



THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

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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.



IN MEMORY OF PAST MEMBER AUDREY HALL. IN THIS PICTURE, WITH HER HUSBAND GARY AND JOE DOWDELL, AUDREY IS RECEIVING THE PRESTIGIOUS PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD IN 2017.

IN MEMORIAM



BERNARD "BUD" EUGENE HIGGINSON

BERNARD "BUD" EUGENE HIGGINSON, AGE 90, OF OSPREY, FL, PASSED AWAY AT 11:15 A.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023, AT MAJESTIC CARE OF NEWBURGH IN NEWBURGH, IN.

BUD WAS A UNITED STATES ARMY VETERAN AND SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR. HE RECEIVED HIS ENGINEERING DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. HIS CAREER TOOK HIM TO PHOENIX, CINCINNATI, MISSISSIPPI, AND MARION, ILLINOIS, WITH NOTABLE PROJECTS BEING THE FIRST TOILET SEAT DESIGN TO GO INTO SPACE, AND STAR WARS FIGURINES FOR KENNER. BUD MOVED BACK HOME TO HENDERSON, KY IN 1980. HE BECAME PRESIDENT OF CYANIDE PLASTICS. DURING THAT TIME, HE SERVED ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR HENDERSON MUNICIPAL POWER AND LIGHT AND OHIO VALLEY NATIONAL BANK, NOW KNOWN AS FIELD AND MAIN. BUD WAS ALSO A KENTUCKY COLONEL. HE RETIRED AND MOVED TO OSPREY FLORIDA IN THE 90'S WHERE HE BECAME COMMODORE OF THE VENICE YACHT CLUB AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF BLUE GAVEL. BUD ENJOYED TRAVELING, BOATING, DINING, OLD CARS AND MOTORCYCLES. HE WAS A MASTER OF GRILLING STEAKS AND PERFECTED HIS CAESAR SALAD RECIPE THAT HE HONED FROM COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

IN ADDITION TO HIS PARENTS, WILLIAM EDGAR AND LADEW HIGGINSON, BERNARD WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS WIFE, LAURA HIGGINSON; SON, GREG HIGGINSON; AND HIS BROTHERS, WILLIAM "BILLY" AND JERRY HIGGINSON. BERNARD IS SURVIVED BY HIS SON, GARY HIGGINSON; HIS GRANDCHILDREN, MICHELLE WILLIAMS (JOSH) AND GARY HIGGINSON (LAUREN); ALONG WITH SEVERAL NIECES AND NEPHEWS.



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REFLECTS UPDATES RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

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Kathleen Jo Smith
Joe Tringali
Dave Kowert
Jack Skidmore

ANNUAL MEETING 2024

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Steve Hyder

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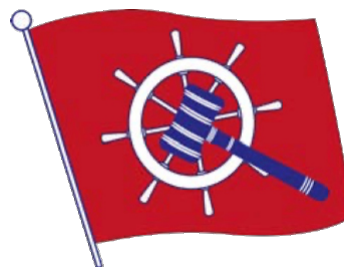
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT MARSHA LANDRETH

With heavy heart, we mourn the passing of Bernard “Bud” Higginson, the 2019 IOBG International President. Bud was the epitome of a Southern Gentleman and his wife Dee never met a stranger. Bud and Dee will be greatly missed.

The cover picture is of Distract 15 past member Audrey Hall, her husband IOBG member Gary Hall, who preceded Audrey to their celestial home, and International Past President Joe Dowdell. In this picture, Audrey is receiving the prestigious Past Presidents’ Award in 2017. Finding a picture of Audrey was not easy as she had an uncanny knack of avoiding cameras. We are honoring her in this issue for her generous bequest of \$20,000 to the Humanitarian Foundation.

Opening Days are right around the corner and we are all anxious to get back on the water. At least that’s true here in the United States. Our members in New Zealand may be putting away their boats for the winter. Yes, New Zealand is back. Please welcome thirty-six members from District 75 in New Zealand. We are so happy to have District 75 back again.



