

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL
An Association of Past Commodores

Volume: 46 No.: 1

January/February 2024

John Gaddis, Editor

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.



HAPPY
NEW
Year
2 0 2 4

2024 IOBG DIRECTORY

REFLECTS UPDATES RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

APPOINTED OFFICERS

PROTOCOL OFFICER

Marsha Landreth
Tel: 805-889-0054
MLrs4742@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Gary Gallinot
310-770-0174
ggallinot@hotmail.com

LEGAL OFFICER

Thomas Dowdell
305-395-2595
joedowdell@bellsouth.net

EDUCATION OFFICER

Joe Tringali
Tel: 561-337-8701
J.tringali@academyofyachting.org

PAST PRESIDENT LIAISON

Robert "Buzz" Bisanz
770-337-8701
Buzz8521@comcast.com

LOG EDITOR

John Gaddis
661-974-6286
johnwgaddis@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Robert "Buzz" Bisanz
770-337-8701
Buzz8521@comcast.com

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REPRESENTATIVES

BOAT U.S.
Jack Skidmore (Nancy) [Email](mailto:) 805-896-5555

BOAT U.S. MEMBERSHIP
Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

AUXILIARY LIAISON
Marsha Landreth 805-899-0054

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON
Robert "Buzz" Bisanz (Nancy) [Email](mailto:) 770-337-8701

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS
David Kowert 843-412-0137

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION
Marlene Barrington [Email](mailto:) 928-759-7158

US SAILING
Mark Hansen [Email](mailto:) 310-601-0710

COMMITTEES

AUDIT

Kathleen Jo Smith
Steve Hyder
Dave Kowert

BY-LAWS & POLICY/PROCEDURES

Dave Kowert
Steve Hyder
Joe Tringali

FINANCE

Kathleen Jo Smith
Marsha Landreth
Steve Hyder
Joe Tringali
Jack Skidmore

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Kathleen Jo Smith
Joe Tringali
Dave Kowert
Jack Skidmore

ANNUAL MEETING 2024

Steve Hyder

ELECTIONS

Marsha Landreth
Steve Hyder

NOMINATIONS

Kathleen Jo Smith (Chair)
Mark Vadaj
Marsha Landreth
Larry Inguagiato

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

Richard "Butch" Brown (Sallie)
P.O. Box 307
Port Gamble, WA 98364
Te: 360-960-8337
Cell: 541-602-3220
butchbrown83@gmail.com

DISTRICT 3

Stephen D. Tisack (Marie)
5843 Buffalo Street
Sanborn, NY 14132
Te: 716-998-7938
crew92fm@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 5

Open

DISTRICT 6

Tom Wood (Sandy Ragley)
44-101 B Kalenakai Place
Kaneohe, Hr 96744
Te: 808-234-7934
Cell: 808-561-8350
tomwoodkyc@gmail.com

DISTRICT 7

Mark Cain
20 River Road
Eastlake, OH 44095
Cell: 440-220-2000
lakepropertysevice1@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 8

Mark Bills (Sandi)
1309 Guilford Dr
Venice, FL 34292
Tel: 941-484-7033
Cell: 941-376-4220
mmbdmd@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 9

Sandi Kosinski
2914 S 109 St
Toledo, OH 43611
Cell: 419-250-0245
danceaway2010@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 10

Raymond Wilson (Bette)
2653 Nipomo Ave
Long Beach, CA 90815
Tel: 562-627-1726
Cell: 562-985-5767
Wilson_Kingsgambit@yahoo.com
NipomolB@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 11

Brian Keown (Stacy)
P.O. Box 11833
Marira Del Rey, CA 90292
Cell: 310-625-2299
brian@keown.net

DISTRICT 12

Open

DISTRICT 14

Liz Allison
1700 San Carlos Ave # 302
San Carlos, CA 94070
Tel: 650-593-4649
chocho2479@aol.com

DISTRICT 15

Michael Kirchgestner (Mary)
17424 Caminito Siega
San Diego CA 92127
Tel: 619-270-6050 (cell)
mgkirchg@gmail.com

