IOBG recognition. Greater Cleveland Boating Association put together a special event aboard the USS Cod, a World War II naval ship in Cleveland Harbor, honoring fallen soldiers. They had a joint wine-tasting event with District 9. In June they collected Hawaiian shirts to send to servicemen to remind them of home. Auxiliary is collecting books to give to schools, which will give IOBG exposure in the community. They presented a District Distinguished Service Award to Past President Warren Dempster in grateful appreciation of his years of dedicated service and devotion. John congratulated Tony for a great year.

**District 9:** Dean Reamsnyder reported that the goal of District 9 is to promote goodwill and sportsmanship. District 9 and District 25 co-sponsored a Blue Blazer event. It was promoted to bring flag officers to begin interest in club. They had another successful year of fundraising for boating charities. Two of the activities they supported were Perrysburg Rowing Club, and helped Jolly Rogers send three girls to Italy to compete in sailing race. Membership of 185 is up from 178 despite losing 17, as they picked up 25 new members. District 19 Auxiliary sponsored some great social events. Toledo Sailing Club had a party following the Lights before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo. District 7 and 9 had a wonderful time on the Lake Erie wine tour. District 9 had a fantastic year!

**District 25:** Steve Willing reported that under the leadership of District 25 President John Roberts increased membership and came in under budget. District 7, 9, and 25 used to be one district; however, because the geographic area was so large and many members didn't want to travel so far, they split into

three districts. The three districts, as they have for many years, hosted a Blue Gavel cocktail party at the annual Interlake Yachting Association regatta at Put-In Bay. This gives IOBG exposure in the yachting community.

Mark mentioned another fun activity, the Nautical Queen Cruise, which this year attracted 200 people on the dinner cruise.

**District 50:** Mark explained that District 50's purpose is to recruit new members, retain members, and relocate to an active chapter. Mark's focus this past year has been on Indiana, Illinois, and Minnesota where IOBG had memberships years ago. Mark penetrated the area through Shriners. Important to use other organizations to help build IOBG.

### **Northeastern Vice President Stephen Tisack**

Stephen reported that his area has a short season so they fill the season with boating activities and recruits during the off-season. The boats are being pulled and up on stands now for the long winter. Steve is presenting programs now that boating is over for the season. These inter-chapter activities, which opens lots of doors and driven with lots of energy. For example, seven chapters turned up at Caribbean Night. Seeing the Blue Gavel flag prompted interest and obtained some new members. Several others committed to join.

**District 3:** Stephen reported on the Buffalo and Lake Erie summer pig roast. They charged \$10 for perspective members and first mates. They had 73 people attend. Three chapters solicited Blue Gavel for parties at their clubs. The district gives a Boater-of-the-Year award each year at the Christmas party. The plaque has names of each recipient on it. Information is posted in newspapers. District 3 is at 90% retention rate.

**District 12:** Stephen has made progress with opening lines of communication for new membership and to reestablish the board in District 12. He has met with some past commodores and received a warm welcome from various chapters with newly sparked interest in the Blue Gavel from some of them. One New Jersey club has a beautiful clubhouse but doesn't interact with other clubs. Next year they are going to take a boat to other clubs to promote IOBG. Stephen's goal is to reconnect with the different yacht clubs in the Northeast.

### **Southeastern Vice President Karen Shea**

Karen Shea reported that District 18 Director Kowert continues to recruit from the Charleston, SC area with hopes of forming a board soon. Karen's scheduled meeting with him on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Charleston Yacht Club was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence. They have rescheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup>. Karen sent out an IOBG letter and honorary application from President Durieux to Commodore Jose Escrich of the Hemingway International Yacht Club, Havana, Cuba on August 1, 2018 which was approved by the board meeting on July 16, 2018. She received a formal response on September 12<sup>th</sup> stating he would be honored to accept. The Executive Committee approved that he be placed under District 8 as a new International Country since Cuba is only 90 miles from Key West and he works closely with Florida Yachts clubs with Regattas, fishing tournaments, etc. Karen will now coordinate an IOBG induction ceremony in Cuba within the next 6 months. She will coordinate a hotel, induction ceremony and a few excursions for 3 or 4 nights. She also will be in charge of the Winter Regional Meeting Feb 6-10, 2019 in New Orleans at the Holiday Inn Downtown – Superdome. Reservations need to be made as soon as November 9<sup>th</sup> or IOBG could lose 50% of the rooms. Karen developed a recruiting display which she brought to this meeting. Total cost was about \$180 (\$100 for a 15.3" Digital Photo, Video & Music Display, an Embroidered IOBG table cloth \$70 and a brochure holder \$7). On the digital display, she has the IOBG Presentation and pictures (thanks to Spencer) which still has room for improvements such as music. On the table, she placed IOBG brochures, her IOBG business card,

