



International Order of the Blue Gavel

The Association of Past Commodores

IOBG Annual Meeting Atlanta Zoom October 17, 2020

Call to Order: President Sherry Barone called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. PDT.

Roll Call of Executive Committee: Present: President Sherry Barone, Past President Tony Durieux, President Elect Buzz Bisanz, 1st Vice President Mark Vadaj, 2nd Vice President Kathy Smith, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, and Executive Secretary Mary Nye Meyer.

SWVP Shelia Anderson, NCVP Steve Hyder, SEVP Karen Shea, and NWVP Jim Martinson.
Appointed Officers Present: Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth. Absent: NEVP Steve Tisack. Legal Officer Joe Dowdell

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Presentation of Past Presidents: Past Presidents Steve Willing District 5, Rosalie Davies Green District 11, Gary McGrath District 19, Joel Kay District 7, and Tony Durieux District 7 were introduced.

Self-Introduction of Members: Joyce Coomber District 10, Dean Reamsnyder District 9, John Robbins District 25, Butch Brown District 1, Paul Clausen District 19, Kathryn McCarthy District 7, Dean Smith District 1, Liz Allison District 14, Leo Vortouni District 21, Rodger Dutton District 9, Tom Shideler District 16, Bill Thayer District 15, Don Peacock District 3, Larry Inguagiato District 9, Steve Sawdon District 7, and Marlene Barrington District 1.

Approval of Agenda: Buzz moved to approve the agenda; Kathy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Annual Minutes from Oct. 19, 2019, Del Rey: Mark moved to approve the minutes; Buzz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Marshall reported that for the eight months ended August 31, 2020 IOBG has a net income of \$42,150, which is \$33,769 better than budget and \$22,291 greater than last year at this date. Most of the good fortune was due to the lack of travel expenses. Our net income was \$22,291 higher than last year. This occurred in spite of the doubling of allotment for the Annual Meeting and the late payment in February for travel costs to the 2019 Annual Meeting. The Balance Sheet still indicates a healthy financial position. Financial Sept 30, \$39,814 net income.

1st VP's Report – Mark Vadaj reported with all the tragedies this year, we are now a stronger organization. Please congratulate President Baron for her leadership. For The 2020 Year, many of us in IOBG have experienced tragedy, financial setbacks, loss of loved ones and a drastic change in the way we communicate, conduct business, and live our lives. From my family to yours, to the Clubs, Chapters and Members in IOBG, I offer my sincere sympathy and appreciation of your situation.

I do, however, believe that there is a bright side to our circumstances, The Executive Officers have never worked harder and longer for IOBG. Together with knowledge and business experience, we

have turned obstacles into opportunities. Under President Sherry Barone this Team has developed safe, effective, and cost minded means to conduct our operations and business meetings. We have minimized the impacts of the Health Pandemic upon IOBG and are looking forward to a stronger membership with improved financial stability and greater membership benefits. If you are receiving and reading the Log Newsletter and the Lighthouse Publication you already know about many of the added benefits. If you are not receiving the Log in a printed version, please contact your District President or subscribe to our Printed version of The Log by viewing our website at www.iobg.org There you will find a subscription form to receive a printed version. I highly recommend that each Chapter or Club Subscribe.

This year the IOBG was unable to conduct in person meetings and travel to various Yacht Clubs and Chapters as intended. Under the Leadership of President Sherry Barone, the Officers of IOBG from the District Directors to the Executive Board, managed successfully to Advance the Organization, Improved Communications, and Brought Tangible Assets to IOBG Membership. Thank You, President Sherry. Congratulations on a remarkably successful year.

After many years of efforts on behalf of the IOBG Officers, IOBG can answer the repeated questions of:

- What do I get for my Membership?
Significant discounts from Major Retailers, Hotels, Rental Cars, Sherwin Williams, Home Depot, and more to come.
- How can I learn what is going on both at a District and International Level?
Access to printed copies of the Log Newsletter for just \$21.00 including postage.
- How can I better communicate with our Chapters in the district and regional area?
Free access to the IOBG Zoom Account for Web Conferencing.
- What has IOBG done for my district?
Through cost cutting measures, IOBG provided direct financial support to districts.
- What is proper Uniform and Flag Etiquette?
See the Online Policy and Procedure Manual on the IOBG Web Site – www.iobg.org

Looking forward in 2021, The IOBG is rolling out the Elite Chapter Program where each chapter can participate to offer hospitality and tangible benefits to IOBG Members. I welcome your interest in how to participate and invite you to contact me directly on how your Club can qualify for eligibility.

