

# INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

## Summer Regional Meeting

Sheraton, Erie Bayfront Hotel, Erie, Pennsylvania

August 18, 2018

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance:** SEVP Karen Shea led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Quorum:** The Recording Secretary confirmed that a quorum was not present. No voting took place; however, an informational gathering continued.

**Agenda:** No additions to the agenda.

**Introduction of Past Presidents:** Joel Kay, Louis Key, and Joe Dowdell.

**Self-introduction of Members and Guests:** District 3 Director Lewis Smith; District 7 President Lloyd Bogue, VP Charles Miller, Secretary Warren Dempster, Treasurer John Sukis, Ed Schuler, Connie and Gene McKnown; District 9 Director Dean Reamsnyder, and P/D Larry Inguagiato; District 19 Liz Alliston.

**Approval of the Spring Regional Minutes:** The Spring minutes were approved at the EC meeting yesterday when a quorum was present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Financial statement as of July 31, 2018: net income \$48,694, which is \$900 higher than last year at the same date. This occurred because of \$1,314 lower than expected dues collections and expenses that were \$15,288 lower than budget. In spite of this we were able to increase our cash reserves and our total equity.

Membership: 1,534 paid members as of August 1, 2018, which is 14 members less than this time last year.

Budget: A proposed budget will be sent by the Executive Committee to all members authorized to vote at the Annual Meeting. The proposed budget maintains the annual dues at the current rate of \$50.

Marshall has been treasurer since 1993 and has seen many changes. He is retiring from business, but will continue to be the IOBG treasurer. The IOC will move from his office to his home.

Total assets: \$214,055. Liabilities: funds being held for District 18 (\$190.08) and District 23 (\$318.41)

**Past President's Report:** Rosalie Davis Green reported on her two duties: audit committee and nominating committee. She asked that the members use the Community Service section that has been added to the website. The Districts carry out many different community services and this is the place to showcase our good works.

- **Audit Committee** met by telephone conference call on 5-29-18; attending were P/P Rosalie Davis Green, President Elect B.E. "Bud" Higginson, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Robert P. "Buzz" Bisanz. All

documents prepared by the IOBG Treasurer were reviewed. The very detailed journal entries supported the payments made. It is clear the IOBG revenues were spent on the usual and customary expenses of the organization. The audit committee agreed that financially everything is in good order.

- **Nominating Committee:** Rosalie reported that the IOBG nominating committee met by conference call and reviewed all requests for nomination submitted by interested members. The committee thoroughly discussed each request. Their decision reflects the consensus of the committee. The IOBG Executive Committee ratified the slate as presented to them by the nominating committee. These nominees will be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the IOBG Board of Directors at the IOBG Annual Meeting in Venice Florida on October 20, 2018. President-B.E. "Bud" Higginson; President Elect-Sherry Barone; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Robert "Buzz" Bisanz; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Mark Vadaj; Immediate Past President-Tony Durieux; Treasurer-Marshall Nemoy; Executive Secretary-Mary Eiffert; Northeast Area Vice President-Stephen Tisack; Southeast Area Vice President-Karen E. Shea; North Central Area Vice President-Sтивен Hyder; Northwest Area Vice President-Open; Southwest Area Vice President-Kathleen Jo Smith.
- Added a Community Service section to the website. Please use the Community Service section to showcase your community service activities.

**President's Report:** Tony Durieux welcomed everyone to the 2018 summer regional meeting and thanked District 7, President Lloyd Bogue and the Erie Yacht Club Commodore, Gregory Corny and his bridge for putting together a fun-filled weekend.

This is the first year awarding the District Achievement Award. This award will be presented to Districts that have shown a concerted effort to retain existing members while continuing to work on current growth.

The website has a new look and is filled with useful information that chapters and districts can use to help with retention and growth.