IOBG membership applications, Humanitarian Fund info page, Boat U.S. brochures, National Boating Federation Safety Brochures, and a US Coast Guard Auxiliary info paper. She intends to add two more brochures or informational papers from all US Sailing and US Power Squadron/America's Boating Club. Any other suggestions would be appreciated. These displays could be used at IOBG sponsored events as well as during regional meetings to help with recruiting members.

**District 8:** Karen is dual hatted as both the D8 Director and the SEVP. D8 did not reach their 2017 membership goal of 230. As of August 1, 2018, they had 223 members plus 2 Past Presidents. They lost their position as the largest District to District 7 which had 233 members! Currently, D8 has a District Achievement Award calculation of 92.94% which places them 6 out of 12 Districts as of July 2018. D8 will receive the DAA at their October Change of Watch in Venice, FL this weekend. Even though District 's8 spring meeting scheduled for June 1-3 at Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Ft Lauderdale was canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, Karen is positive they can supplement three meetings a year with at least three additional teleconferences to once again regain number one membership position. Two Chapters were reactivated this year: Bird Key Yacht Club and Palm Beach Sailing Club, which gives them 25 Chapters. Palm Coast YC has also shown interest but no new members yet. They continue to work on retention and have assigned Board Presidents with both active and inactive chapters to contact. In conjunction with our Treasurer Bosi sending out renewals in December, she will send out about 50 personalized letters to inactive Chapters along with the new brochures. In the letters, she also gives reference to IOBG.ORG website and the great Power Point presentation that anyone can use. They will continue to try to activate inactive Chapters, especially those who are Florida Council of Yacht Club members. It is important to send out annual letters to inactivate chapters along with new brochures, which she will continue to do. District 8 works very hard at keeping members informed via their website, newsletters, emails, and phone calls from their Executive Committee. They are one of only 2 Districts with a Membership Roster, not to mention their great website. They talked about their D8 membership roster which Mary Nye produces. Karen sent out a copy of the D8 Membership Roster to all VP's and the Executive Committee officers. This all helps in keeping retention rate high. She continues to ask D8 Chapter Presidents to work on several areas within their Yacht Clubs.

1. **Add an IOBG tab on their Yacht Club website.** Just start off with the IOBG mission statement and who your current Chapter Board is and maybe a few pictures. Also add a link to both our D8 and International website. We have 7 out of 25 YC's who have IOBG info/tabs on their websites.
2. **Have their Yacht Clubs add IOBG members to their reciprocity rules.**
3. **Be an ambassador for the IOBG when you have Regattas and other events** involving other yachts clubs. I've made up an IOBG Display table which can be used which I have set up here at Venice Yacht Club.

They are considering presenting our IOBG Chapters with IOBG flags for 25, 30, etc. years of membership. They will be presenting Venice Yacht Club with an IOBG Flag with 33 years on it to fly on their flagpole. D8 Change of Watch is being held at the same time with International at Venice Yacht Club since our new President Joe Dombrowski is from VYC like our incoming President Bud Higginson.

**District 18:** Director David Kowert wrote: Over the course of the summer regatta season, I personally met with numerous past commodores from the various area yacht clubs regarding membership in Blue Gavel. Many agreed to come to a meeting but recommended that we hold it in November or December instead of October. I agreed to move the meeting back to accommodate more potential attendees. As of the writing of this report that meeting has not been set but we will get it together as soon as we have an open venue on a Friday evening. Will circulate date when set. District 18 has made an offer to Charleston Ocean Racing Association to play a more active role in the Wednesday Night Race Series and to support or sponsor at fall rally race around the harbor. This rally concept is also supported by the Charleston Race Week as they would like to add another event to the Race week activities. If we can get this underway, IOBG would have increased visibility by providing the check boats at each rally point. Our plan is to ask Past Commodores in the area who have boats to support the effort and get them engaged through action instead of just hospitality. Randy Drafts is the Race Director for Charleston Race Week and we are in



ongoing discussions with him to take over the rally event for CRW 2019. He has been very receptive to that. As the fall season approaches and we see things slow down here in Charleston, I will make an additional effort to visit the yacht clubs with IOBG members in Hilton Head. They understandably need some attention and I should be in the Hilton Head area around the Thanksgiving Holiday. Finally, we will be working with IOBG leadership on what existing interest is in other area clubs that we can follow up on.

