

International Order of the Blue Gavel

Spring Regional Meeting

Portland, Oregon

June 6, 2019

Call to Order: President Elect Sherry Barone called the Spring Regional Meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Pledge: District 11 Director Shelia Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Quorum: The Recording Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present.

Introduction of Past Presidents: Tony Durieux was introduced.

Self-Introduction of members and Guests: District 11 Director Shelia Anderson.

Approval of Agenda: Added to the agenda were old policy updates, new invitation letter, and change Treasure to Treasurer. Buzz move to approve the amended agenda, and Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the Winter Regional Meeting in New Orleans: Marshall moved to accept the minutes of the last regional meeting; Tony seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: On April 30, 2019 IOBG had a net income of \$40,319. Dues collections are \$5,554 lower than projected in the budget. Travel expenses accounts for 19%. Utilities up, Marshall will break down IOBG's share of cost. IOC Website harvesting is still happening. Laura has left the IOC. New employee is Maly Leeper. Executive Committee group travel was \$2,268 less than budgeted. Area Vice Presidents are not using the allotted funds to travel within their group.

Current Assets - \$218,009.61

Revenues - \$63,513.60

Membership – as of June 1, 2019, paid memberships total 1,409.

First Vice President's Report: Buzz Bisanz presented the often asked question, "What can IOBG offer me as a member of the organizations?" His answer: "Whatever you put in and take out." One tangible offering he endorses is The Academy of Yachting organization founded and lead by Joseph A. Tringali, past District Director of District 8 in Florida. The Academy is a membership organization created to educate, support and provide resources for Yacht Clubs and Power Squadrons. Tringali has offered, at no cost, to present the Academy's educational classes to IOBG in structured 12 50-minute modules, which are grouped into 6 sections. Each section consists of a module of information dealing with club and protocol matters. A second module deals specifically with legal issues such as taxes, discrimination and liability.

Sherry sees it as a win-win.

Mark agrees that lessons are added value. Opportunity for added value.

Buzz praised the AVPs answering to him, Steve Tisack, Steve Hyder, and Karen Shea for actively working with their District Directors on their annual agendas and membership drives. He also thanked Karen for spearheading the February Winter IOBG Regional meeting held in New Orleans.

Buzz asked the Districts with internet websites to please consider including a link to other IOBG sites including IOBG.org, IOGBA.org, IOBG-HF.org, and other District sites like D8IOBG.org.

District Achievement Award: Beginning with the official District membership numbers posted in August 2018, 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, one from each area, in 2019.

Please continue your support of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. To apply for Humanitarian Foundation funding of a local project access the website and complete the LAP (Local Area Project) application form.

President Elect's Report: Sherry Barone invited everyone to the Annual meeting in Marina Del Rey, in October. Change of Watch committee has finalized the 2019-2020 preparations. The website has information about events, registration and reservations at the Marriott. The 2019-2020 slate of officers is finalized.

Past Presidents' Committee is looking into having groups such as Power Squadrons and associations join IOBG. The benefits are developing associate memberships and growth of IOBG past commodores. This organization not only provides local support to yacht clubs, supports sailings, education and philatelic work (IOBG- HF to name some of our work).

Opening day season in California is coming to an end. Opening Day events are being held at Yacht Clubs up and down the coast. As the yacht clubs open their clubs, sharing hospitality, good cheer and showing their juniors and boating programs, it is always good to see old friends and meet new ones.

District 11 hosted a chili cook off at Pacific Mariner Yacht Club and District 15 held a paint party at Southwestern Yacht Club to raise funds for the installation. Both events were enjoyed by all participants. The 2019 annual meeting and gala ball is a California event with all the districts supporting and helping and I want to thank them as we share boating, 5 yacht clubs, Hollywood TV taping and local foods. We are expecting a fun event with the traditions upheld. Mary Nye Myers has been a tremendous support with pin design and social media.

