



International Order of the Blue Gavel

The Association of Past Commodores

Summer Virtual Zoom Meeting
Regional Meeting
August 13, 2020

Call to Order: President Sherry Barone called the Spring Regional Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. PDT.

The Pledge of Allegiance: Southwest Area Vice President Shelia Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Executive Committee: Present: President Sherry Barone, President Elect Buzz Bisanz, 1st Vice President Mark Vadaj, 2nd Vice President Kathy Smith, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, and Past President Tony Durieux. Auditing: Executive Secretary Mary Nye Meyer, SWVP Shelia Anderson, SEVP Karen Shea, and NWVP Jim Martinson.

Appointed Officers Present: Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth. Absent: NCVP Steve Hyder, NEVP Steve Tisack, and Legal Officer Joe Dowdell.

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Introduction of Past Presidents: Joel Kay, Rosalie Davis Green, Tony Durieux, and Steve Willing.

Self-introduction of members and guests: Rodney Coomber Dist. 10, Gisele Ozeri Dist. 11, Liz Allison Dist. 14, Tom Shideler Dist. 16, Butch Brown Dist. 1, Paul Clausen Dist. 19, Hoyt Nichols Dist. 8, and Marlene Barrington Dist. 1.

Approval of Agenda: Approval of the Agenda was moved and seconded in the usual manner. The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Regional Meeting: Mark moved to approve the minutes; Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Eight Bells- Tony rang eight bells for members who passed away in the last few months: Patti Smith, Gary Hall, and Kristi Tyminski.

Executive Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Marshall reported that he sent out the August 1 list of voting members. There are 1,451 total paid members. Number of votes for the Districts is 73. Marshall also sent out the number of members by regions. Bank balance is \$164,813.58. Next quarterly report will be Sept 30th.

1st Vice President - Mark A. Vadaj reported that by the calendar, summer is in full swing along with the Heat, Long Daylight Hours and Summer Boating. The only thing missing is the normal activities of group boating activities, in person communication and club event participation. It is obvious with the absence of Summer Launch Parties, Regattas, Holiday Observations, Formal Events, Fund Raising and more. Even in person Club Meetings have been altered by adapting online Zoom Sessions, Conference Calls, or similar versions of.

I.O.B.G. has also re-invented itself by inserting technology such as Zoom On-Line Meetings where travel and in person meetings were once the norm. These circumstances may be a tragedy and may be a blessing. Unfortunately, it will most likely be a bit of both as we have lost several of our IOBG Members due to the virus disease. Through necessity we at the executive Level and Regional Level have found abilities to communicate more frequently but possibly not more effectively and certainly not a 100% replacement to in person Meetings, Conventions and Formal Events. Time will tell if these prove beneficial and permanent or just temporary due to circumstances. Either way I can assure our Members that the IOBG Executive Board will chose what is best for our Members, most effective and most beneficial. Our goal is to come out stronger, more effective and with increased value for all. We have found methods to trim expenses, but nothing replaces the in-person contact for overall benefit.

What can our most important element (Our Members) do to be most effective and relevant? Insert yourself into every Club Event possible and not just your own. Recognize fellow IOBG Members wherever you are, encourage a Past Commodore to rejoin the ranks of IOBG and participate in all Chapter, District, Regional and International Events, Meetings, and Efforts. How can I become more active? Engage with your current Club Bridge and offer support, guidance, and valuable information from experience. If you wish to expand the IOBG footprint in your Club, purchase an annual \$10.00 subscription of the IOBG Log for all to view. (See IOBG.org or the form in the previous Log subscription) Any IOBG Member can engage with any IOBG Officer. We do however encourage you to start with your Chapter or District. All points of contact are inside each subscription of the IOBG Log. I assure you that we welcome and value your questions and suggestions. Lastly, invite me to all your events, efforts, and functions, I welcome the opportunity to provide an explanation of the What, Who, Why and How IOBG can benefit you and your club. Lastly, wear your stars proudly and your IOBG Pin, fly your IOBG Flag on your boat and never pass up an opportunity to invite a Past Commodore to an IOBG event or meeting.