IATE CLUBE DO RIO DE JANEIRO

The Executive Committee has been busy during the winter months and have a few things to discuss with the chapters and districts:

- Please have elections each year. We are noticing a lack of qualified candidates to move up in the organization. Article VI, Section 2 of the bylaws state: To advance as an elected Officer for the IOBG, the candidate shall be selected from Members who are serving or have served on the Board of Directors. If you are serving as a District Director and have no desire to move up, please step aside and allow someone who would be interested in moving up to be a District Director.
- We are often asked about our tax status. IOBG is a 501/C7.
- Dave Kowert is spearheading a 4-year plan. Please see his article for more information on how you can be a part of this.

Continued on page 7



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KATHLEEN JO SMITH

As Immediate Past President, I have the honor of chairing the IOBG Nominations Committee.

I believe this is one of, if not the, most important committees. They are tasked with efforts that will direct the future of the organization by proposing individuals from our membership who will be the officers in the years to come. To continue to have a vibrant organization, in touch with the members, it is important to offer a balance of representation and officers who will be sensitive to our membership and the Bylaws.

Members may nominate themselves or any other eligible member who concurs with being nominated. Nominees will want to include an indication of the position they are applying for, and a description of their experience and skills.

Nominations should be received by email to each of the members of the Nominating Committee by June 10, 2024.

The Nominating Committee consists of the Immediate Past President, who chairs the committee, and the Past President preceding the Immediate Past President, the President, and two (2) IOBG members, who are not officers in any Blue Gavel Chapter or District. One member shall be from East of the Mississippi River and the other Member shall be from West of the Mississippi River. The two IOBG members are selected by the Area Vice Presidents and District Directors from their respective areas, and shall serve for two years, with their terms alternating. For 2024, the Committee is:

Immediate Past President Kathleen Smith, Chair (kathyswyc@aol.com)

Past President Mark Vadaj (markvadaj@gmail.com)

President Marsha Landreth (mlrs4742@gmail.com)

East IOBG Member Larry Inguagiato (larry.inguagiato@mac.com)

West IOBG Member TBA*

Some guidelines the Nomination Committee will consider:

- All nominations shall be with the written concurrence of the nominee

Continued on page 7

from page 6

- Maintaining a balance of Officers by region
- Willingness to continue to serve, and move up through higher offices
- Nominee has served as a District Director

The Committee will present a slate of officers to the Executive Committee, for their approval by their July meeting. The slate of officers shall be printed in the LOG or the Liighthouse by mid-August.

Our Bylaws also allow for nominations by petition. Petitions should be signed by at least 2 members from each chapter, and no less than three different Chapters. Petitions should be filed with the Secretary no more than 30 days from the official posting of the Slate of Officers.

The Secretary will include all nominations with the Notice of the Annual Meeting.

Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to serve IOBG in whatever capacity you choose. We are, after all, a wholly volunteer organization.

*Western AVP's will announce the appointee, soon.

Marsha Landreth from page 5



I encourage you to utilize our Humanitarian Foundation for seed money to start fundraising activities. My district asked for \$500 for seed money for a chowder fest, which we made \$120,000 for our local maritime museum over three years. We also turned another \$500 grant into a \$21,000 donation for an underprivileged children's fishing organization.

When you do have an idea or something that has worked in your area, put it on the Webpage so we can all share in your success and maybe get ideas to benefit other areas.

In my quest for an endless summer, I spent time in South America and Africa. The pictures here are from yacht clubs in Rio. The late Clube Do Rio de Janeiro takes quite an impressive bite out of the beachfront.

And finally, I would like to give a giant THANKS to Kathy McCarthy for the exhausting volunteer work she is doing by making and sending out all of the membership cards.





FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JOSEPH A. TRINGALI

At last! The Southeast and Northeast Regions are showing signs of life! I visited the Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club in Broward County and did my award-winning "Traditions" PowerPoint presentation. As usual, nobody left the room, even though with ad-libs and jokes the program stretched from its original 45 minutes to a full hour. The past commodores who were present all agreed their club needed a Blue Gavel chapter ASAP, and all of them signed applications and a petition for a new chapter which I will present at the next Board meeting.