DISTRICT 16

Tom Shideler (Monica)
2130 Jamestown Way
Oxnard, CA 93035
Tel: 805-443-8756
shideler1@gmail.com

DISTRICT 18

Dave Kowert (Christie)
1236 Oak Hill Terrace
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466
Tel: 843-412-0137
davekowert@bellsouth.net

DISTRICT 19

Jan Cutaia Iaconie (George)
1753 Sycamore Dr
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Cell: 925-783-0812
jcutaia@aol.com

DISTRICT 20

Open

DISTRICT 21

Stephen Sawdon
25422 Trabuco Rd
Lake Forest, CA 92630
Tel: 949-279-6262
sailing7777@gmail.com

DISTRICT 22

Open

DISTRICT 23

Open

DISTRICT 25

Tim Amee
theadparrot@gmail.com

DISTRICT 26

Open

DISTRICT 27

Carl Treff (Angie)
8110 Whites Cove Rd
Pasadena, MD 21122
Tel: 410-627-3093
carltrf@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 50

Mark Vadaj (Robin)
7505 Thatchum Lane
Concord, OH 44060
Tel: 440-350-1488
Cell: 440-479-0064
mvadaj@att.net

DISTRICT 51

Open

DISTRICT 75

Keith Wardell (Patey)
Townhouse #6
23 Barlett Street
Riccarton, Christchurch
New Zealand 8011
Cell: 0064-274438465
warpah1938@gmail.com



2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT

MARSHA LANDRETH
2300 Chico Ct
Oxnard, CA 93035

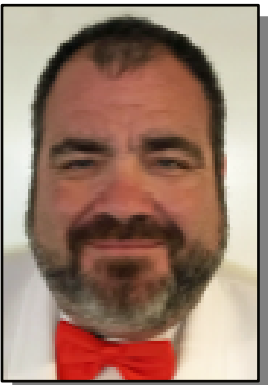
Tel: 805-889-0054
mlrs4742@gmail.com



PAST PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN JO SMITH (GARY)
815 Ethel Place
National City, CA 91950

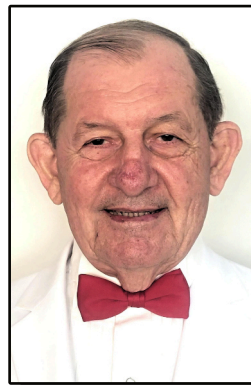
Tel: 619-479-6292
kathyswyc@aol.com



PRESIDENT - ELECT

STEVEN HYDER (PAM MYERS)
5321 Raven Parkway
Monroe, MI 48161

734-241-6611
www.attorneystevehyder.com
hyders@hyderlawfirm.net



TREASURER

JACK SKIDMORE (NANCY)
P.O. Box 131
Port Hueneme CA. 93044

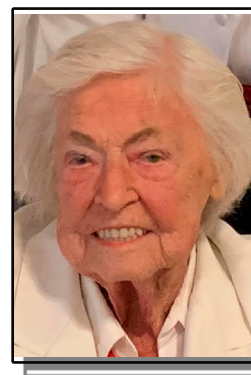
born2lend@yahoo.com



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

JOSEPH A. TRINGALI (MARY LOU)
441 Marlin Road, North Palm
Beach, FL 33408

Tel: 561-906-4642
j.tringali@academyofyachting.org



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MARY EIFFERT
431 Cayuse Pl.
LaConner, WA 98257

39906 Black Mesa Lane
Palm Desert CA 92260

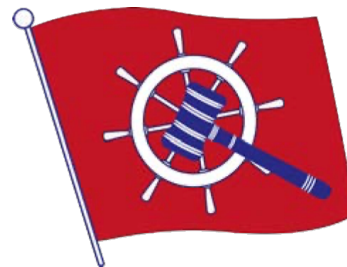
Tel: 760-567-8824
fmeiffert32@gmail.com



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

DAVE KOWERT (CHRISTIE)
1236 OAK HILL TERRACE
MT. PLEASANT, SC 29466

TEL: 843-412-0137
davekowert@bellsouth.net





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT MARSHA LANDRETH

Happy New Year! And let us hope this is a better year for the world in general. As for IOBG, the membership cards are rolling off the printer and being sent along to the members. Thank you, Kathy McCarthy, for taking on this arduous task. District 7, so far, has the most paid members for 2024. Congratulations!