As a member of the Audit Committee, I completed this past month analyzing the financial records, bank, budgets and financial reports

The 2019 IOBG Annual Meeting and Gala Ball will be held at Del Rey Yacht Club, 13900 Palawan Way, Marina Del Rey, California, Thursday 16 October to Saturday 19 October 2019. All members and guests are welcome.

The events: we will visit local yacht clubs-Del Rey Yacht Club, South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, Westlake Yacht Club, Marina Yacht Club and California Yacht Club. On-the-water activities include an Electric boat ride on Westlake and shuttle boat ride in Marina Del Rey. Other activities include Gardens of the World and television taping. If you come early to visit our beautiful city, we have planned activities in Santa Monica, my home town, and Hollywood to see a few sights if you have never been here before or just want to see the sights from a local perspective we welcome you.

Regan and I are looking forward to hosting you and sharing our love of the yachting community in Southern California. This year's event is hosted by IOBG District 11 Santa Monica Bay and District 16 Channel Islands with the help of District 10, Los Angeles /Long Beach, District 14 San Francisco Bay, District 15 San Diego and District 19 Delta Area.

To attend the 2019 installation and gala ball, the on-line registration is on [www. IOBG.org](http://www.IOBG.org) or you can mail in application. If you have any questions, please call or text me at 3107209610.

Regan and I are looking forward to seeing you at the annual meeting, events and gala ball.

Second Vice President's Report: Mark Vadaj reported that although we are only 6 months into the calendar year, we are 9 months into the fiscal year or membership year. We are financially sound, well organized and well supported

through an infrastructure of web sites, 3-4 regularly published newsletters, Lighthouse eBulletins, two regional and one annual meeting as well as Social Media. Although we appear to be tracking closely to previous years with renewed membership and new membership, we are struggling to add the growth that we should be enjoying for an organization of this caliber.

The IOBG is and has always been the Most Prestigious Fraternity in Yachting and yet somehow the IOBG is not always a household word especially with the new generation of boaters. Even when it is known or recognized, it is often a challenge to easily identify the value and benefit of membership. Since the inception of the IOBG, we have relied on the organizational structure of Members, Chapter Officers, District Officers, District Directors, Area V.P.'s and the Executive Board. This has and will continue; however, what we are looking for is growth of 2x, and beyond. To enjoy this growth, it is necessary to not rely only on the Officers themselves but to deploy our best asset for growth...the Members themselves. We need the Members to drive the message of not only what the organization can do for its members, but what the members can do for the organization. It is an accepted theory that there is strength in numbers. The more members that the IOBG has, the more the IOBG can support the Members, The Districts and Chapters.

What Can IOBG Members do for IOBG?

I can tell you that the most successful districts are those with successful chapters. But It all starts with the individual member at the Chapter level. The success of chapters starts with a purpose or a reason to exist and a beneficiary for the purpose. Example: Many successful chapters start with a fundraiser which can be an event such as a steak roast, party, comedy night or raffle. This is the reason. The beneficiary is the Club. 50% of the profits will be awarded to the Club for some tangible need or desire. 50% can remain with the IOBG Chapter to help offset the cost of their own IOBG Members' dues for Chapter or District dues. The Members wins because they receive assistance with their dues for their efforts. The Club wins because they receive something tangible from the IOBG Members. The IOBG wins because everyone within the Club that benefits appreciates the effort and recognizes the value of the IOBG. This recognition also helps stimulate desire of Club Members to become officers and then IOBG Members.

What can IOBG do for IOBG Members?

Many of you have asked what is in it for me? Although this may not be the most welcome question, it is a frequent and fair concern.

