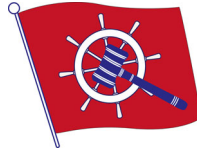


# International Order of the Blue Gavel

**Annual Meeting**



**Del Rey Yacht Club**

**October 19, 2019**

**Call to Order:** President-Elect Sherry Barone called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**Pledge:** Mark Vadaj led the Pledge of Allegiance. Steve Willing honored the Queen of England.

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

**Quorum:** The Recording Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present, with 83% of the voting representatives from the Districts present.

**Agenda:** Buzz moved to accept the agenda. Mark seconded the motion. The agenda was approved as presented.

**Minutes of Annual Meeting in Venice, Florida, on October 19, 2018:** Mark moved to approve the minutes, Buzz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Introduction of Past Presidents:** Vern Benson, Stephen Willing, Joel Kay, Rosalie Davis-Green, and Tony Durieux were introduced.

**Introduction of Members and Guests Present:** District 1 – Jim Martinson; District 7 – Lloyd Bogue, Lee Homyock; District 8 – Joseph Tringali; District 9 - Larry Inquagiato; District 10 - Rodney Coomer, Joyce Jackson Coomer; District 11 - Lou Daniell, Deiah Keown, Gisele Ozeri, Wally Hammons, Craid Funabash, Wilma Rosenberg, Shelia Anderson; District 14 – Liz Allison, Marge Bottari, Erich Schoenwisner; District 15 - Linda Loftis, Marybeth Thayer, Bill Thayer, Gary Hall, Jim Murtland; District 16 – Tom Shideler; District 19 - Linda Bendsen, Roger Beebe, Mickey Johnson.

**Humanitarian Foundation:** Buzz moved to approve Tony Durieux, Karen Shea, Lani Lightle, and Audrey Hall to two-year terms; Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Humanitarian Foundation officers are: President – Larry Inquagiato; Vice President – Audrey Hall; Treasurer – Jack White; Directors – Nancy Bisanz 1 year; Lee Homyock 1 year; Linda Leff 1 year; Lani Lightle 2 years; Karen Shea 2 years; Susan Rodriguez 1 year; Tony Durieux 2 years.

## **Executive Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** Marshall reported that the net income as of September 30, 2019 was \$21,138.90, which is \$10,662 better than budget and \$11,512 lower than last year at this date. The Balance Sheet still indicates a healthy financial position. Dues collections were \$9,345 lower than budget; however,

total expenses were \$20,083 lower than budget. The budget showed actual revenues at \$68,294.24 compared to the budgeted amount of \$77,715.03, showing a loss of \$9,420.79. The annual convention allotment will be raised next year from \$3,000 to \$6,000 due to increased expenses undertaken by the district hosting the annual meeting. The allotment for directors traveling to annual meetings most likely will be changed. EC travel was lower than last year and lower than budgeted. Bank account \$148,492.08, savings \$50,340.90 and 5.22, other \$503.34. Total current assets, \$199,341.54. Amber Warren is the new office employee at the IOC.

**First Vice President's Report:** Buzz reported that communications is very important. He asked everyone to go on the IOBG.org to see the new Policy and Procedure Manual that now has the Standing Rules incorporated into the Policy and Procedures Manual. The last update was September 2019. He thanked Sherry, Karen and Marsha for reviewing the document.

Buzz has worked this year on membership growth by assigning each District Officers in District 8 up to five active chapters. The purpose was established for the contacting of each chapter two-three times per year by that District's Officers. It is important for the contact to continue each year as it assists in Chapter retention by giving each Chapter the feeling of belonging to IOBG. Buzz encouraged the District Directors to employ this in their districts. He was commodore in the 80s and didn't find out about IOBG until 2005. He feels an outreach program is necessary.