IOBG Membership in 2021 has never looked better or offered more. Please help us by sharing this news with other Past Commodores or invite them to a IOBG Event near you.

Thank You Once Again for Your Continued Commitment and Contribution to,
“Yachting’s Most Prestigious Fraternity”

President-Elect’s Report – Buzz reminded everyone that voting will be cut off at 12:30. Regional Meeting will begin at 3:00 and will mainly discuss appointments for next year. Inductions will take place at 5:00 with Steve Willing as MC.

2nd VP Report’s – Kathy reported that it truly is a shame we are not meeting in person today in beautiful Atlanta. We all were looking forward to the activities that Buzz had planned for our pleasure and entertainment. We have had a year of disappointments and unfortunate cancellations. Absolutely nothing has gone as planned this year. But, we have had great opportunities to grow in unexpected ways, and to learn new ways to keep in contact with those near and dear to us. We have been able to continue to have meaningful meetings and even enjoyable social occasions.

Through the leadership of our President, Sherry Barone, the able assistance of our Communication Director, Mary Nye Meyers, and the generous volunteer efforts of Dawn Nemoy, we have, if not conquered Zoom, we have managed to wrestle it to meet our needs.

Through Zoom, we have had regular meetings, Round Table Meetings, an Irish themed Happy Hour, and Executive Committee meetings. We have been able to continue to conduct the business of our organization. Really a testament to how adaptable we are.

Our Districts have adapted as well. Our Area Vice Presidents have held Round Table meetings, and, at the district level, Board of Director Meetings are being held over Zoom. Almost business as usual.

Here's hoping for renewed energy and revitalization for 2021, and a speedy end to the pandemic and the social, economic and health repercussions. And to an actual, as opposed to a virtual, meeting in Atlanta next April.

Past President's Report – Tony is honored to be Bud Higginson's helper.

President's Report – Sherry reported that it has been some year. What a year 2020 has been! My year started with the annual meeting in Marina Del Rey, California with a full agenda starting on Wed Oct 16 through Sunday Oct 20, 2019. Some of the highlight showing off my town and yacht club included: television taping-Jeopardy, Beverly Hills, Rodeo drive-shopping, Greystone Mansion, Stage Coach Museum, Gardens of the World, boat rides (Electric boats Westlake and Fire Department 110 boat /DRYC race committee boat-Marina del Rey), and having events at 5 yacht Clubs (Del Rey Yacht Club, South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, California Yacht Club, Marina Yacht Club, and Westlake Yacht Club). I had a full year worth of events, regattas and international meeting planned.

So off to work we went with visiting Ireland February 8, 2020 and planned the Summer Regional meeting August 13-16, 2020 with Howth Yacht Club and Malahide Yacht Club with dinners, events and attending the Fireball World Regatta. I also reached out and visited Vancouver and wrote letters to past Canadian IOBG members. Northwestern AVP Jim Martinson is working on following up and reengaging the Canadian membership.

Then came the pandemic. It has thrown us all into uncertain and unprecedented circumstances. Our goal is to be proactive and protect the health and safety of our IOBG members. To this end, the Executive Board has made the decision to cancel our Portland Spring hosted at Columbia River Yacht Club then followed cancelling all meetings as time progressed due to the ongoing pandemic and safety of our membership.

We introduced zoom for all our meeting in March for telecons, spring meeting, summer meeting and annual meeting. I want to thank to Dawn Schaffer for instruction and IOBG Treasurer Marshall Nemoy purchasing this invaluable tool that was used as our link to members. Dawn provided detailed instructions and mockup sessions to train all Executive Committee, AVPs and District Directors. Zoom was expanded to AVPs and Directors to use for meetings, roundtables, installation of officers and discussions.

It's no surprise then that our reliance on video calling platforms such as Zoom is shaping and transforming the ways we communicate in lockdown as IOBG embraces the digital technology as apart of doing business now. One thing's for sure: no matter what happens over the coming months or years, the spontaneous, beauty of small talk and seeing everyone at events will always have a special place in my heart and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Thank you to Mary Nye Meyers for her updated monthly communication of the log/ lighthouse and President letters as well as her design, programming of new forms for President, annual meeting voting and new correspondence forms .

On 18 April 2020 I hosted a round table discussion with the executive board, AVPs and 2 representatives from each area. The roundtable discussions are an opportunity for participants to get together via Zoom to examine IOBG membership, increase participation and discuss growth /needs of members were some of the topics discussed. The AVPs followed multiple roundtables with District with roundtable meetings via zoom and report at the spring meeting. A breakout session will be held at the spring meeting to continue the dialogue.