All of us are members of at least one yacht club, and many of us have reciprocal privileges at other clubs. However, if you do not have privileges at a club you would like to visit, you might be able to ask for IOBG Hospitality. In 2018, a Committee of PP Vern Bendsen, PC Karen Shea, PP Kathy Smith, and PP Steve Willing proposed a hospitality program. At that time Blue Gavel members were asked to encourage their clubs to offer hospitality to visiting Blue Gavel members. Each club would determine the extent of this hospitality, and establish guidelines that would reflect the wishes of their membership. This hospitality makes a lasting impression that strengthens the bond of friendship between their clubs and the Blue Gavel membership. Each club establishes its own criteria and limitations. Hospitality is a privilege, and a club's limitations will be respected.



You are going to have to trust me on this one; I'm in Coquimbo, Chile standing uphill from the La Herradura Yacht Club.

This is more a resolution than a policy and was never added to the Policy and Procedures Manual; however, the practice of offering hospitality to IOBG members is on-going in a number of clubs. Yacht clubs have different challenges. Some are happy to welcome other yacht club members, especially a group of past commodores, and other clubs have physical limitations. But there is no harm in calling and asking for hospitality if you are going to be in the area.

Do remember that access to visiting yacht clubs is at the discretion of the yacht club. What follows are the suggested club access guidelines:

At the discretion of the IOBG chapter club, visiting IOBG members may be granted entry to enjoy the club's hospitality.

1. The host club is requested to add the IOBG to your club's access registry.

Continued on page 5

2. Visiting IOBG members must present a current membership card and vouch for any in the party that are not current members (spouses, traveling associates, etc.).
3. Where possible, the visitors should contact the club prior to their arrival to ensure that permission is granted and their presence does not interfere or disrupt the club's activities.
4. Prior contact will provide the club the information needed as to the number of people in the party, and intentions as to food and drink. The visitor can also determine the dress code and method of payment and other considerations such as handicap access, etc.
5. All visitors must ensure their behavior and actions are conducted with the utmost respect as befitting their position as IOBG members.
6. All visitors needn't be reminded that you are representatives of our organization and your own club.

Ships are referred to as a "she" because she has a "waist" (a mid-ships section), a "bonnet" (cover for the engine or added strips of canvas for sails), "laces" (rigging fasteners), "stays" (ropes), "combines" (edges of hatches), "jewels" (small blocks on signal yards), and "earrings" (short pieces of line).

1380 Centerville Lane #32
 Gardnerville, NV 89410-9715
 Email: Comsignia@aol.com
 www.commodoreinsignia.com



775-782-3380
 800-315-7485
 Fax: 775-782-3380

IOBG Blazer emblems are authorized for sale by Commodore Insignia. These emblems have the Blue Gavel Burgee on the left staff and the Commodore's club on the right staff. They are available in a white, black & navy background and the price is \$23.95 each plus shipping and tax.

BLAZER EMBLEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE AUXILIARY

To order: Send this order form with a color sample of club burgee (business card or letterhead - we may have burgee on file) to Commodore Insignia. You can telephone your order using (800)-315-7485 or our Fax: (775) 782-4003.

Quantity		Black	White	Navy	Unit Price	Total
	IOBG Blazer Emblem					
	Auxiliary Blazer Emblem					

PLEASE PRINT

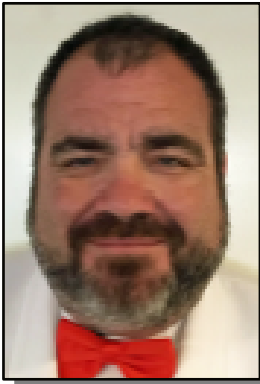
I am a paid up member of IOBG District # _____ Yacht Club _____ Year _____
 IOBGA District # _____

Signature _____ Ship to: _____

The above will be verified. Member will be billed for _____ emblems when shipped.