The real answer is in multiple responses and I welcome an opportunity for all to call me directly to respond to each of you. As a matter a fact I would sincerely appreciate it if you did as individuals, chapters or districts. But the short answers are:

- a. The mission of IOBG is to recognize past commodores of the international yachting community and unite them in order to promote the highest ideals of yachting and preserve its customs and traditions through social, educational and humanitarian programs.
- b. To support and assist the Club, its Officers and its Members.
- c. To be a part of Our Humanitarian Foundation. Benefiting Clubs, Community, Members.
- d. Benefits: I have been working on tangible benefits to provide to our Current Members and act as incentives to attract New Members. This will be explained at the 2019 Annual Convention this October. I hope that you can join us as we need your presence to expand and improve the IOBG.
See the IOBG web site for dates, hotel and other travel information.

What I need from you, the Member, is to respond to your District and become involved.

- a. Tell them your ideas.
- b. Tell them what is working, what is not working.
- c. Tell them about the communication or lack of communication. Are you receiving the Newsletters regularly? Are you reading them?
- d. Tell them what you need, want. expect.

- e. Tell them to share this with the District Director and then the Area V.P.
- f. I need every Member to reach out to a new IOBG Prospect, or a Previous Member who has left for whatever reason and bring him or her to a meeting.
- g. Can you develop a Benefit program at your own Club?
- h. We need all Members to follow the Chain of Command.

Remember: There is strength in numbers and more members benefits every one of us.

Mark moved to have Tony continue as chair of the DAA; Buzz seconded the motion. Buzz moved to make it an appointed job next year. Mark seconded the motion. Tony agreed to continue as DAA chairman. Both motions passed.

President's Report: Bud Higginson sent his love and hopes to see everyone soon.

Area Vice Presidents Reports

NWVP: Lani Lightle reported that because IOBG District 5 no longer has any members who want to participate in their district's organization, Lani has picked up five boxes of records the district has been storing. He will sort through the boxes and scan the pictures and documents so that a permanent historical digital record can be kept. Hopefully, District 5 will gain members in the future and reorganize.

District 1 – Their spring meeting was in Prosser, WA, which is about 200 miles east of Seattle. Prosser is in the center of Yakima valley, which has a multitude of wineries. The wineries have a barrel tasting celebration. District 1 had a great turnout and plan to return next year. Already 10 RV spaces have been reserved.

Summer picnic is scheduled for Brownsville WA on July 19 & 20. Change of Watch meeting is planned for the Des Moines.

IOBG Humanitarian Fund – On behalf of the Humanitarian Fund, Lani, as treasurer, gave a brief report. During our fiscal year, which coincides with IOBG International and starts at the October "Change of Watch" meeting, we have donated a total of \$6,942.00 toward boating related needs. All, so far, have been for youth scholarships in sailing programs for those in hardship cases. Local Area Programs (LAPS) have been granted to: Oceanside Yacht Club Youth Foundation, LifeSail, Huntington Beach Sailing Foundation, Gulf Harbors Yacht Club Sail Program, IOBG Edgewater Blue Gavel. We are in need of donations to continue helping the boating community with the needs we support. Please help by spreading the word to our membership. Your help is greatly appreciated.

SWVP: Kathy Smith reported that the Southwest Region Districts are busy planning summer activities for their members. Activities range from BBQs, picnics, cruising, and regattas to trips to local casinos. Everyone is focused on bringing their membership together for socialization and fun.

There has also been a lot of fundraising going on. Many of our districts have held events to raise funds for the 2019 IOBG Installation, including Wine Tasting and Wine and Paint Parties as well as locally selected charitable entities.

All of these activities reinforce our goal of retaining members, and installing new members.

District 10 - Director Joyce Jackson-Coomber sent in a report stating the Opening Day season is well underway and as representatives of IOBG, she has attended several. So far, District 5 has five new members. Their first event was "Burn Your Own" - a bring-your-own meat to cook, hosted at Seal Beach Yacht Club. They have a trip planned to Pala Casino, and a Sunday Brunch and Poker Run/Duffy ride.

District 11 - Director Shelia Anderson reported that her district is focused on the Annual Convention in October. They have inducted eight new members. Their summer monthly Windy-Qs will start June 9th. These are social events for members to rekindle old friendships and make new friendships in the yachting community. They also supported the ASMBYC Home Port Regatta, and entered the Marina Del Rey Christmas Boat Parade.