This year's 2020 spring meeting was held via. We started on Wednesday June 3rd with a cocktail hour and meet/ greet evening. The Spring Meeting was held on zoom Thursday 4 June 2020 not as planned at the Columbia River Yacht Club.

All opening days were cancelled as well as many events.

On July 16, 2020, I provided a President stipend to IOBG. District Directors, IOBG-Auxiliary and IOBG H-F treasurer or designated person (\$100-\$300) for our membership totaling \$5900 to help membership for an example membership appreciation and local events due to our pandemic.

The Summer meeting scheduled on August 13-16, 2020 to Ireland was cancelled due to pandemic and Federal, state and local regulations determined no international travel.

We Brought Ireland to IOBG...It's the "Wearing of the Green" Via Zoom.

The Summer Meeting was held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 with summer uniform. Wednesday August 12, 2020 was a meet and greet with live Irish Music by Bria Schecker. Cia Brio Duo and Piano player Jon Lee-Rocket It Man entertainment. We brought Ireland to IOBG via zoom video conferencing.

I want to commend District 8 for the 1st underwater Clean-up-of Venice Yacht Club Marina. The community service in action was demonstrated even in a pandemic that IOBG is giving back to the community so thank you District 8.

I have arranged some IOBG discounts with Hertz, Avis, Hilton Pacific business Program, Choice hotels, Batteries and Bulbs, National Purchasing Plan, Harry and David, Skechers, Sherman Williams, Home Depot as some of our examples saving 9-30%. My President's letter instructs member how to get discounts and our accounts as an added benefit to our IOBG members.

Mary Nye Meyers developed a new voting system for the annual meeting via zoom after testing 5 online programs not meeting our needs such as example zoom polling or election buddy. More than a month of testing voting products by Dawn Schafer, Mary Nye Meyers and myself as well as mock voting were done. At our telecon the new online voting system was tested and works well meeting our by-law criteria and thank you Mary Nye Meyers.

Outstanding service awards were given on August 13, 2020 to Marshall Nemoy Treasurer, Marilyn Barrington NBF liaison and Mary Nye Meyers-Communication Director.

We have lost Past Auxiliary President 2007 (District 7) Trish Graven to Covid-19 and District 11 Kristin Tyminski they will be missed and our condolences to her family and friends.

IOBG financials are healthy with 1450 members. We spent \$19,118.59 this year on new expenses of redirecting budget as follows

- Communications contract program and design, special projects, software, online voting for annual meeting -\$4992
- IOBG District Directors. IOBG A and IOBG H-F stipends -\$5900
- Late AVP travel expense in 2019-\$2900

- President Award -\$102
- Zoom- \$150
- Zoom support ,gift cards and training-\$800
- Summer meeting music- \$450
- Annual meeting support and gift cards-\$717.75

The board voted to move the \$5500 from the 2020 budget for the annual meeting to support Buzz annual meeting event in April 2021 due to pandemic.

The total revenue in 2020 was \$78,996.25 less expenses \$39,181.16 with a net income \$39,815.09. Buzz Bisanz will request to Treasurer Marshal Nemoy by letter \$5500 from 2020 budget for annual meeting event in April 2021 therefore the true 2020 net income (profit) is \$34,315.09 as of month end September 2020. It is estimated that the October budget thru the annual meeting on October 17,2020 will not exceed \$ r budget thru the annual meeting on October 17,2020 will not exceed \$\$3,258.1 (IOC) so a net income (profit) is \$31,056.92.The excess funds will go into the general IOBG account.

Be safe and look forward to boating, sailing and our new normal as we safely venture and integrate back.

Thank you for your help, this year, and wishing us all the very best for the upcoming future
Fair winds and following seas.

Executive Secretary's Report – Mary had nothing to report.

NWVP's Report – Jim reported on activities in the NW saying most probably as with the rest of The International Order of the Blue Gavel, 2020 in the Northwest Region has been a year that we hope not to repeat. As with the rest of the country and the world, we have had to adapt to the restrictions of a pandemic situation. As we all know countless numbers of events whether nautical or not have been canceled, so recruitment and furthering of the Orders' mission has been severely curtailed in most areas. Still the resilience and forward thinking of the International Officers has shown that we can remain viable and will be stronger in the future as a place of support for Past Commodores and their Clubs.