Plaque – will have examples at Annual Meeting. Businesses given plaques will have helped IOBG in some way. Purpose to increase the footprint of IOBG. Mark is open to suggestions on improving branding. Tony – include DDA.

President Elect – Buzz reported on the planning of the next Annual Meeting. The task has been difficult with the virus. Contingency plan is Zoom. Problem was the by-laws had no provision for such a meeting. Problem he faced was that the guarantee money was coming due; therefore, a by-law change was necessary. The vote passed. No guarantees but will try to have a winter meeting in Alabama.

It is now mid-August and we have 60 days until our 2020 Annual meeting via Zoom. This has been a challenging year as we have to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and not being able to hold meetings in person. A different world causes us to conduct business in unique ways. Our new found software friend, Zoom, has allowed us to keep in touch and conduct business very successfully. We are thankful for that and look forward to a continuation of these online personal meetings as long as required.

In preparation for our IOBG Annual Meeting, Buzz published the overall schedule for that meeting, which on the IOBG website. We will be sending detailed information on access to our meeting and detail agendas as time progresses closer to our October 16 – 17, 2020 date. If you have not participated in a Zoom meeting on the internet you don't have to worry. The process is easy and we will have it detailed and sent to you in advance of our meeting. We have conducted our IOBG Executive Committee meetings via Zoom successfully for many months now and we look forward to a successful Annual meeting. Please mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting scheduled for October 16th and 17th, 2020. If you have any questions regarding the annual meeting, please let me know by contacting me at buzz8521@comcast.net.

2nd Vice President – Kathy reported that there is little to report, as most group activities have been curtailed. She went on to focus on giving some credit where credit is due.

First, our President Sherry Barone. This has not been a fun year to be President. We should be in Dublin right now, having an Irish coffee. Sherry has stepped up and brought us all together, anyway, here on Zoom. There is still business to be done, and Sherry makes sure we continue to work to make IOBG viable and relevant to our membership. She understands that the Districts are struggling, too, with limited options for local activities. With this in mind, she directed a stipend back to the Districts for them to use for their membership. That's leadership.

Next, Buzz has had to make difficult decisions this year regarding the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Ultimately, he made the decision to hold our Annual Meeting by Zoom as well. There were deadlines with the hotel and other providers, and no certainty that travel would be reinstated in time to make an Atlanta trip possible. Leaders have to make hard decisions. Well done, Buzz.

Thank you, too, to Marsha and Marshall. Marsha is always right on top of getting minutes accurate, and out in a timely fashion. Taking and preparing the minutes is time consuming, truly an important volunteer. And our Treasurer of decades, Marshall, is already hard at work on the 2021 budget. This, too, takes multiple volunteer hours. We are grateful to you both for your professionalism and willingness to serve.

And then there is Mary Nye Meyer. We rely on her creativity, skill and enthusiasm with all our communications and publications. She is always an integral part of the organization, but in this year of quarantine and social distancing, her role, no her multiple roles, have been crucial. In this year of "no Normal", thanks, too, to all of the Officers, Past Presidents, Area Vice Presidents and District Directors who have hung in there and worked to provide continuity to the organization and the membership.

Here's to making 2021 a year of shared activities, unrestricted travel, and renewed friendships.

Acting Past President – Tony Dureux reported when the AVPs finish sending him the membership numbers by Districts, he will calculate the DAA and will announce the winners at the Annual meeting in October.

President – Sherry reported that everyone stepped up this year. Thanks to Dawn for facilitating Zoom and to Marshall for setting up the Zoom account. We struggle with not going to Portland, Ireland, Atlanta. Giving stipends to Districts to keep them going and also to HF, IOBGA. The Zoom conferencing have helped. As the 2020 President of IOBG my Mission Statement is to cultivate RESPECT for our long-standing traditions and for each other.