The Executive Committee holds a monthly conference call to discuss many ideas and situations. This monthly discussion allows us to discuss new ideas and get in front of any possible problems. The Executive Committee has asked our AVPs to hold a monthly conference call with their district Directors and/or President. Hopefully, this same procedure will be used as a source of information that can be passed on to district chapters.

I have been asked what the Blue Gavel does for me! As a past commodore you are an important part of Boating. We need to stay informed and you need to be part of any solution. People look up to you and it is our responsibility to continue being part of the solution. Past commodores enjoy being with other past commodores. No one can duplicate your experience or the respect you earned over many years. The Blue Gavel is the organization that supports and continually promotes that good will!

**President-Elect's Written Report:** Bud Higginson submitted a written report reminded everyone that the 2018-19 annual IOBG meeting will be held at the Venice Yacht Club in Venice Florida October 18-20 of this year. Preparations are well underway and we look forward for a great meeting. My thanks go to VYC IOBG chapter president Melinda Short and her team for planning this event. This is the first time the Venice Yacht Club has hosted this event and have gone out of their way preparing the club for this meeting. I am encouraging all blue gavel members to register for and attend this event. The final details for the February 2019 meeting have not been worked out, the tentative meeting location will be in New Orleans, Louisiana during the early part of February, 2019. Even though IOBG does not have a presence in the New Orleans area, it does have several well-known yacht clubs in the area. It would be my intent, along with the help of others, to contact some of these clubs in the near future to introduce them to the IOBG and advise them of our intent to hold the IOBG regional meeting in their area and plan to meet with them to encourage them to become members of IOBG. During a preliminary investigation by Karen Shea, New Orleans is a great site for this meeting as all

flights on different parts of the US are inexpensive and there are several good meeting locations that are being considered.

**First Vice President Written Report:** Sherry Barone wrote that Area VPs continue to sustain membership and look at innovative ways to grow membership. Both Karen Shea and Stephen Tisack are working with their districts to encourage new ideas. Karen has a pop IOBG station that she is bringing to districts and old chapters to spark renewed interest in IOBG.

Steve plans to visit New Jersey Yacht clubs on Labor Day and Karen has visited Rhode Island clubs. Steve and Karen joint efforts has been wonderful. I will visit the New York City, Albany, Catskills, Philadelphia, and Boston/Berkshires yacht clubs on summer holiday.

Attended and participated in at-risk youth sailing and Special Olympic sailing in Santa Monica Bay and Long Beach. The speed, the power Sailing was special as they develop their capabilities. Any day on the water is a gift and sharing my passion with the kids was wonderful.

**Second Vice President Written Report:** Robert P. Buzz Bisanz

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your membership in IOBG for 2018. We are now entering the final months of this fiscal year and our activities in communicating with our membership and membership retention/growth have progressed very well.

It's now time to have some fun and find out more detailed information about IOBG. Access our IOBG website at IOBG.org and peruse the pages of information we have detailed on this site. You will find the following information and I think it will enhance your understanding of IOBG:

- IOBG Bylaws
- Policy Manual
- IOBG Brochure (PDF version)
- IOBG Presentation (Power Point Presentation)
- Chapter Directory w/addresses
- Lists of Officers, Representatives & Committees
- District Information
- Meeting Minutes (Regional and Annual Meetings)
- LOG News letter
- Lighthouse Bulletin
- IOBGA (Auxiliary)
- IOBG Humanitarian Foundation
- Clothing and Accessories for members
- Links to associated vendors and other IOBG Chapter websites

Go ahead and access the site IOBG.org and play with the information listed above.

We also have access to a number of written Yacht Club Traditions. These are located at D8IOBG.org website. The District 8 (Florida) website is open and available for you to access and read the number of Traditions they have listed.

For your District if you have a 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.

**District Achievement Award:** 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. Your AVP has detailed information for you. Thank you for your efforts in 2018.