District 14 - Liz Allison's written report shows that they have 59 members. Two upcoming events are a three-day event of picnicking and cruise-ins, and a Bang-up 4th of July BBQ and city parade.

District 15 – Director Greg Hansen wrote that several members would go to the Portland meeting. Later in June they will have a member appreciation BBQ. In the fall, they will participate in the Make-A-Wish Amazing Race. They have scheduled six events after that. They are also working on retaining and recruiting members.

District 16 – Director Marsha Landreth reported that the district is involved in ongoing efforts to recruit and retain members, save recreational boating in Channel Island Harbor, Chowderfest benefitting Maritime Museum, and fundraising for the IOBG Annual Convention. District 16 inducted eleven past commodores this year.

District 19 – Director Jack Michael wrote that the Delta District has 144 regular members and 3 Past International Presidents, for a total of 147 members. Their IOBGA chapter has 61 members. They have several events planned. For their calendar of events, please visit their website at www.iobgdelta19.org

NCVP: Steve Hyder reported that District 7 continues to be busy with boating activities, such as cruising to Put in Bay, and other joint district ventures.

District 7: District Director Lloyd Bogue wrote reporting that District 7 continues to be busy. They will be part of the gathering at Put in Bay, and other boating activities, in addition to a fall trip to Grand River Valley wineries expedition.

NEVP: Steve Tisack reports that the Northeast is still slow going in growth and reestablishing district board members to help get a stronger present of the Blue Gavel in the Northeast. The biggest obstacle as we all know is what does the Blue Gavel have to offer me. With that said, I look forward to the educational seminars that we will be offering yet another tool to help bring new and old members into the fold.

District 3: This district is doing well and working on inspiring long-term retention as well as growth with our new member. Currently we have 105 members. We are excited to be part of the Tall Ships Challenge series, coming to canal-side district for a weekend in Buffalo NY July 4-7. Information on this can be found on the web at portofcallbuffalo.org. This year we will be have our annual Summer Picnic at Sandy Beach Yacht Club on July 31st. Featuring a great steak dinner with all the sides and live entertainment.

District 12: Steve Tisack is still working with members in District 12 to try and get an active board together to a foot hold on the east coast. He will be traveling out to New Jersey and meeting with various chapters to help promote and educate them on what the Blue Gavel is about.

Currently there is a strong interest to form a chapter in Maine at the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club. Steve has spoken with them and has sent forms to establish a chapter there. They are working on it and as soon as he receives it, he will be presenting it to the executive board for review. He is in the process of coordinating a visit to answer question and inform their members of what the Blue Gavel is all about. When the new chapter is established, we need to determine what district they will be in.

He received correspondence from Dover Yacht Club in Canada with interest to become a charter. He sent forms and information and is awaiting feedback from them. He will continue to work with them.

SEVP: Karen Shea's report follows: October 2018 started out very busy with International President Bud Higginson's Change of Watch in Venice, Florida along with our District 8 President Joe Dombrowski's COW also from Venice YC that same weekend. Then as D8 Director, I was responsible for the February 2019 Regional Meeting in New Orleans. I was able to recruit Past D8 Director Joe & Mary Lou Tringali as our tour and restaurant guides and together we successfully coordinated a great weekend. As if it wasn't enough, I volunteered to host the D8 Regional Meeting May 17 & 18th at my Gulf Harbor's Yacht Club in New Port Richey. In between those times, I was able to install Commodore Jose Miguel Diaz Escrich from Hemingway International Yacht Club, Havana, Cuba as an Honorary member

of IOBG at my Gulf Harbors YC in March and then Spencer and I visited him at HIYC in Havana in April while we were on a cruise.