**President-Elect's Report:** Sherry reported that this year has been focused on increasing membership and looking into recruiting and retaining the active and inactive chapters, new chapters and new members. Some of the Past Presidents were asked to serve on a committee to look into adding other yachting associations, such as Power Squadrons, to IOBG. Sherry thanked Mary Nye Meyers for her work on the webpage, Lighthouse, and Log, which provide critically important communication to IOBG members. She thanked and recognized the Change of Watch Committee: Julie Albright, Shelia Anderson, Marge Bottari, Rosalie Davis Green, Brian Keown, Joyce Jackson, Brian Keown, Marsha Landreth, and Mary Nye Meyers. She also thanked the yacht clubs involved. She thanked Districts 11 and 16 for co-hosting the event, and Districts 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, and 19 for their help in donations and fund raising. She also thanked Vons, Firestone Winery, Tito Vodka, Hula Girls and Thumbprint Cellars for their donations. She gave a special thank you to Mary Nye Meyers, P/P Stephen Willing and Lady Shirley Willing, P/P Vern Bendsen, Ethel Keith, Joel Kay, P/P Tony Dureux and Lady Sandi Dureux. Sherry announced the summer meeting scheduled for August 12-13 at Howth Yacht Club and Malahide Yacht Club in Ireland.

**Second Vice President's Report:** Mark reported that it is his great honor to serve this coming year as Second Vice President. As Second Vice President, his responsibilities include assisting the President, Public Relations, the IOBG Brochure, and serving as liaison to the Area Vice Presidents west of the Mississippi, and District 51. He reports to the President and President Elect.

He went on to say, "I hope you will contact me if you have any concerns, suggestions or questions. IOBG is your organization, and we all want to make it meet the needs of the Past Commodores we serve. I trust you are aware of what a great resource The Log is for us all. You will find contact information for your officers, news (and ideas for your District) of what is happening in other Districts, and reports from Officers and Directors from or Regional and Annual Meetings. I urge each District to ensure your reports are submitted and published. Go ahead, brag a little, or a lot! And we love photos. They make all the reports more interesting, so send them along, too." He spoke about the value of value-added, saying that in theory your membership can save you money. He is investigating online

transactions to help members automatically pay dues. Retailers are interested in exposure in our publications in exchange for alliance of discounts of purchases. Help share our IOBG 2020 vision with fellow Commodores and Past Commodores. Why would you not join IOBG? It saves you money.

**Past President's Report:** Tony thanked everyone for allowing him to serve. He thanked Sherry for filling in for Bud when Bud became limited in his ability to attend meetings. Tony continued spearheading the DAA for the second year. He was asked to chair a committee of Past Presidents, whose purpose is to look at ways to broaden the base of IOBG by allowing other boating groups to join IOBG. In closing, he wished everyone fair winds and following seas.

There was a lively discussion with the District Directors present about allowing other boating groups to join IOBG, most of whom were against the idea. Sherry explained that this committee was formed to think outside of the box to increase membership and to make a recommendation.

**President's Report:** Bud sends his regards. His wife passed away this week. He looks forward to seeing everyone in the coming years.

**Executive Secretary:** Mary Eiffert reported that there were no new charters issued for this year and only one request for copies of issued charters. There are seven file boxes that will be delivered to the new Executive Secretary. After 25 years, Mary is retiring. She said she has met and become friends with many IOBG members and looks forward to retaining the friendships and hopes to be able to attend more IOBG functions. She said she has enjoyed her position and all of the members, plus the travels that have gone with it. She thanked everyone for the opportunity.

**NWAVP's Report:** Lani Lightle reported that District 5 is dormant, leaving only District 1 in the NWA. He turned the microphone over to Jim Martinson to give the District 1 report.

**District 1 -** Jim said, "I would like to acknowledge the continuing support of Lani Lightle and Mary Nye-Meyer for helping me and being there, and for their guidance. Most of all I have to thank the support of my "Admiral" First Mate Laurie Martinson for her support and help. The Northwest Area is basically now District 1, as District 5 remains dormant. We hope to revive District 5 and get them back online. District 1 continued the 2019 Season with members of our various chapters participating in events and cruises at their respective clubs." He went on to describe the year's activities. And then added, "I would like to honor Retiring International Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert for her 33 Years of Service to I.O.B.G. and District 1. You and your Captain Alan Eiffert have been bedrocks and perfect examples of Blue Gavel members. We are grateful and thankful to you, and wish you the best. In closing I would like to thank Des Moines Yacht Club for hosting our District Meetings and continued support. Also another big thank you to Kingston Cove Yacht Club for its continued membership and support of the District. These two clubs are the foundation that we continue to build District 1."