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Thank you to Southwestern Area Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith and Northwestern Area Vice President Lani Lightle for the personal time and service they each put forth to their assigned areas on behalf of IOBG.

**Area Vice Presidents Reports:**

**NWVP:** no report

**District 1:** no report

**District 5:** no report

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**SWVP:**

After a whirlwind Opening Day Season, the Southwest area has settled down to enjoy the annual summer activities: Junior sailing classes, regattas, luaus, and cruises.

Most of the districts have some kind of a giving back project, raising funds for some charitable organization, and are planning their district social events.

And we are all looking forward to the annual meeting in Venice.

District 21 President Richard Price continues to induct incoming members at their Clubs Opening Day.

- **District 10:** On July 25 District 10 held a dinner at Huntington Harbor Yacht Club. There were about thirty people in attendance. Our speaker was one of our Blue Gavel members, Dr. Mark Monroe. He spoke about the Coast Guard Auxiliary and how they fulfill their missions such as Search and Rescue and Boating Inspections. On August 5 District 10 and Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach combined efforts and sponsored a Brunch at Navy Yacht Club. The omelet bar was manned by both Bill and Lavon Plumlee and Rodney and I provided the rest of the breakfast items. After our expenses were taken out we donated the amount of \$1,145.00 to the Children's Clinics of Long Beach. We have several upcoming events in the works including a cruise out to Cabrillo Way for Fleet Week, a dinner at Long Beach Yacht Club with a speaker on health safety, a Day at the Races at Los Alamitos Race Track and a Duffy ride in December to view the Christmas lights on the waterway.
- **District 11:** Director Sheila Anderson will be taking on a new career opportunity, and relocating to Sacramento. She plans to stay involved in IOBG, and finish out this year.
- **District 14:** Liz Alliston reported that they have award third scholarship for the Matthew Turner schooner, which takes on at-risk children. She also told of a new member who went through the District's sailing program, and then raced singled-handed in the TransPac from Long Beach to Diamond Head.
- **District 19:** Delta area report given by Liz Alliston. District 14 and 19 help support a wheelchair regatta and dinner. District is holding a bbq today and a Big Cat run with two classes: those under 65 mph and those over 65 mph.
- **District 16:** Marsha Landreth reported on the Harbor Commissioner's attempt to close the yacht clubs in the harbor in favor of building condominiums.
- **District 15:** Kathy read a report from Director Bill Edwards. This past June District 15 (D15) IOBG and IOBGA raised \$1,480 for Make-A-Wish San Diego during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Amazing Race for Children's Wishes. D15 is currently ratcheting up its attention to the D15 IOBG Charity Regatta which will be held in September and benefitting ElderHelp of San Diego. There is one item of concern in that the board is finding it difficult to find a past commodore from our chapters to join D15 as the Secretary. We are continuing to address this with the chapters that are currently next in our rotation to fill our

board positions. Additionally, the IOBG website currently has the D15 list of officers that reflects the year 2017 in spite of a couple of updates having been provided.

**NCVP:** Mark Vadaj reported that the North Central has enjoyed a very busy and active 2018 and the best is yet to come. One of the reasons the North Central Area has been so intense the last few months is because we pack 12 months of boating into 6 months and sometimes less. Another reason is that these Districts work very hard every year to provide the most benefit and boating activities that are possible. All of the Districts have their own events and efforts but also share in common events such as the most recent Inter Lake Yachting Association Sailboat Week and Powerboat Week for a total of two full weeks at Put in Bay on South Bass Island. Many of our Members are just now returning and/or recovering and unable to be in attendance today. As active and hardworking our District Officers have been this year, they have also played hard and through the multiple events and relationships they have utilized these opportunities to further propel the message and a welcome invitation of the IOBG. Personally, I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and admiration to the efforts of all the District Officers in the North Central Area.