DISTRICT 18: Director Dave Kowert that District 18 has increased from 5 to 6 members from 3 Yacht Clubs in two states and one Past President Chuck Browning who resides in Myrtle Beach. We are happy to report that we have 4 completely NEW Past Commodores who are currently considering joining IOBG, hopefully before August. I have met with each of them personally and would welcome their participation. D18 has offered Charleston Ocean Racing Association (CORA) to maintain their official committee boat. That is great exposure for IOBG. We would support the Wednesday night race and then transport the boat to the various Yacht Clubs for the weekend regattas. I hope this program will increase our visibility and the positive spirit towards IOBG we are slowly building in Charleston. We also hope to host a "get together" of some sort this summer season. I have had trouble getting the majority of folks to agree to a time and place in the past but hopefully if we get these additional members, we can make this work. I will update leadership of the date (likely in August) and location so if anybody can join the event would have some additional punch. Might be in connection with one of the Saturday evening dinners at CHYC or James Island YC.

Finally, we have been offered the use of the YC owned J24 at Charleston Yacht Club for any IOBG activity we want. Not sure how to best take advantage of that offer yet, but we have the chance to do some recreational sailing or offer lessons to non-sailors if asked. If anybody has successfully used such a boat to promote IOBG please let me know.

District 8: Director Karen Shea wrote that as of May 16, 2019, we have 217 members plus 2 Past Presidents (P/P's Janiszewski & Dowdell) compared to 223 in 2018. We now have 21 Chapters compared to 24 in 2018. We have lost Bird Key YC, Charlotte Harbor YC, Ft Walton Beach YC Club, and St Andrews Bay YC. We have added Hemingway International YC, Cuba. Bradenton YC have shown interest but no new members yet. 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 which I will continue to do.

Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Hockenberry who coordinated with our Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers who sent out our 2019 Membership Directory in May. 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.

As you know, Hemingway International YC, Havana, Cuba is now under District 8. The D8 Bulletin was sent out with the Membership Directory along with an article on the IOBG honorary installation ceremony for Commodore Jose Miguel Diaz Escrich at Gulf Harbors YC while he was here for the St. Petersburg to Havana Regatta in March 2019. It was also published in the Tampa Bay Times. D8 honored

him with an IOBG flag, table flag and certificate. Spencer and I were able to travel by cruise ship to Havana on April 29, 2019 where we visited Commodore Escrich at the HIYC and had lunch. We also brought from D8 an IOBG tie, belt and a jacket emblem with 3 gold stars, the IOBG flag and his HIYC burgee on it. He was very humble in accepting the jacket emblem. He said there are many presents I receive with everyone else's burgees on them. This is the first one with our burgee on it and I will always wear it on my blue jacket. In a time of tensions between our two countries, it is quite evident the love of boating between our countries. The IOBG is supporting the Boat Rally from Key West to Havana in November. I passed out flyers to distribute to D8's Power Squadron's and Fleet Captain's. It'll be a great trip. Those who want to fly down, please contact me. 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 5 out of 20 YC's who have IOBG info/tabs on their website. (Dunedin Boat Club, Gulf Harbors YC, Isles YC, Pelican Isle YC & Venice YC)
2. Have their Yacht Clubs add IOBG members to their Hospitality/Reciprocity rules. International will be sending out a letter soon, but here I distributed a copy.

3. Be an ambassador for the IOBG when you have Regattas and other events involving other yachts clubs and set up an IOBG card table with brochures, etc. I've made up an IOBG Display table which can be used. Call me to see if I'm available.

We approved presenting our IOBG Chapters with an outdoor IOBG flag (24" X 40") with number of years as chapter for hosting a meeting. We presented GHYC Chapter President Long with the flag with 38 years on it. Humanitarian Foundation Director Nancy Bisanz and myself presented a \$1000 check to P/C Long for GHYC Youth Sailing Camp. After our D8 meeting meeting that night, we had a celebration of "Hot Night in the Tropics" with tropical décor, food and a band.