**Humanitarian Foundation** – Lani gave his Humanitarian Foundation report at this time, reporting that they have given grants to help needy youths in sailing programs. Unfortunately, the output is greater than the donations.

**SWAVP's Report:** Kathy Smith reported that all the districts in the Southwest Region have been busy with social activities and charitable projects over the past year. Socially, activities range from bar-b-ques, pot lucks, brunches and boat rides, to hosting Transpac teams. But, this year, a lot of social get togethers were focused on helping with fundraising for this Annual Meeting. Districts held wine tastings, paint and wine parties, and wine auctions. There does seem to be a theme there. Almost all of

the districts have determined specific relevancy projects for their membership. Hosting events or teams, southwest districts raised funds for, among others, Elderhelp, Make a Wish, the Hawaii Sailing Foundation, RBOC and the IOBGHF. Finally, everyone in the Southwest Region has been working to provide our membership with opportunities to get together, have fun, yes, drink some wine, and do some good for our communities.

**District 6** - In July, District 6 was happy to once again host 2017 Transpac boat, Onde Amo, for the 50th Transpac in 2019. They followed as the crew met every challenge including torn sails, electrical, freshwater pump, and rudder problems. As they prepared to greet them, the final challenge near the end, however, was complete rudder failure. Unable to finish the race, on an emergency rudder, and with small craft advisories, they opted to overnight in Molokai and wait for the tow to Waikiki when conditions improved. The next day in Waikiki they pulled into their slip, with spinnaker wrapped securely around the forestay, just as the Skipper had described. Under the circumstances, it was a beautiful sight! District 6 was there to welcome them with lei and boat lei, Mai Tai, fresh food and drink, and friends and family from the mainland. All were so very grateful for the safe arrival. October was our annual election BBQ at Kaneohe YC. In November, District 6 will be supporting our youth sailors and Hawaii Sailing Foundation at SEAFEST presented by the Hawaii Commodore's Association. Also in November is Installation of 2020 officers and Induction of new members at Waikiki YC. December will be traditional District 6 Christmas party and much anticipated "gift exchange". The district is looking forward to a fun and successful 2020.

**District 11** – Shelia Anderson reported that District 11 has focused on preparing for the Annual meeting, working with President-Elect Sherry Barone to ensure the meeting is a success. The committee has worked tirelessly, a special thanks to Giselle Orteri, Biran Keown and Julie Allbright for their help. We continued with our tradition of the Summer Windy Qs hosted by Giselle Orteri. This year we also had the combined District 10 & 11 BBQ, which was a great time. The weather was fantastic along, with the food and games. It was a great time for all. The Installation for the new board will be November 10<sup>th</sup> at their annual brunch. They are happy to bring some new faces and exciting energy to the District 11 board for 2020, and are looking forward to entering an IOBG boat in the Marina Del Rey Christmas Boat Parade.

**District 14** – Liz Allison reported that District 14 continues with stable membership but with no activity within the district. Their members continue to participate in District 19 activities. At the Annual Installation lunch and ceremony, they added five new members and subsequently have added two more. This past week two more members have been proposed and accepted. In the summer some of the members joined in with D19's BBQ. It was held at Stockton Yacht Club. The location was in Stockton's spacious patio and BBQ area down by the river. A good time was had by all.

**District 15** – From Gregg Hansen, District Director: District 15 plans on sending a number of our members to Marina Del Rey for the October Annual meeting where Sherrie Barone will be installed as Commodore of IOBG. Then later this month we will once again be participating in the Make-A-Wish Amazing Race for Children's Wishes on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at Coronado Cays Yacht Club. Look forward to wearing your favorite Halloween costume while bike riding around Coronado Island as we all join together along with District 15 to help raise funds for a very worthy cause.