In both District 1, and in District 5, the Chapters have been able to do a fair amount of cruising and careful socializing. Because of the limited membership in District 5 however, it is still a work in progress and hopeful that it will be able to grow at some point. I am hopeful that we can do better in 2021.

District 1 had the Fall Change of Watch meeting via Zoom on September 19, 2020.As I have previously reported, the board has graciously agreed to keep the status quo, and serve another term intact due to the unusual situation. We were extremely fortunate to be able to have International President-elect Buzz Bisanze attend and preside in the swearing in ceremony for our board. Everyone appreciates that he took the time and enjoyed having him attend. The District also thanks the International for the stipend and show of support sent to the District Treasurer. I greatly appreciate that we can keep everyone engaged and active in moving forward in District 1. I salute those members of District 1 and very much appreciate their support of me. The District is still making plans for having meetings in the 2021 year. It is optimistic that we may have in person meetings but is realistic that we may have to continue using online meetings until we can feel that our membership can congregate safely. The District continues also to hold monthly board meetings online successfully using the I.O.B.G. zoom account.

In closing I would like to extend my thanks to the International Board Members starting with President Sherry Barone for the support shown to me this past year. I am looking forward to continuing as Northwest Area Vice President for 2021.

District 1 – Butch Brown reported that they lost four members over the bar. Some cruising started.

SWVP's Report – Shelia reported on activities in the SW. She thanked Sherry for her leadership.

District 10 – Joyce Coomber - As we come to the close of 2020 we look back on the many ideas we had for events and fundraisers. Unfortunately due to the Pandemic we put these ideas on hold. District 10 was able to do two inductions into IOBG even though we had plans for several more. John Caldwell was inducted at a limited Opening Day event for Seal Beach Yacht Club. Our second new member Paul De Graw was inducted at Huntington Harbour Yacht Club at one of their festive Taco Tuesdays. At the same time the past commodores who attended The Old Timers Luncheon put on by SCYA were able to present Huntington Harbour with the award for most attended past commodores at the event.

In December we are planning a dinner for District 10 to be held at Sebastianis Italian Bistro in Huntington Beach. The restaurant is owned by one of our members Phil Ventura Staff Commodore of Hunting Harbour Yacht Club. It will be a Christmas theme. Of course the current guide lines for Orange County restaurants will be observed.

Membership is down for District 10 but hopefully 2021 will see the end of the Covid and we will be able to get back out on the water and enjoy the events and fund raisers that IOBG promotes.

District 14 – Liz Anderson reported that they are still shut down.

District 15 – Marshall reported on the actions of the district.

District 16 – Tom Shideler - The same as with other districts, when COVID-19 hit early in the year, most yacht club activities were canceled or postponed. This included Opening Days, races and events involving more than just a few people. Only this week in Ventura County are restaurants and clubs allowed to have inside dining, and then at limited capacity.

However, individual boaters, and small groups of boaters, have been very active with or without official club sponsorship. Boaters are tired of being cooped up and we believe that once this situation subsides, yacht club activities will be very strong.

District 19 – Paul Clausen gave a report.

District 21 – Leo Vortouni – Covid-19 stopped everything in the Delta.

District 11 – Shelia Anderson reported that they have inducted three new members over the phone. Dues are coming in. They hope to have a Christmas gathering.

NCVP's Report – Steve Hyder thanked Sherry and Mary for their hard work. He reported that they have members in District 25 but with officers.

District 7 – Kathryn McCarthy reported they did have a meeting to swear in the new officers for 2021. IOBGA has plans for a gathering in April. Trying to keep everything going. District 7 has 230 members.

District 9 – Dean Reamsnyder reported that many clubs are opened and following social guidelines. Increase in membership 208. Had a wine-tasting get-together.

NEVP's Report – Sherry reported for Steve saying that they used the money to repay members' dues.

SEVP's Report – Karen thanked Sherry for two years of work. Karen reported they have been opened most of the year, but have social distancing their boats to 25 feet apart. Thanked International for the \$250 stipend.

District 8 membership count as of August 1, 2020 is 207 paid members plus 3 Past Presidents (P/P's Richard Janiszewski (2008), Joe Dowdell (2016) and Bud Higginson (2019) compared to 218 in 2019. We now have 20 Chapters. We will continue to try to activate our inactive Chapters especially those who are Florida Council of Yacht Club members. Our last active physical meeting was in February at Palm Beach Sailing Club. Due to the cancelation of our May regional meeting we have changed to ZOOM conferences and D8 has purchased an annual account. The D8 Change of Watch will be moved to sometime in November.

Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Hockenberry who coordinated with our Communications Director Mary Nye Meyer who again sent out our 2020 Membership Directory which replicates the International Directory for many years. Our District works very hard at keeping our members informed via our website, newsletters and emails. We are one of only 2 Districts with a Membership Roster.

All our chapters are working hard during this Pandemic. All Florida clubs were ordered closed in March and we are now finally opened in Phase #3 as of September 25, 2020 at 50%. Florida has the #3 highest Covid cases in the US. However, all clubs are now open with social distancing.

There are 2 IOBG Chapters I would like to recognize during this Pandemic that have gone way beyond what was expected they are St Augustine Yacht Club and Venice Yacht Club.

The St Augustine IOBG Chapter President Anthony Palazzo has continued to support the St Augustine YC on Memorial Day and Fourth of July Celebrations. Commodore Barbara Dolan has served for 2 consecutive years as Commodore and she was inducted last year into the IOBG. In addition, the IOBG was able to help support 10 weeks of the Youth Sail Camp so kudo's for taking on that challenge during this pandemic also.

Venice Yacht Club Chapter President Melinda Short (IOBG Sep 2020 LOG Newsletter) gave back to the community by the 1st Underwater Clean-Up of the Venice YC Club Marina sponsored by the D8 IOBG Venice Yacht Club on August 15, 2020. Suncoast Reef Rovers (Venice Dive Club) conducted an underwater cleanup using 13 Divers, 5 topside helpers, Venice Sea Tow, Sarasota County Sheriff Marine Patrol, City of Venice Marine Patrol along with several volunteers to bring up 1,250 pounds of debris.

Items included anchors, crab traps, numerous ropes, boat ladders, brooms, dock pylons, etc. Total donations raised by the IOBG were over \$1500. Thank you Venice YC IOBG President Melinda Short!

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.
2. 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)
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 to join you.

We approved presenting our IOBG Chapters with an outdoor IOBG flag (24" X 40") with the year the chapter was chartered. It always looks good on the outdoor flag poles at Yacht Clubs. If anyone wants the information please see me. It's a great idea instead of a plaque.

District 18 - Dave Kowert sent in a report stating that membership remains relatively consistent from 2019 to 2020, which includes members from three Yacht Clubs in two states and one Past President Chuck Browning (2013) in Myrtle Beach SC.

Unfortunately, District 18 Yacht Clubs have been hit pretty hard by Covid 19. Most went through a “closed” period and are now open for limited hours and a restricted number of people. We have tried several times to organize an informal gathering or a “dock party” with social distancing, but quite frankly, nobody has been willing to come and meet. Offers to share ideas through ZOOM have also gone out, but the area PCs appear to be hunkered down and not responsive to joining a virtual organization. (By virtual, I mean only short term through COVID)

I think things will pick up again once we can move about freely and club life gets back to normal. I’m expecting that to happen in December / January (based on what we are hearing from current club leadership and our local medical community).

In the meantime, all the local clubs have membership information in the form of IOBG brochures which were handed out recently and my phone number to give to anyone who expresses an interest. I plan to start trying to coordinate face to face meetings with 2019 past commodores as soon as the positivity rate in South Carolina (Charleston specifically) drops to 5% or less. Until then, I think it’s prudent to lay low.

If you hear of things that are working well in other districts, I would be very interested in hearing about them and trying to implement something similar here in District 18. To all my fellow District Directors, please stay safe and remain careful.

Appointed Officers’ Reports

Communication Officer’s Report – Log articles due Oct 31, send electronically. Mary invited Districts to update the sixth link of website.

Protocol Officer’s Report – Marsha reported that the newest edition of Robert’s Rules came out in September and suggested purchasing a copy as many confusing rules are explained in this edition.

Boat US – Marshall reported benefits. Kathryn mentioned that Boat US does not have a tow in Lake County in North Central area.

Membership – Mark reported that efforts to mine membership in areas without a foothold for District 50 are underway. He explained that Districts 50 and 51 are interim districts to start new districts or to move members to established districts near them. Mark is exploring the NE for mining.

National Boating Foundation – Marlene reported that according to the 2019 Boating Report, so far in 2020 there is a 20% increase in deaths and accidents, activity is extremely high during this COVID period. Projected deaths for 2020 could be over 700. A comparison study between FL and MN reports is being used to judge the numbers of actual accident versus the reported accidents, it could be 20-25% accidents than reported. Boat Testing is going to focus more on expensive platforms rather than smaller boats. State Pre-emption issues were discussed on inland waters.