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Addresses: _____



PRESIDENT-ELECT - STEVEN HYDER

Thank you for all the support. This is truly an honor to serve this organization President-Elect for 2024. This year should be a great year for us to focus on membership for the international and focus on membership in membership in our clubs.

I am not only serving as President-Elect, I am also serving once again as Detroit Beach Boat Club Commodore. I held our first board meeting, and I challenged our officers to put personal agendas aside and start investing into Detroit Beach. I told them to do the make sure to hold me as Commodore to the same standard. I think that we should all take a step back as leaders, as members and think why did you join? What was the attraction?

I bet as you just took 5 mins and thought about when you first joined your club, you had no agenda. It was the fun and excitement, the enthusiasm, but over time all that went by the wayside and all that fun and excitement went away and now it seems like an obligation.

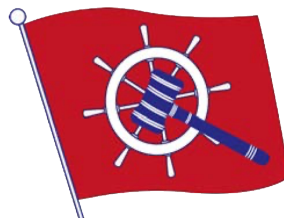
If we as leaders can bring that excitement and enthusiasm back into positions in our clubs, our members will see it and they will respond. Hopefully that will then start building a positive culture within the organization. I believe we have to start somewhere and start for me is Detroit Beach Boat Club.

The Detroit Beach Boating Club is known as the friendliest club on the lake; wouldn't it be wonderful if IOBG could have the reputation as the friendliest organization on the planet?

Peace

Steve Hyder

President Elect





FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH A. TRINGALI

No problem! Our Policy and Procedures Manual assigns me, the First Vice President, the job of “assisting . . . Area Vice Presidents east of the Mississippi River.” My wife and I have lived in Florida (Southeastern Area) for 30 years and we were born and raised in Buffalo (Northeastern), and my good friend Mark Cain, (the new SEVP), is from Ohio (and is very well known in North Central Area). So my “assisting” assignment EZ-PEEZY, right? Well . . . actually . . . No.

Let's start with North Central. Mark reports that the area is an excellent shape with a lot of participation by yacht clubs as well as the Inter-Lake Yachting Association (I-LYA). North Central is cruising at standard speed. Well Done!

But the Southeastern Area is something of a problem. As a practical matter, it consists of only District 8, and shortly after the Charleston meeting, all but one of the district officers quit! Hmm. That is a problem, but, heck, we're right here in the middle of it! So Mark Cain, and Dave Kowert and I (i.e., the current SEVP and two previous SEVP's) have agreed to meet in St. Augustine later this month in what we're calling a “Re-organizational meeting.” We already have at least one member who has volunteered to join us, and we're expecting a few more with the necessary “fire in the belly,” who can dig the Southeast out of its current lethargy.

Things are looking up.

Now, for the Northeast . . . that's a bigger problem. First of all, unlike Florida, I can't just hop in the car and drive to any Northeast club within 5 or 6 hours. For visits to chapters in the “Northeast” we're talking a trip of a couple of weeks. Second, after researching past issues of The Log, I found only two—count 'em 2—phone numbers for District 3 officers. Forget those other Northeast districts, they exist only in IOBG's imagination! But I did manage to talk to those two Gavelers in D/3, and yes, they are interested in pulling the area together, but they complained about “lack of communication” from us, the people they see as being at the “top.”

I attacked the communication problem immediately by adding all of the Northeast Area members to the mailing list of The Gulfstream, an online publication that I took over in June, 2022. (I've put out 10 issues since then at no cost to IOBG (that's like 0zero—dues dollars). And, sure enough, a few people were impressed enough to respond. I contacted them and they are willing to get on board as official “stringers” (that's newspaper talk for keeping in contact). Is the Northeastern problem solved? Not hardly, but at least I seem to have kick-started things and gotten it going in the right direction. So the bottom line for “east of the Mississippi” is: “We're workin' on it!”

P.S. Contact me if you want a copy of The Gulfstream. It won't cost you a dime!