The Northeast Region is waking up from its "winter nap" with more social events planned. District 3 has 100+ members and is, of course, the bedrock foundation of the Region, but we've also gained some new members in New Jersey. Maybe the Spirit of IOBG is contagious.

I am continuing to send out The Gulfstream, a 24-page online "news magazine" 6 times a year to all members of the Northeast and Southeast Regions. If you would like to receive a copy, free of charge, just send me an email and I'll add you to the list. Who knows? Could The Gulfstream be helping to add to the "East of the Mississippi" revival? Anything is possible!

On a new note, here's an idea that will appear in an upcoming issue of The Gulfstream, but you can see it here first: How about a Founders Day?

Many organizations set aside a special day to commemorate their "founding"—think of the Fourth of July! We've all heard of George Washington, but how many of our members know that the "Blue Gavel" was created by Everett "Ev" Henry who was the past commodore of Rainier Yacht Club?



Everett "Ev" Henry

In September, 1952, he, along with two other past commodores of Rainier Yacht Club, Art Chitty and Roy Palm, created the Blue Gavel Club as an organization for Past Commodores. This organization has grown into the International Order of the Blue Gavel with chapters across the United States, Canada, and as far away as Great Britain and New Zealand.

Clearly, Commodore Henry was a person who made a difference with his life. He was a visionary and a leader. We should honor him. September marks the end of summer in most places, and it's a great month for a special "yacht club" event. Maybe it's time for us to create an annual September event in all chapters honoring the founding of our Blue Gavel.



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

DAVE KOWERT

One of the reasons all IOBG members should actively visit other Yacht Clubs when possible is to learn about what they are doing that is unique, different and in many cases “inspiring”. In last months LOG I relayed my very positive experience when visiting the St Augustine Yacht Club’s Change of Watch in January. I was truly inspired by the SAYC’s commitment to youth sailing and their efforts to build a new sailing center specifically for their youth sailing program. An idea was born that day that has started to take hold in IOBG. With the full approval of the Executive Committee, we are working together with SAYC to build a pilot program that supports efforts to promote youth programs of all sorts within Yacht Clubs. After all, the youth ARE the yacht Club members of tomorrow!

In a nutshell, this idea is based on developing a framework that allows IOBG members with expertise in developing youth programs, funding youth programs and capital campaign fundraising in general, to leverage that knowledge and experience through a central hub managed by IOBG International. This central “hub” will not only connect Past Commodores with experience with clubs LOOKING for experience and new ideas, but will also act as a repository of templates, documents and plans that have proven successful in the past that any Chartered club can access and use in any way they choose.

You will hear more about it in the upcoming months. In the short term, if you or any IOBG Member you know has had successful experience in capital campaigns, or setting up and funding youth programs of any sort, we WANT to get you involved in this program. Please call me at 843-412-0137 or email me at davekowert@bellsouth.net and I’ll send you a very short questionnaire that will let you share your areas of expertise for our database. In addition, we will send you materials as they are developed for comments and suggestions.

We all know that these programs are expensive and many yacht clubs end up burning members out as they try to keep the funding needed to sustain such important programs. Wouldn’t it be amazing if IOBG as an organization could provide a resource or resources that help ease this pressure just a-bit? That’s the vision ... and we hope many of you will relate to it and help us make it successful.

Stay tuned for more information in the next LOG and reach out if you are moved to get involved. Lets DO this together!!!!

Respectfully submitted: Dave Kowert. Second Vice President



NORTH CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT

ROGER DUTTON

Hello all,

North Central Area VP. Districts 7, 9, 23, 25 - Rodger Dutton

Looks like Spring is coming early and many in the Area are preparing for an early launch here in the Great Lakes.

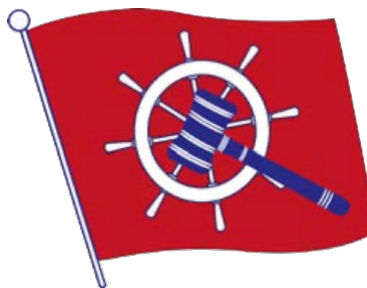
My home port is Monroe Boat Club on the Western Basin of Lake Erie. A great club, open year around with deep water dockage. It's a great club that makes boating affordable in these salt free waters. The Blue Gavel is very active here and in the entire North Central Area. We are excited to be close to the Annual meeting location at Put N Bay, October 10th through the 13th. Save the date as it is sure to be a great weekend at the Bay as our President Elect, Steve Huber, moves up to President!