Tuesday and Wednesday meetings were devoted to presentations on Wake-Related Activities with a panel presentation by a BLA, Representative of the Water Sports Industry Assoc. and NASBLA. Since on water sports and boating have become a growing industry this year due to its ability to adapt to the Social Distancing restrictions. The changes required for COVID-19 Safety for Officers on the water enforcing BUI were discussed, updates on state efforts on education on Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Virtual Classrooms for Boating Education including presentation methods and testing options all were topics for the breakouts.

Coming will be new guidance on virtual classrooms, online testing and state certificate issuing. A Paddling Resource Dashboard Is developed with micro learning videos and standup paddleboard information.

US Sailing – Mark Handson - no report

HF – Sherry received a nice check to be sent to the treasurer of HF. Karen read Larry’s report. Karen has an idea of a non-gala. RSVP by sending a check. IOBG Humanitarian Foundation Meeting Atlanta, GA - 10/17/2020 1. I would like to introduce our Board of Directors for the 2020/20201year. I am Larry Inguagiato from District 9 and am the Foundation’s President. Continuing as Directors for another year: Audrey Hall - Vice President Karen Shea – Director Lani Lightle – Director Lee Homyock – Director Jack White – Director Nancy Bisanz – Director Linda Leff – Director Susan Rodriguez – Director Tony Durieux – Newly Appointed Director. As you may know, I have been a director for many years and have been President for two years. I will be retiring as President due to health issues at the end of this year. I will continue as Director for the upcoming year. For his leadership and support, I would like to thank Jack White, Treasurer and Director who will stay on as Director but has chosen to resign as Treasurer. We are in need of volunteers to fill these two important positions. The Treasurer position does not require much of a person’s time and Jack has agreed to get the next Treasurer up to speed on the jobs requirements. 2. Explanation of the HF and how it works and how it is funded can be found on the website. Additional information on how to request a grant for boating related projects can also be found on the IOBG Website by clicking a link on the left side of the site. If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact any of our Board of Directors. 3. During this past year in which boating activities were largely cancelled, the HF has approved a grant to the St Augustine Yacht Club in the amount of \$1250. 4. Since our source of funds come from Individuals in the form of direct personal contributions or via IOBG Districts via fund raisers or member contributions, the amount of funds we have able for grants depends on the contributions received. I would encourage each of you to talk up the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation back in your home district so that we can support more projects that make a difference to lives in our boating communities. 5. As of this this time, I would like to thank the following for contributions made this year. \$500 from the District 7 Auxiliary, \$1025 from the District 7 IOBG, \$1795 in memory of P/C Gary Hall and Past IOBGA President Pat Graven. 6. Also, for those individuals who contribute \$100 or more, the HF has a very nice Pin you receive in recognition of your contributions. 7. This concludes a summary of activities, the HF thanks each of you for your efforts to help make boating a part of our youth who will become the future generation of boaters.

Old Business

Ratification of Executive Committee Actions: The President assumed a motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Membership Cards – Members present voted on eight mock-up of membership cards.

IOBG Chapter Program – Mark Vadaj reported on the elite status, a program to reward Chapters that have made an IOBG footprint. The reward is a large plaque. More discussion will follow.

International Order of the Blue Gavel Elite Chapter Status Program

This program is intended to both establish the IOBG Brand and Identity and or to Increase the Brand Awareness and Image Footprint where it currently exists.

Our Mission is defined, and Message is clear.

The mission of the International Order of the Blue Gavel 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.

Eligibility:

- To obtain Elite Status, Each Chapter will be required to provide a minimum of 5 qualification points which are identified below.
(Realistically, it is impossible for any real chapter to be unable to fulfill a minimum of 5)
- Pays \$30.00 plus shipping fee to defer the cost.

In return, each Elite Chapter will receive:

- A 13” x 20” Wood Base. The left side of the base has an 8” x 10” Bronze Plate and the right side, includes a Lexan retainer for a copy of the Chapters Original Charter. (See Attached Rough Example)
- Door Sticker/s for Fuel Dock or Club Door, Harbor Master, etc.