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT DAVE KOWERT

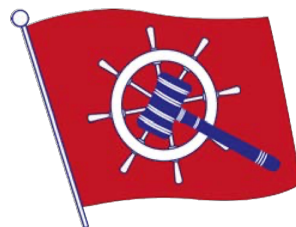
Happy New Year to everyone at IOBG! I sincerely hope that 2024 is a banner year for everyone and for IOBG in general.

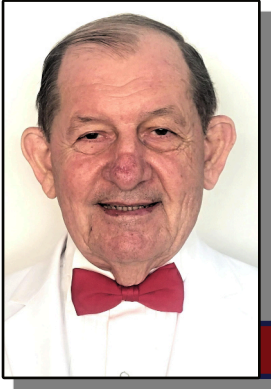
Agreeing to accept the position of Second Vice President has truly opened up so many new relationships for me. As a resident of Charleston, SC I was aware of what was happening in the Southeast and the Northeast but had little contact with colleagues in the Northwest and elsewhere on the West Coast. This past month provided the opportunity for me to get to know P/C Dean Smith and his vision for D-1 and other IOBG chartered YC's around Puget Sound. I also learned a lot of D-1 history from Dean that I would have never known. IOBG is fortunate to have Dean as an Area VP leading the charge throughout that region.

I would encourage all of you reading this brief report to consider taking District, Regional, Area and National positions within IOBG as it truly is a great way to meet some fantastic people and better understand the role IOBG can play in the greater Yachting and Yacht Club world. IOBG needs strong leaders like P/C Smith (and you) to contribute your special skills, unique experiences, and creativity to help keep IOBG relevant.

January provides the opportunity for many of us to attend a variety of "Changes of Watch" at different Yacht Clubs we are familiar with. I've been invited to attend the COW at the St Augustine YC this year. St Augustine YC is a powerhouse IOBG club in D-8 with IOBG strongly promoted by P/C Barbra Dolan (a powerhouse herself). I'm looking forward better understanding what makes them so successful and sharing that with y'all in the next LOG.

Respectfully submitted: Dave Kowert. Second Vice President





TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER JACK SKIDMORE

Below is the IOBG Income Statement for Year Ending December 31, 2023. Please email with any questions, Please note expenses for November represent mostly travel costs for the annual meeting. The majority of expenses for December are related to membership cards.

Jack Skidmore - Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

INCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

REVENUE

Dues and Deposits	\$ 48,219.00
Interest	\$ 3.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 48,222.00

OPERATING EXPENSES

January thru August	\$12,580.00
September	\$4,006.00
October	\$ 24,376.00
November	\$ 8,326.00
December	\$ 2,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 51,938.00
Net Operating Loss	\$ (3,716.00)



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT KATHLEEN JO SMITH

I love Opening Day! And it is definitely that season, again.

I love the pageantry and traditions, tributes to our military, the bands and Honor Guards, the friends and parties, the champagne and deviled eggs.

The Opening Day traditions are unique to boating and can be regional. I live in San Diego, where we rarely have ice in the bay, unless it's spilled from a tropical adult beverage. We don't actually close our clubs for the winter. In fact, we do close our club for the year, but only on the night before Opening Day. Southwestern Yacht Club's Closing Night ceremony is traditionally a family style spaghetti dinner.

I love seeing our club marinas decked out in flags, stem to stern. Did you know the sequence of the code flags can be any order but there is an accepted & "recommended order" to give a harmonious color pattern. This also avoids the possibility of a hidden message being set in the hoist:

Starting from the waterline forward, to the masthead(s), and to the water line aft . . .

AB 2 U J 1 K E 3 G H 6 I V 5 F L 4 D M 7 P O Third Repeater R N First Repeater S T Zero C X 9 W Q 8 Z Y Second Repeater

And don't forget the champagne bottle.

Many of our yacht club traditions are based on military traditions. Even our uniforms are closely related. Those traditions are especially relevant to me, as San Diego is home to the second largest Naval base in the United States, and the residence of countless retirees from the Navy, Marines, and occasional Air Force, Coast Guard, even Space Force. And, as my husband reminds me, even the Army.