### **Appointed Officers' Reports**

**Legal Officer Joe Dowdell** - No report

**Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers**

Mary used the house-within-a-house analogy to explain how she rebuilt the website. The website worked well except if members have previously added IOBG site to Favorites as it will go back to the old site. Hit reload and it will go to the new site. New page has been made with old Logs. Minutes will be added next. Log articles are due November 3.

**Protocol Officer Marsha Landreth** – no report

**Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth** reminded everyone to sign in.

**Past President Liaison Stephen Willing**

One job is to take minutes and send to all Past Presidents. He hasn't received any complaints.

**Auxiliary Buzz Bisanz**

Buzz yielded his time to Auxiliary President Gary Smith. Gary reported on actions taken at the Auxiliary meeting yesterday. They will be selling pins for \$5 with the difference going to Humanitarian Foundation. A Memorial donation was given to HF in the honor of Al Effert.

**Boat US Marshall Nemoy**

Marshall reported on decals, half off cost of membership if member of IOBG, as well as West Marine discount. Boast US has an advocate for boaters in Washington D.C.

**Membership Sherry Barone**

Sherry reported that membership is up. Let's continue that into the new year.

**National Boating Federation Marlene Barrington**

Marshall reported for Marlene Barrington. They are aggressive at looking at legislation concerning boaters. Now looking at Ethaline B15 for boats that is not good for the boats. Check out the website. Stephen Willing added that the Ed Paine is the new president and a member of IOBG District 25.

**US Sailing Mark Hansen** – no report

**Old Business**

Past President Steve Willing reported on lost opportunities to advertise IOBG's good works. He told the story of a kid selling stock in a board game for \$1000 each. That share is worth \$1 million today. The game is Trivial Pursuit. Pink Cancer Run was a missed opportunity to advertise. Grey Haven Boat Club advertised the gift to Humanitarian Foundation. CBS did a Youtube video on a sailing program for Intercity kids. It was a lost opportunity because IOBG didn't put an IOBG decal on the boat. The CBS film is called *Challenge the Wind*.

Reciprocity – Steve Willing reported on the Hospitality Program Proposal that was put together by Past Presidents Vern Bendsen and Steve Willing, AVPs Karen Shea, and Kathy Smith. The EC approved that the word *Reciprocity* should be changed to *Hospitality*. Reciprocity makes it sound as if the club must let the guest in. The committee **proposed an amendment to the Policy and Procedures Manual:** Bylaws, Article 11 Objects and Purposes “New” (B)a. To offer hospitality of your club to visiting IOBG members for the purposes of strengthening the bond between our member, their clubs and the boating community. **Proposed addition to the IOBG Membership Application Form:** Members will request their clubs grant access to visiting IOBG members for the purposes of spreading hospitality and fellowship throughout our organization.

### **New Business**

Election of 2019 Officers: Ballots were distributed. PP Steve Willing and AVP Lani Lightle counted the ballots, and signed the teller sheet, before President Tony Durieux announced the results: President Bud Higginson; President Elect Sherry Barone; First Vice President Robert “Buzz” Bisanz; Second Vice President Mark Vadaj; Immediate Past President Tony Durieux; Treasurer Marshall Nemoy; Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert, District 1; Northeastern Vice President Steve Tisak; North Central Vice President Steven Hyder; Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith; Southeastern Vice President Karen E. Shea.

Mark Vadaj moved to destroy the ballots; Steven Willings seconded the motion. The motion carried and will be destroyed by the recording secretary.

Winners of the DAA: Districts 1, 3, 7, 8, and 14. The plaques will be presented at the ball.

District Roster might be considered by the districts, but not to be posted on internet. Can get the information from Marshall or Mary.

Past President Joe Dowdell moved to adopt the budget. Alternate District 16 Direct Marsha Landreth second the motion. Motion carried. The budget was adopted.

Tony passed the gavel to Bud.

### **Adjournment:**

Mary Effert moved to adjourn the meeting; Mark Vadaj seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Landreth

Recording Secretary