Requirements:

- Preferred Dock Assignments to transient boaters that have a current IOBG Card in their possession.
- Discount on fuel for transient IOBG Members.
- P/C flag or IOBG Flag on table when dining or in bar.
- Invitation to IOBG Chapter Sponsored Social Events.
- Club Hospitality defined by IOBG. (Will review with P/P Steve Willing)
- Individual Club Hospitality Benefits defined by individual Club/Chapter to IOBG Member.
- Personal Welcome or Introduction of Transient IOBG Member from Commodore or IOBG Chapter Member.
- Have an active IOBG-A Chapter in place with a minimum of 2 Members.
- Have and Active IHF Program in place with International Contributions.
(Will review with Larry Inguagiato)
- IOBG Mentor Program. Senior IOBG Member assisting New IOBG Member.
- Chapter Offering to Host District or Regional or International IOBG Meetings.
- Display IOBG, IOBG-A, or IHF Flags in prominent position or formally recognize IOBG.
- Subscribe to Printed IOBG Log.
- IOBG Chapter host minimum 1 event annually that benefits the Club/Chapter and IOBG Members
- Provide a link on the Club Website to IOBG International Website.
- Charitable Activities (3 Minimum)
- Community Service (3 Minimum)
- Environmental Programs – Coastal Clean Up, Clean Waters Act, etc.
- Chapter Participation in International Conventions or Regional Meetings.
- 90% of Chapter Paid International Membership Dues.
- Open for additional points.

Note:

We as the Executive board can decide the number of Qualification Points to be eligible for Elite Status.

We as the Executive Board can decide if we award Elite Status, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Note: All Plaques shall be delivered to Area V.P.'s or District Directors only for Ceremonial Presentation or presented to Delegate at the Annual Convention or Spring Meeting.

Good of the Order

President's Gift - President Elect gift of an Apple tablet for Sherry was presented by Buzz.

President's Award – Tony Durieux is the recipient of the President's Award. Tony stepped up this year to serve as PP for Bud was only one of the many times he has stepped up. Congratulations for a good well done, Tony.

2020 President's Award - Tony Durieux

During this unprecedented time Tony has stepped up beyond his requirements as IOBG Past President. Due to Bud Higginson's health issues Tony stepped up and filled the role of his mentor as Alternate Immediate Past President. Talking quite often with Tony, he is always giving help to all members and mentoring future AVPS and EXCOM officers.

Tony offered insurance advice during some legal issues and always helpful to IOBG. What makes him special is that he has excellent management skills, insurance background and years of boating experience. He has belonged to many organizations and chaired many committees.

Background

Tony spent his teenage years on Turkeyfoot Lake in Akron, Ohio. He had an outboard that he and his friends used for fun and skiing. His dad had a fishing boat at what was then called Bar Harbor. After he went to college and got married to Sandi boating went by the wayside except for the times he went fishing with his Dad. Tony joined Catawba West Harbor Yacht Club with many social functions, cruises and poker runs with his club.

IOBG Boating Background

In 2007 Tony was elected Commodore of Catawba West Harbor Yacht Club. Unfortunately later that season a fire completely destroyed their building. Tony with the Executive Committee and the Trustees then had the responsibility of gathering information about what the members wanted and then built a new building .

After his Commodore year he was approached by Ken McCloud about getting involved in IOBG. A great step that he and Sandi have enjoyed in the years since. He became Area VP and worked his way thru the chairs until 2015 when he was International President. Over those years they have traveled to many wonderful places and were welcomed at many yacht clubs and met so many wonderful friends. As the IOBG President-Elect, he was honored by being knighted at the Rose Festival in Portland, Oregon in 2014.

In 2020 Tony accepted the Alternate Immediate Past President as appointed by President Sherry Barone.

Tony has accepted a nomination to serve on the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation Board in 2021.

Over the years so many people have offered invaluable help to Tony such as Joel Kay and Steve Willing who were always there to offer help and support. Serving this past year is a privilege and gaining a good friend in the process

Summary

Tony created the District Achievement Award as President in 2015 and after 3 years has transferred his duty to Kathy Smith to continue this recognition of districts. Tony ran the audit committee and volunteered to be an alternate to fill in for Bud and supported me with my annual meeting and started sharing and posting all electronic documents to incoming officers.

When I think of Tony his leadership motivation and strategic decisions are made quickly and decisively, sharing IOBG lessons and learning the navigation system while mastering history of the organization. It is my honor to present Tony the 2020 President's Award to Alternative Immediate President and friend to thank you for your service and help in 2020.

Mary Nye Meyers is the other recipient of the President's Award. Congratulations, Mary. **2020**

President's Award – Mary Nye Meyers

During this unprecedented time Mary continues to keep our members in the forefront of technology with the Log, the Lighthouse & "President's Letter" with unlimited potential, and website. Mary's excellent skills in design, coding and implementation has allowed IOBG to continue to provide members with information. She has been the rock with all history, communication and knowledge of IOBG.