Even the tradition of the cannon salute throughout our ceremonies refers back to our military roots. Ironically, at Southwestern Yacht Club, our cannon was also fired during San Diego Chargers football games when the team scored. It's like new after years of service.

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from page 6

There's nothing like the sound of a champagne cork popping to get a party started. The post ceremony party is important to our traditions, too. This is where we have the opportunity to get together with old yacht club friends, and make new ones. As for the deviled eggs, if you have a great recipe, please share. Mine never come out as they should.

Hope you attend and participate in Opening Days this year. We, as Blue Gavel members, should be keepers of the flame of yachting traditions.

And, as we say Welcome to Opening Days, we are, for the most part finished with the Change of Watch Ceremonies and the Induction of new members.

I had the honor of installing the 2024 IOBG officers for District 10 and 15. District 10 had a Holiday Ugly Sweater Party Dinner, and District 15 combined their Change of Watch with the local Harbor Association, the San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs.

And, speaking of honors, I was privileged to Induct the newest Southwestern Yacht Club Staff Commodore, Debbie Kahler, into IOBG.



Installing the 2024 IOBG officers for District 10 at a Holiday Ugly Sweater Party Dinner,



Newest Southwestern Yacht Club Staff Commodore, Debbie Kahler

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT - MARY EIFFERT

After trying to learn how to use a new computer, a charter was prepared and sent to Channel Island Women's Sailing Association. A list of Districts in their area was sent to the Area Vice Presidents, and a list of the District was sent to a District Director.

All records are stored on thumb drives by year. When there is a request for a yacht club burgee, include the year that it was issued, if possible.

IOBG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - JANUARY 9, 2024

President Marsha Landreth called the meeting, via Zoom, to order at 3:32 PM PST

Members Present: President Marsha Landreth, Second Vice President Dave Kowert, Treasurer Jack Skidmore, Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert, and Past President Kathy Jo Smith Members excused: President Elect Steven Hyder and First Vice President Joseph Tringali President Landreth confirmed that a quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

Guests present: Northwest Area Vice President Dean Smith, Southwest Area Vice President Rodney Coomber and Past President/Executive Committee Past President Liaison/Zoom Operator/Webmaster Buzz Bisanz.

Approval of Agenda: Dave Kowert moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Mary Eiffert and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Jack Skidmore moved the minutes of Nov. 21 EC Meeting be approved. Seconded by Dave Kowert. The motion passed with 4 votes; Kathy Jo Smith abstained because she was not present at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jack Skidmore presented a report of income and revenue for the year ending December 31, 2023. Revenue for the year was \$48,222 and Operating Expenses were \$51,938.

Discussion on how to enable Treasurer Skidmore to put some of the organization's funds into interest bearing accounts. President Marsha proposed that the Executive Committee should authorize the treasurer to move up to \$150,000 into interest bearing accounts.

Motion: Jack Skidmore moved that the IOBG Executive Committee authorize the treasurer to make the transactions of up to \$150,000 into interest bearing accounts. The motion was seconded by Mary Eiffert and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Memo written by Kathy Jo Smith concerning District 16 conflict of membership invitation.

Marsha asked Jack to report on District 16 recent chapter meeting. Jack reported that the members of District 16 had different viewpoints of what had occurred and wanted clarification on what is taking place. Marsha suggested tabling the committee's response to the memo until District 16 acts on it. This was voted on with three in favor, one against and 1 abstention.

B. Website. President asked Buzz Bisanz to report on the website. Buzz asked Kathy Jo what codes Mary had and what she was authorized to do. Kathy responded that Josh was still using her server and that neither she or Mary did anything. It just crashed. Buzz will continue to try to fix the problem.

C. Log: Mary and Dave will provide articles; Joe's was received this morning.

D. District Recognition Program. This was under Kathy Jo's responsibilities and she reported

Continued on page 14

that the level of interest was very low. Only Southwest and North Central have any competition. Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

E. Value Added Program: Mark is still working on it and working with West Marine.

F. Current Membership: President reported that it is coming in slowly.

G. Membership Cards for IOBGA: Last meeting the EC voted to produce the cards for IOBGA. The Auxiliary is not sure they want IOBG to do the cards.