- **District 7:** Our summer is flying by with many, many activities for all of clubs and chapters. We concluded the month of May with a very special event aboard the USS Cod, a World War II naval ship in Cleveland Harbor. The Greater Cleveland Boating Association puts on this event and asked district 7 to participate with our members. This is a very moving event honoring our fallen heroes and our fellow members from our respective yacht clubs. June continued to be a month in which we continued our support for our troops by collecting and donating “Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers”. This donation is the least we can do for troops to add a little fun to their stressful situation. We provided a cocktail party for our members and the attendees at the Greater Cleveland Boating Association’s summer rendezvous at the Huron Boat Basin with 70 boats participating this year. The month of July concluded with the finalization of plan for the summer meeting at Erie Pa. August brings us to an event in which district 7, 9.& 25 honor the commodore of the Inter-Lakes Yachting Association by holding a joint event on Put in Bay during their annual powerboat regatta. This year’s cocktail party hosted some 120 past, present, and future yacht club officers.
- **District 9:** Dean Reamsnyder welcomed IOBG to Erie, a great place to explore and enjoy another jewel of Lake Erie. District 7&9 will continue to do another joint event next month as we celebrate the ‘harvest of the vine’ with a joint Wine Tour at the west end of Lake Erie on September 28 & 29. Our year will conclude on October 13<sup>th</sup> with our change of watch at Forest City Yacht Club.

**SEVP:** Karen Shea reported that D18 continues to maintain their members from four Yacht Clubs. Despite my initiative to send out personalized letters with our new brochures to 11 inactive chapters in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, I only received one response/member from Western Carolina Sailing Club. My next idea is to assist D18 by sending out 37 personalized letters to Yacht Clubs in the 5 state area who have never had an IOBG Chapter. I have developed the same spreadsheet for D18 as I did for D8 which gathers a lot of information onto one page. I’ve talked to 4 previous SEVPs and they all said the area has been hard to recruit. D18 Director Kowert continues to recruit from the Charleston, SC area with hopes of forming a board soon. I have a meeting scheduled with him on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Charleston Yacht Club. It has been a challenge this year having the largest membership district and the smallest membership district. I enjoy working with other VP’s and our 1st VP Sherry Barone to increase our membership.

I 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. We will be waiting on a response and proceed from there on induction.

I developed a recruiting display which I’ve 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, I have the IOBG Presentation and pictures (thanks to Spencer) which still has room for improvement including figuring out

how to add music. On the table, I currently have our IOBG brochures, my 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. I intend to add two more brochures or info papers from all our 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 our regional meetings to help with recruiting members

### **DISTRICT 8 REPORT: KAREN SHEA DISTRICT DIRECTOR**

Our District 8 spring meeting scheduled for June 1-3 at Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Ft Lauderdale was canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. Our next meeting which is our Change of Watch with President Elect Joe Dombrowski taking the helm will coincide with the International Change of Watch in Venice October 18-20<sup>th</sup>. I am positive we can supplement our 3 meetings a year with additional teleconferences.

I am dual hatted as both the D8 Director and the SEVP. D8 did not reach our 2017 membership goal of 230. As of August 1, 2018, we have 223 members plus 2 Past Presidents. We lost our position as the largest District to District 7- congrats to District 7! Currently, D8 has a District Achievement Award calculation of 92.94% which places us 6 of 12 Districts as of July 2018. D8 will receive the DAA at our October Change of Watch in Venice, FL.

We have two Chapters that reactivated, Bird Key YC and Palm Beach Sailing Club, which gives us 25 Chapters. Palm Coast YC has also shown interest but no new members yet. We continue to work on retention and have assigned our Board Presidents with both active and inactive chapters to contact. In conjunction with our Treasurer Bosi sending out renewals in December, I sent out 49 personalized letters to inactive Chapters along with our new brochures. In the letters, I also give reference to our IOBG.ORG website and the great power point presentation that anyone can use. We will continue to try to activate our inactive Chapters especially those who are Florida Council of Yacht Club members. I think it is important to send out annual letters to inactivate chapters along with our new brochures.