Appointed Officers

Legal Officer's Report: no report

Communications Director's Report: Mary reported that the deadline for articles is June 22. Mary showed the directory and asked distribution to whom? The Executive Committee agreed to stop at AVP's. Need not have street address, but needs city and state.

Mary asked Marshall not to send out paper forms for new officers. Mary will request electronically. Mary received an email from Nassau asking which district they would be in. She was told to direct the email to District 8.

Marshall is concerned about the cost of sending membership cards through the international mail.

District 8 is using their cloud to store data from last 9 years and going forward. Sherry and Buzz reminded Mary that the intent is to consolidate information from Districts for the International.

A motion was made to appoint a committee to recommend what type of information will be needed from the Districts. Buzz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Marshall, Mary, and Mark will finalize the criteria for what will be needed from the Districts.

IOBGA Report: Gary reported that the IOBG Auxiliary currently reports 319 enthusiastic members. When we met in Portland in June we had reports from District 7 of a strong Book Project impacting two schools and putting over 400 books in the hands of students. In addition to their Book Project they are engaged in many events such as Blue Blazer, Brunch Cruise, St Patrick's Parade, Memorial Day service, and many more. District 15 is very involved in raising funds and helping seniors through Elder-help San Diego. They are also planning on helping Make-A-Wish in October. District 19 has an Annual Appreciation Picnic on June 22. Our membership is strong and engaged in community efforts all over the country.

The Book Project continues to be a major focus. The Board has voted to grant \$100 to any district to help in their implementation. Application is on our website.

The IOBGA has been reviewing the By-Laws. Several small changes have been proposed in order to clarify and remove redundancy. These proposed changes will be submitted to the IOBG legal officer and then to the general membership for approval at the annual meeting in Marina Del Ray in October.

We are all looking forward to the annual meeting in Marina Del Ray, California October 17-20, 2019.

Protocol Officer's Report: no report

Recording Secretary's Report: Marsha asked those who hadn't signed in to please do so.

Past President Liaison Officer's Report: no report

Boat US's Report: Marshall reported that Boat US is representing boaters in Washington. Members receive a discount at West Marine. Ethanal 15 - caution using.

Membership Report: Buzz will incorporate the Standing Rules into the Policy Manual to have only one document. Sherry, Kathy and Marsha will take a look before they are placed online.

Old Business

Travel Allowance: Marshall distributed Travel-Expense sheets and explained how the Per Diem is calculated. The 2019 travel budget is based on the GSA tables

Update status of membership from other boating organizations: Tony reported that the Past Presidents have many ideas and will report to the Executive Committee later in the summer.

New Business

Financial Audit Committee Report: Tony reported that he has received written affirmation letters from President Elect and 2nd Vice President agreeing that the data received did support the very detailed journal entries resulting in excellent record keeping that allowed the committee to conclude that the revenues received were spent on IOBG expenses. The Audit Committee agrees that, financially, everything looks to be in good order and the Treasurer's report be accepted as submitted.

Candidates for IOBG Office 2019: Slate of nominees to be offered at the Annual Meeting: President Elect – Robert 'Buzz' Bisanz; First Vice President – Mark Vadaj; Second Vice President – Kathleen Jo Smith; Treasurer – Marshall Nemoy; Executive Secretary – Mary Nye Meyers; SWVP – Shelia Anderson; SEVP – Karen Shea; NCVP – Steve Hyder; NWVP – Jim Martinson; NEVP – Steve Tisack. Directors for District 50 and 51 will need to be appointed.

Announcements

Annual meeting: Sherry reminded everyone to make reservations now, deadline is 9/15. Highlights: Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks, Westlake electric boats with dinner at Westlake Yacht Club, Lunch at Del Rey Yacht Club, television taping of Jeopardy or Wheel of Fortune, Friday dinner/dance at Del Rey Yacht Club. Every yacht club in area is helping fundraise.

Adjournment

Buzz moved to adjourn; Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sherry adjourned the meeting at 2:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Landreth

Recording Secretary