Background

Mary has spent many years racing sailboats in the Pacific such as Pacific Cup, Transpac, and the Swiftsure international yacht race 11 times as a co-skipper and driver. As an avid sailor she has experience while having the highest competitive edge an example is finishing the Swiftsure race with 3 broken vertebrae in her neck. Mary is married to Mike Meyers and added Corvette showing her car and racing with her husband at speeds up to 196 mph. Mary was 2003 Commodore of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma (Washington State)

IOBG Boating Background

- 2003 Mary joined IOBG from District 1 at the end of commodoreship.
- 2005 Recruited by International Blue Gavel for LOG Newsletter Editor-in-Chief. Took over formatting, layouts & publication of newsletter that was previously outsourced to an outside publishing business saving money for IOBG and going to full color..
- 2008 Received the Past President's Award for " her innovation & dedication to the IOBG Log

newsletter since her first publication in July 2005. She continued on to assist Marshall Nemoy with the IOBG web site – one of our valuable tools of information...”

- *2008 Launched new IOBGA (Auxiliary) web site with inter-active pages and continues to serve as webmaster.*
- *2009 Developed, Designed, Launched the District 8 (Florida) web site with interactive pages.*
- *2011 Introduced the ‘Lighthouse’ web-based/email delivery system to send out the LOG newsletter, meeting announcements, & other news to members of IOBG saving thousands of dollars over printing & postage.*
- *2012 Developed an online credit card payment system that was first utilized for the Annual Meeting registration and continues to be used for Regional & Annual Meetings.*
- *2014 Became Publishing Editor of the (40 page) annual “IOBG Directory of International & District Officers”.*
- *2015 Created & maintains newly designed IOBG web site with inter-active pages and online payment capabilities.*
- *2016 Launched the new IOBG-Humanitarian Foundation web site with inter-active pages & online credit card capability.*
- *2016 Title is changed from LOG Editor-in-Chief to **Communications Director** to better encompass the multi-leveled duties performed since being appointed LOG Editor-in-Chief.*
- *2017 Took on the redesign & assist in the production of the IOBG & IOBGA burgee pin going from \$13.95 per pin down to 93¢ per pin with better quality.*

Design & production assistance of various Annual Meeting pins.

Used ‘vectoring’ software programs to create (clearer/cleaner/website ready) logo images of IOBG, IOBGA, IOBG-HF and the District Achievement Award pin.

2017 Assist with and implement the ordering of International and District level name badges with better quality pin and magnetic backing.

- *2018 Developed an online dues payment system for IOBG District 11 that is still used today.*
- *2020 Design, develop and integrate the ZOOM forms needed to conduct the virtual telecons ,regional meeting as well as the Annual Meeting. Forms include: ONLINE VOTING, Registration Forms, Links for downloading budgets reports, agendas, and Zoom meeting links. Mary Provided an online directory for all officers, districts, chapters and past presidents.*

Summary

When I think of Mary I think of all the time she volunteers and utilizes her skills inside IOBG and all its branches IOBG,IOBGA and IOBG H-F. She continues to use her Web Master services to maintain and develop the web site AT NO CHARGE as her way to help support IOBGA and IOBG-HF. Determining IOBG website needs and requirements she has many suggestions for improvements. Mary Implements and ensures website security and data protection while monitoring and analyzing site performance. It is my honor to give the 2020 President’s Award to Mary ,who continues to go above and beyond on behalf of IOBG .It is honor to give this award to the one and only communications guru and thank you for your service in 2020.

Elections

Tom Shideler reported there was a quorum. Sherry congratulated the slate.

As the 2020 President of IOBG my mission statement is to cultivate RESPECT for our long-standing traditions and for each other.

October 17, 2020

As President I had the responsibility for guiding the good ship IOBG through the year and through waters in all kinds of weather. It has been a challenging year at times and we still had fun and camaraderie. Now that the ship is safely reaching port, I believe I have fulfilled my term to my mission statement: Is to cultivate respect for our long standing traditions of IOBG and toward each other. Thank you for your help, this year, and wishing us all the very best for the upcoming future Fair winds and smooth seas.

Sherry passed the blue gavel to Buzz.

Adjournment: Mark moved to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded, and carried. The meeting was adjourned by Buzz at 1:54 EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Landreth
Recording Secretary