As the Pandemic continues so does the creativity of IOBG. Our goal continued to be proactive and protect the health and safety of our IOBG members. To this end, the Executive Board has made the decisions to cancel our Summer Ireland meeting and Annual Atlanta meeting and host via zoom video conferencing.

AVPs and 2 representatives from each area continued the roundtable discussions via Zoom to examine IOBG membership, increase participation and discuss growth /needs of members were some of the topics discussed. A number of suggestions were given to the IOBG EC at the Spring meeting with some of them being implemented. IOBG is open to discussion topics and we serve our membership. We follow rules and protocols established by our by-laws and policy manual online.

Most of our yacht clubs are closed as well as regattas, sailing events, social activities during this pandemic. Video conferencing such as Zoom has enabled IOBG to hold music events, classes, sailing instructions, speakers. on-line get-togethers have exploded but it is not the same as our in-person meetings and sailing/boating events.

On July 16, 2020 a stipend was given to districts. IOBG HF and the IOBG Auxiliary to the treasurer to help the membership during the pandemic with some districts having membership appreciation days as an example.

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

The Summer Meeting was held on Thursday 13 August 2020 with summer uniform. Wednesday, 12 August 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. Irish songs played were as followed: The Fields of Athenry, The Gael Whiskey in the Jar, The Auld Triangle, Fainne Oir Ort, Cahir's Kitchen, A Celtic Duet, Molly Malone, Lost and Found, Arioso, Have a Drink with Me, The Cliffs of Moher, Scarborough Fair, The Irish Washer woman Coleraine Jig. Thanks to Karen Shea for the introduction to Piano player Jon Lee and for the great idea. Jon Lee was interactive taking real-time requests and brought the piano bar feel to IOBG via zoom.

The IOBG piano bar was a hybrid creature: part performance space, John sang, listened, and IOBG socialized during the evening via Zoom. While every factor counts, the most important

thing that Jon piano, style of performance, and the general tone and engaging IOBG for an evening of fun. He took requests from IOBG members for a lovely evening.

Planning on a summer trip to Ireland 2021, Regan and I hope some of IOBG members will join us stayed tuned for restrictions being lifted in Ireland. I spoke to the Howth Yacht Club and Malahide Yacht Club and they look forward to hosting us as previously planned.

During the summer meeting 2 by-law changes were addressed and voted on.

- 1- Adding Executive secretary to executive committee.
- 2- Adding using video conferencing for the annual meeting during a national Emergency .

Marlene Barrington, IOBG liaison National Boating Federation (NBF) is being presented this achievement award for her service to IOBG.

NBF is the largest non-profit of recreational boating composed of boating and yacht clubs and their associations representing over 2,000,000 of America's recreational boaters. Boating education, acts, legislative watchdog and advocates for favorable boating legislation and regulations and best management practice. Marlene was Commodore of Delta Sailing Club in 1991. Employees of Delta Air Lines and would plan 6 fly-in's every year and then charter boats for great fun. She became an IOBG member in 2000 in District 1. Her sailing trips included: the BVI, Sea of Cortez, Lake Lanier, Top Sail Schooner: The Nathaniel Bowditch in Maine, Canal trip from England to Wales, several trips to Catalina Island and several trips into British Columbia and Puget Sound of Washington State. Marlene became involved with the National Boating Federation in 2002 and held all the offices including President in 2006. In 2014 she became the IOBG Representative to the NBF. I am presenting her with an IOBG outstanding service award as IOBG liaison to National Boating Federation (NBF) on 13 August 2020 at our summer meeting.

Stay healthy and safe, looking forward to boating, sailing as we venture forward.

Area Vice Presidents & Director's Reports

Northwest Area Report Jim Martinson reported: The Northwest continues as much as the rest of the country dealing with restrictions on groups and meetings.

District 5 is still the quiet District and I am not confident until we can meet with people face to face for presentations that we might be able to get some interest in that District.