The following events are scheduled for the remainder of 2019:

- 1) MAW Amazing Race on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at CCYC – 12pm

- 2) Board Meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at SWYC – 6pm
- 3) Change of Watch Dinner Meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at SWYC – 6pm
- 4) Board Meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at SWYC – 6pm

I along with our District President and other board members plan to attend the monthly San Diego Association of Yacht Club's meetings to retain and recruit members and encourage past commodores to join and be active with IOBG in supporting our local yacht club community.

**District 16 – Director** Marsha Landreth reported that District 16 continues the Chowderfest to aid the Marine Museum, and support HF by using Amazon's Smile.HF program. District 16 thanks the CIYC chapter for sponsoring the IOBG boat for Opening Day. They are actively discussing retention and what direction to take to raise membership. Their Christmas party will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at Channel Islands Yacht Club.

**District 19 – Director** Jack Michael reported: Following a very successful Appreciation Picnic, District 19 held our nomination luncheon presented by P/C Karen Mann at Discovery Bay Yacht Club. We had 33 members joining us for a beautiful day in the California Delta. The nomination committee presented the following members to serve our membership. 2020 Slate of Officers International Director: P/C Paul Clausen Vice President: Jan Cutaia-Iaconis President: P/C George Iaconis Secretary: P/C Patricia Atkins Treasurer: P/C Ben Blair We are looking forward to the new slate of officers. Additionally, we thank Past Southwestern International VP Mike Billington for being our treasurer for the last five years. The 2020 Election took place September 21, 2019 at the Pittsburg Yacht Club with 22 members in attendance. It was another wonderful California Delta event and fellowship. Delta District 19 donated \$2500 to the Pacific Interclub Yacht Association Scholarship fund. Representing Richmond Yacht Club was Hayden Lahr. Hayden started sailing when she was 8 years old. During her time in high school while not sailing, she volunteered over 200 hours of community service. After graduation from high school she enrolled in the University of Hawaii and the scholarship will help with her further studies. The final event of 2019 will be the Change of Watch for George Iaconis and the 2020 slate of officers. It will be held at Bridge Marina Yacht Club. The yacht club is now at full operation following a 2017 barge collision which struck the clubhouse and damaged some of the supporting pilings. After 14 months of construction the club has been beautifully rebuilt. We are happy to celebrate our COW at the reconstructed clubhouse. We continue to recruit new members and have formed a committee to retain current members. As we all know retention and attendance continue to be our largest challenge. Delta District 19 is looking forward to new leadership ideas for 2020. Our 2020 calendar is being updated, and interested members can visit our website at [www.iobgdelta19.org](http://www.iobgdelta19.org) for the full calendar and other information about Delta District 19.

#### **NCAVP's Report:**

Buzz reported in Steven Hyder's absence.

**District 7 – Director** Lloyd Bogue reported on the many activities: Blue Blazer event, Wearing of the Green at the annual St. Patty's Day Parade, GCBA event aboard the USS Cod for the annual Memorial Day ceremony that honored our fallen military and the club and chapter members who have passed during the year, GCBA summer Rendezvous, Put-in-Bay regatta with Districts 9 and 25, wine-tour weekend with District 9, and Change of Watch in October. The District donated \$1,138 to HF.

#### **NEAVP's Report:**

Stephen Tisack reported that the northeast continues to struggle with growth in membership, in part because a number of the yacht clubs are seasonal. Stephen visited Maine and will continue to communicate with Maine in his attempt to establish a chapter in Maine.

**District 12** – Stephen traveled to district 12 and continued to work with a few of the chapters to try and reestablish a board or district director. He will continue to send out contact information.

**District 3** – Had annual meeting and added a summer steak roast, with 92 members in attendance. Will have a holiday party in December. HF donated lifejackets for Excalibur disabled rides.