H. New Zealand is waiting for the board to decide if they want to be members.

I. Term Limits: Buzz: the present unlimited terms are creating serious problems with getting international officers which require district director experience. Kathy Jo: Limiting is not our prerogative; international does not appoint district directors. It is the district's prerogative. Marsha: you don't have to be an AVP to move up to international officer, but you need to be a district director. Buzz: persons who don't move out of District Director "clog" up the lineage to move up to other offices. Jack: we need to come up with a solution that does not seem overbearing. A committee needs to be formed; will take up next month under "old business".

New Business:

A. Travel Allowances: Written Guidelines need to be established.

Presently allowances are given to: Executive Committee (7 people), Legal Officer (1), Recording Secretary (1), Log Officer (1) and the AVP's (5). In the case of transition of officers, who should be paid? Perhaps the one that gives the report? The addition of the AVP's needs to be a By-Law change.

The payment should be for three days with the exception of persons needed to arrive on site for set up and preparation earlier. Payment rate is the GSA code per diem for the city visiting, airfare (cost 2 weeks prior to event or car mileage, whichever is less) and \$100 travel expenses (car rental, parking, Ubers, etc.)

President Landreth appointed Dave Kowert and Jack Skidmore to form a committee to set recommendations.

B. Hospitality/Reciprocals at Yacht Clubs

Some members are demanding services when the host yacht club chooses not to offer it. 2019 policy was published. This policy should be put back on the website .

Next meeting is February 20, 2024 at 3:30 PST

Jack Skidmore moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Kowert seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 PST.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Bisanz substitute minute recorder.



NCA VP

ROGER DUTTON REPORT

Hello all,

We have been fortunate with a mild winter until now, in the North Central Area. I even got to golf on Christmas Day.

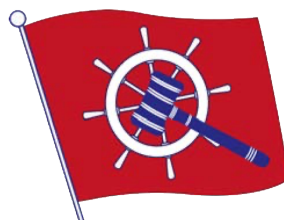
Despite it being winter and most boats being in storage awaiting spring, the North Central Area IOBG has been busy as usual. The NCA is strong with over 500 members and looking for more. I was fortunate to be able to attend the Lights Before Christmas event hosted by our D9 Auxiliary. A great annual event they do as a Charity Fundraiser. I was also able to attend my first International Annual Meeting held in Charleston, SC. A great time was had had by all visiting historic Yacht Clubs, the town and tending to the business of IOBG. Congratulations to Marsha Landreth for becoming our new President!!

Our own Steve Hyder from the North Central Area is now President Elect and Congrats to him also. With this, the International Annual Meeting will be held in our area on South Bass Island, Lake Erie. This is a first for IOBG and Put-N-Bay so make your plans to attend October 10-13, 2024. If you are reading this and not a member of IOBG, join now as you will not want to miss this event. If you want to join and have not been invited, ask any IOBG member or myself and we will show you the way to belong.

Baten down the hatches for the approaching winter storm and let the hard water sailors have their time on the long awaited ice this winter.

Sincerely,

Rodger Dutton NCA VP



NORTHWEST VICE PRESIDENT DEAN SMITH - DISTRICT 1

Happy New Year from the Pacific Northwest! I'm filling in while Jim and Butch recover from a few maladies.

I really enjoyed the International Annual Meeting in Charleston. It was a great opportunity to meet with fellow members, hear about new initiatives in the organization, and share best practices with other districts.

Most - actually all - activities here in the Northwest have been in District 1 recently. We continue looking for opportunities to engage prospective members in District 5, hoping to return that group to active status.

District 1: Dean Smith, District 1 President

District 1 is doing well financially and has 54 members. Recruiting is picking up, with several new members in 2023 and at least one new application already in routing this year.