District 1 has some activities with Clubs meeting online and in small groups. With the weather becoming conducive to boating, Clubs have also been participating in cruises and there are some Commodore Balls tentatively scheduled for later in the year. With these activities, I continue to ask for help to further the Good of the Order when able to. District 1 has continued to hold online monthly meetings to keep everyone up to date on future plans and discussions on membership issues. I have continued to keep the District up to date on any news from the International. So far we have used GoToMeeting as our platform, but are working on migrating to Zoom for the future meetings.

District 1 Director Butch Brown reported that some clubs are meeting, some boating is going on, still locked out of Canada. A few boats have been turned around when they crossed into Canada's waters. They thank the IOG for the stipend.

Southwest Area Report – Shelia Anderson reported that this difficult to write, we had hoped to travel to Ireland for the first international meeting. With the pandemic still at large the yachting community is at a standstill. There is not much to report from the June meeting. We are focusing the membership retention awards.

District 6 - No Report

District 10 – Rodney Coomber reported that they haven't had any outings but have signed up 5 new members. Hopefully the restrictions will be lifted soon.

District 11 - 53 renewed members for 2020

1 member has passed Kristi Tyminski. Increased membership by three.

District 14 – Liz Anderson reported San Francisco Bay area hasn't been locked down.

District 15 - No Report

District 16 – Tom Shideler reported that there is no lack of boating. People on going to the islands, having harbor cruises, etc. The yacht clubs are closed.

District 19 – Paul Clausen reported. Has nothing to report except we have not been able to meet except virtually. Thinking of reloading the Flags for next year. Had 15 new members join in 2020 and they were inducted on March 1st at our General Meeting and Induction ceremony. At present District 19 has 143 members, 19 members from 2019 did not renew for various reasons. Liz is putting together a new membership informational bulletin.

District 21 – No Report

District 51 - One new member.

Northcentral Area Report – no report received.

Northeastern Area Report – no report received.

Southeastern Area Report – Karen reported that there is no lack of boating in Florida.

District 18 – Dave Kowert reported that membership went back down from 8 to 6 in 2020 which includes one Past President Chuck Browning (2013) from 3 Yacht Clubs in two states which I'm sure is due to the temporary closing of all clubs. 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 PCs, please stay well and remain careful.

District 8 – Karen Shea reported that District 8's final 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 teleconferences. There is still no decision as to the October Change of Watch. Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Hockenberry who coordinated with our Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers who again sent out our 2020 Membership Directory. 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 clubs were ordered closed and we now continue to be only in Phase 2 as Florida has the #2 highest Covid cases in the US. However, most clubs are open with social distancing. IOBG Chapters normally do not meet during the summer months. There is one Chapter I would like to highlight. St Augustine Yacht Club IOBG, Chapter President Anthony Palazzo who has continued to support the St Augustine YC on Memorial Day and Fourth of July Celebrations. The Commodore Barbara Dolan is also a Past Commodore a member of IOBG and has been their IOBG Chapter President too. She never stops. In addition, they are in their 10th week of Youth Sail Camp which the IOBG, so kudo's for taking on that challenge during this pandemic.

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 number of years as chapter for hosting a meeting. 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.

Appointed Officers' Reports

Legal Officer – no report.

Communications Officer – Mary Nye Meyers reminded everyone that The Log articles are due August 29th.

Protocol Officer – no report

Recording Secretary – no report

Past President Liaison Officer – Joel Kay praised everyone on the EC for doing what had to be done this year.

Auxiliary – Gary Smith reported that the IOBGA board met by phone from 9:30 to 10:45,

Actions taken include:

Approved \$100 to Dist 7 for their book project.

Approved Treasurer’s report \$3020.

Membership 213 down from 300.

Added to Standing orders Non-profit status and dissolution intent per IRS regulations.

Discussion of donations to members families in case of deaths, illness, etc. Tabled to be resumed in Oct. President Smith to present motion at that time for discussion.

Discussion re Oct. meeting to be Zoom or telephonic.