### **SEAVP's Report:**

Karen Shea gave her report yesterday at the general meeting. She was under the weather for today's meeting; Buzz read her written report.

**District 18** – Director Dave Kowert reported a 40% increase in membership. District 18 has offered Charleston Ocean Racing Association to maintain their official committee boat. That is great exposure for IOBG. They support the Wednesday night race and then transport the boat to the various yacht clubs for the weekend regattas. The hope is to increase IOBG visibility and the positive spirit in Charleston.

**District 8** – From Karen's report: 220 members plus 2 Past Presidents. They lost a couple of chapters in the panhandle; however, didn't lose numbers. They have a membership directory and have added teleconferences. They will continue to activate inactive chapters. Karen asked three things of her chapters: Add an IOBG tab on their yacht club website. Have their yacht club's add IOBG members to their Hospitality/Reciprocity rules. Be an ambassador for the IOBG when they have Regattas and other events involving other yacht clubs and set up an IOBG table with brochures, etc.

### **Appointed Officers Reports:**

**Legal Officer** – no report

**Communications Director** – Mark requested submitting anything through him and he will forward it to Mary.

**Protocol Officer** – Call Marsha if you have a question.

**Recording Secretary** – Marsha asked everyone present to please sign in.

**Past President Liaison Officer** – Joel Kay will send emails to all past presidents of the monthly EC conference calls.

**Auxiliary** – Gary Smith reported on the activities of the Auxiliary.

**Boat US** – Marshall Nemo reported that if you are a member of Boat US, you will receive publications 4 times a year. They have a nice boating insurance plan.

**Membership** – Buzz Bisanz reported that IOBG will begin instructional workshops.

**Elections** – Tony announced the slate of officers for next year. Results were announced: President Sherry Baron, President-Elect Robert "Buzz" Bisanz, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mark Vadaj, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith, Immediate Past President Bud Higginson, Treasurer Marshall Nemo, Executive Secretary Mary Nye Meyers, NEAVP Steve Tisack, SEAVP Karen Shea, NCAVP Steven Hyder, NWAVP Jim Martinson, and SWAVP Shelia Anderson. There were two abstaining votes.

**DDA Presentations** – will be awarded at the ball.

**Audit Committee** – Past President Tony Durieux reported that the audit committee met by conference call on 5/3/19. All documents prepared by the IOBG Treasurer were reviewed. The very detailed journal entries supported the payments made. It is clear that 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.

### **Old Business**

**Status of Incorporation of Standing Rules:** Buzz reported that the standing rules are on the website.

**Committee Report Status of Admitting Boating Organizations to IOBG:** Tony reported that the committee is an advisory one only. It is not making any recommendations at this time.

**Reciprocity:** In October 2017, the Executive Committee asked Vern Benson to discuss reciprocity. Steve, Vern, Kathy and Karen worked with Vern to come up with a proposal. A hospitality proposal was made and widely received. Steve asked that the written proposal be implemented. The word reciprocity needs to be changed to hospitality in the By-laws, which asked that yacht clubs give hospitality to IOBG members.

**Community Service on Website:** Rosalie reported that nothing has been added since 2017. She encourages the districts to utilize this site for positive PR for the IOBG districts.

### **New Business**

**Budget for 2020:** Marshall presented the 2020 budget. The motion to accept the budget was made by Mark, and seconded by Buzz. Motion carried.

**Good of the Order:** New directory will be updated. Get new information to Mary Nye Meyers by February.

Ireland has several yacht clubs willing to host IOBG. IOBG will sponsor a nautical event in Ireland.

Buses will pick us up at 12:00 noon for the Greystone Mansion and Rodeo tours. Will be back at 4:15. Fireboat will give rides from 5-6.

The spring regional meeting will be held in Portland.

The summer regional meeting will be held in Ireland August 12-13.

**Adjournment:** Mark moved to adjourn the meeting; Buzz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sherry adjourned the annual meeting at 11:11 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Landreth

Recording Secretary