Our District works very hard at keeping our members informed via our website, newsletters, emails, and phone calls from our Executive Committee. We are one of only 2 Districts with a Membership Roster, not to mention our great website. We talked about our D8 membership roster which Mary Nye produces. I sent out a copy of our D8 Membership Roster to all VP's and the E-Committee. This all helps in keeping our retention rate high.

I continue to ask our 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.

We are considering presenting our IOBG Chapters with IOBG flags for 25, 30, etc. years of membership. We will be presenting Venice Yacht Club with an IOBG Flag with 33 years on it to fly on their flagpole.

### **DISTRICT 18 REPORT: DAVID KOWERT DISTRICT DIRECTOR**

The summer season in Charleston Is filled with regattas literally every weekend. Our best attempts to create a special event for IOBG in conjunction with an YC regatta were unsuccessful due largely in part to our late start. The key people we needed to reach out to were already heavily committed to their individual Yacht Club activities and responsibilities. That said, we had the opportunity to meet with a significant number of Past Commodores from James Island Yacht Club, Hobcaw Yacht Club, Carolina Yacht Club, Sea Island Yacht Club, and Charleston Yacht Club.

The response to rebuilding a much more active IOBG chapter in Charleston remains positive, and many of the Past Commodores we spoke with agreed that a fall event (outside the regatta season) would be something they would attend. While that remains to be seen, JD Rosser (PC Hobcaw) and I are in the process of planning an oyster roast to be held at Hobcaw YC in October and we will be sending out RSVP invitations in early September.

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 a fall rally race around the harbor. This rally concept is also supported by 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.

We recognize that we need to push out marketing efforts outside of the Charleston Area as well, and we are currently reaching out to members in Hilton Head and other Yacht Clubs to see if we can leverage their interest as well. While the summer has been incredibly busy, we are looking for fall to slow down and provide the opportunity to grow IOBG in District 18.

NEVP: No report

Legal Officer: no report

Communications Director: no report

Protocol Officer: no report

Recording Secretary: Marsha reminded everyone present to sign in and to give her a written copy of the reports.

Boat US: Marshall had nothing new to report.

IOBGA: Gary Smith reported that members have been busy! District 7 launched the pilot book giveaway in fine IOBGA fashion. They teamed up with a school needing a library and provided 150 books, all stamped with the IOBGA District 7 ID. The district superintendent was present, the local paper, and publicity for our organization was garnered as well as joyful young reader's thanks. We approved granting an additional \$100.00 to the project. Members throughout the nation attended Opening Days as many hulls kissed the water for the first time in 2018, and boaters in the South and Far West dodged ice cubes as they resumed their never ending seasons. We approved our new pins, and applaud the shopping acumen of Mary Nye as we save needed dollars. We continue our goal to improve our numbers, notice some ingenious ways districts have found to enhance the membership. As an example, one district offers free membership for the **Second** year for the past Commodore and his/her spouse. Think about it! We continue to seek talented individuals to fill openings as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Southwest Director. Please contact any member of the Executive Board if you are interested. We look forward to our trip to Venice, Florida in the fall, join us!

### **New Business:**

Reciprocals: Reciprocity between all Blue Gavel Yacht Clubs and Blue Gavel members is problematic. We should no longer use the word reciprocity; instead use the word visitation. We can't put the IOBG Chapter on the spot by asking for reciprocity at their club; however, we can ask to visit the club.

Lloyd Bogue presented Charles Miller an appreciation plaque for providing transportation during the summer meeting. Lloyd presented an appreciation award to Ed Schuler for hosting IOBG at the Erie Yacht Club. Tony thanked Lloyd for spending the last four months organizing the Summer Regional Meeting in Erie. Warren Dempster, thank you for helping in the hospitality room.

Announcements: Basket raffle on the Victoria Princess.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Landreth

Recording Secretary