Past President Sandi requested nomination interest letters be sent to her.

Meeting adjourned 10:45.

Boat US – Marshall Nemoy reported that IOBG members receive discounts for being cooperating members. They are looking out for boaters in congress.

Membership – Mark Vadaj reported that it was hard this year to grow the membership.

Humanitarian Foundation – no report.

Old Business

Updates on Focus Group/membership Zoom meetings – Sherry appreciates the AVPs for continuation the dialogue with the Districts via Zoom.

District, IOBGA, IOBGHF Stipends – Sherry Barone reported that hopefully the stipend is a little bit of help.

Status of District Achievement Awards – Tony Durieux still hasn’t heard from two of the AVPs. Please inform him as to how many pins are needed for the officers of the winning districts.

Incentive Programs Updates/Status – Mark Vadaj discussed this in his report.

New Business

Annual Meeting and Updated Schedule – Buzz Bisanz went over the schedule for the 2020 Annual Meeting, October 16-17, 2020. All Meetings Held in your own home or office via ZOOM Software. All times are Eastern Daylight Time

Zoom access information will be available on the IOBG website as the meeting date gets closer..

Friday, October **16th**

Dress of the Day – Casual

IOBG Executive Committee	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
IOBGA Executive Committee	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
IOBGA General Meeting	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
IOBG Board of Directors Meeting	2:15 pm – 3:00 pm
IOBG Humanitarian Foundation	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday, October 17th Dress of the Day – White Uniform Shirt

IOBG Executive Committee 11:00 am – 11:30 am

IOBG Annual General Meeting 11:30 am – 3:00 pm

Fall Regional Meeting 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Off line change to IOBG Formal White Jacket with red bow tie. 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Induction of Officers – IOBG, IOBGA and Humanitarian Foundation 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Pictures: 6:00 pm – 6:15 pm IOBG Executive Committee

6:15 pm – 6:30 pm IOBG AVPs

* Break times will be schedule taken as needed

Bylaw Changes – Marsha Landreth reported that District 16 Director Tom Shideler, District 16 member Jack Skidmore, and Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth tallied the ballots. Out of 83 eligible to vote, 56 voted for the two proposed Bylaw changes. The two changes received 2/3 votes. Motion passed.

Outstanding Service Award – Sherry presented awards to Marlene Barrington, Mary Nye Meyer, and Marshall Nemoy.

Good of the Order – Waiting for the speaker, the following non-agenda comments were made.
No action was taken.

Marshall will update the charge for The Log to \$21 a year. He will be working on the 2021 budget with more information to follow.

Discussed unused budgeted money to use next year.

Appointed Officers – Bud wants to know if anyone knows a member who might be willing to be a Legal officer.

Mark – Covid 19 will impact the 2021 convention. Fund raisers have been cancelled. Some adjustments will be made.

Kathy – the report sent out with membership numbers in areas was very helpful. She thanked Marshall for sending it.

Marshall - \$113,832.00 in banking accounts. He has sent stipend checks amounting to \$5,900. Rest of the unspent budget can be used for other things. \$6,000 for Mark's convention. Sherry asked for a flat line budget as there was a \$30,000 deficit before the pandemic. Marshall reported that when money moved over, the bank's interest is .1% Consider investing the money. Sherry asked him to have some options for next EC meeting.

Insurance premium has been paid.

Tony – look into insured municipal bonds. Thanked Sherry for her leadership.

Butch – Tuesday District 1 had a Zoom call. All of the officers will remain in their positions. IOBG foundation presented a fellowship starting about six years ago for youth boating.

Stipend – Jim asked what should be done with the stipend.

The chapter information is on a 20-year-old Mac that Mary cannot open.

Speaker - Mark Hansen gave an informative presentation on sailing. Click Links on the IOBG webpage for more sailing information.

Adjournment – Kathy moved to adjourn; Buzz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sherry adjourned the meeting at 12:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Landreth
Recording Secretary