DISTRICT 1 IOBG AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS IN WALLA WALLA

Last fall we held our General Meeting and Change of Watch in Walla Walla, Washington. Several members attended via an online video link – something we first tried in the spring and was well received.

We conducted an online survey of members and found – as expected – that members value the camaraderie, social networking, and keeping up with other past commodores as the main reasons they join and renew with IOBG.

We've continued our monthly, online board meetings and are seeing more non-board members listen in.

Recent topics of discussion included planning for our spring meeting at Port Townsend in April, hosted by Port Townsend Yacht Club. That same month we plan to participate and represent IOBG in the Tacoma Daffodil Festival, followed by the grand Opening Day at Seattle Yacht Club in May. In July we'll head to the mountains with our summer picnic in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, hopefully in conjunction with Spokane Yacht Club.

But it's still January and so we're in the midst of reminding members to renew for 2024. In addition to US mail and a personal check, we'll also offer the option for online renewal again this year – something that's gaining in popularity. We'll consolidate that process into a new

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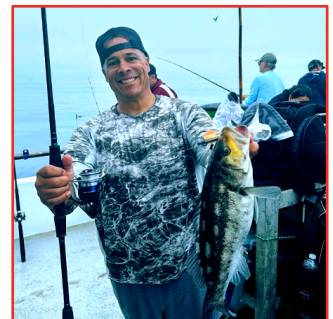
District 1 website in the next few months, which will give us a central source of local information and even accommodate online applications from prospective new members who've been referred by their chapters.

SOUTHWEST VICE PRESIDENT RODNEY COOMBER - DISTRICT 16

District 16 includes the yacht clubs from Channel Islands and Ventura Harbors: Anacapa Yacht Club, Channel Islands Yacht Club, Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association, Harbour Island Yacht Club, Navy Yacht Club, Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club, Pierpont Bay Yacht Club, and Ventura Yacht Club. The present officers and Board members of District 16 are as follows: Tom Shideler, District Director, Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club; Steve Weiss, Alternate-Director, Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club; Gary Gallinot, President, Harbour Island Yacht Club; Jeff Howe, Vice President/Secretary, Harbour Island Yacht Club; Devra Hodge, Treasurer-Supply Officer, Harbour Island Yacht Club. Other Board members include Sheldon Berger, Channel Islands Yacht Club; Paul Swanson, Ventura Yacht Club and Greg Shank, Harbour Island Yacht Club

On August 27, 2023, we held a Fundraiser for Reel Guppy Outdoors at the Channel Islands Yacht Club with the hopes of raising \$10,000, but under the leadership of P/C Frank Sullivan, Channel Islands Yacht Club; P/C Sheldon Berger, Channel Islands Yacht Club; P/C Gary Gallinot, Harbour Island Yacht Club; and Kevin Brannon (Reel Guppy Outdoors founder); along with the help of many others we raised over \$28,000!

The vision and mission statement of Reel Guppy Outdoors is plain and simple, "Provide a positive environment and program for youth using outdoor experiences, emphasizing education and life building lessons, leadership, stewardship and team building." And that's not the end but just the beginning of better things to come. IOBG District 16's next fundraiser for the Reel Guppy Outdoors will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the Channel Islands Yacht Club. It is through the support of the community and local yacht club members that has allowed our fundraisers to be such a success.



*Reel Guppy Outdoors
founder, Kevin Brannon*

A highlight of the year was the induction of Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association as a new Chapter in District 16. CIWSA has an excellent reputation in the racing community and for their philanthropic work in promoting sailing for women.

It is the Camaraderie created via the activities of IOBG District 16 of that has brought the clubs together and has assisted in uniting all the Channel Islands Harbor and Ventura Harbor member Clubs to help the local community through our combined efforts of teaching and training youth sailing, safe boating, special handicap events, and other educational programs which have been established to serve the local community.

Jeff Howe - Secretary, District 16

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING 2024

PUT IN BAY, OHIO

OCTOBER 10-13 2024

MORE INFORMATION SOON!

PUT-IN-BAY
YACHT CLUB



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores



International Order of the Blue Gavel

Post Office Box 131

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