Our Area continues to attract new members and we have a couple new members from District 23, the St Joseph River Yacht Club on Lake Michigan. Welcome, as we hope to attract more from this District.

If you have any questions or comments about Blue Gavel please let me know. Hoping a successful smooth launch for all coming soon.

Sincerely,

Rodger Dutton - North Central Area Vice President





NORTHWEST VICE PRESIDENT

DEAN SMITH

Spring is trying to return to the Pacific Northwest. In western Washington, the daffodils are dodging between sunny days in the low 50's and other days with threats of light snow and freezing rain. Next month's District 1 Spring Meeting should see temperatures around 10 degrees warmer, though still breezy and cool with Puget Sound's moderating influence.

District 1: Dean Smith, District 1 President

District 1 is growing again! Last month we welcomed our newest member, Art Hammon, Staff Commodore for Kingston Cove Yacht Club in Washington. (See Cover) Art joins a very strong and active Chapter from KCYC, which pays for the first year of membership for a new IOBG inductee – certainly a positive recruiting tool.

Planning for our Spring Meeting in Port Townsend, WA continues. We're adding an online registration option – a first for us, and one we know that other districts have used successfully. Paper cheques seem so outdated these days...

Speaking of history, I was very happy to return to my original club, Pearl Harbor Yacht Club, to help them celebrate their centennial. The club has a very storied past, albeit with a long gap in activities after December 7th, 1941. Founded in 1924, the club included many of the island's most famous families and visitors, including Duke Kahanamoku, Lt Col (later General) George S. Patton, and Hollywood Director John Ford. Cathleen and I truly appreciated our brief return to the land of Aloha, and the rich camaraderie that exists in District 6.



New IOBG Member, Art Hammon with D1 President Dean Smith and D1 Exec Sec't'y Mary Nye Meyers



District 1 IOBG & Auxiliary Members In Walla Walla

SOUTHEAST VICE PRESIDENT MARK CAIN

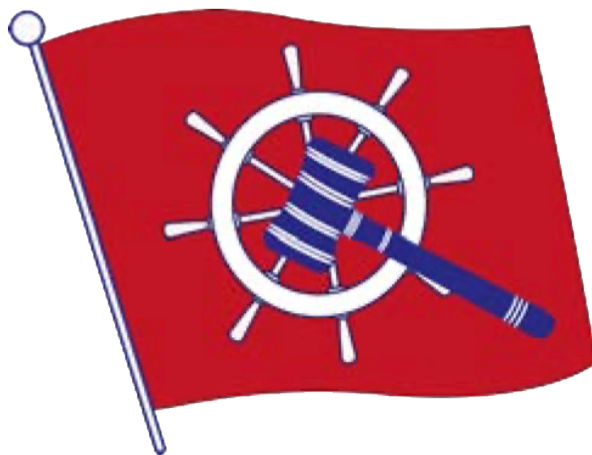
Here we go again, time to get your boats and docks ready to go. It's almost spring and great boating weather ahead "soon I hope". Most IOBG members have been enjoying change of watch events and bowling banquets, some of headed south.

I had the opportunity to head south and enjoy some warm weather and meet some great IOBG members from Florida what a great experience. I got the opportunity to visit some of the clubs like St Augustine's they are building a new sailing center at their club at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are accomplishing this through active participation of their IOBG past commodores at the St. Augustine's yacht club.

IOBG district 8 President Barbara Wood Dolan is heading up the project, what a great visionary. Their doing this so they encourage participation in their youth sailing programs to keep them and their families' active in the club and boating community. They are experiencing great success with these programs, having to build relationships within the city to achieve their goals and they are doing it! It's been great to witness how well past commodores can come together to accomplish such an inspirational project.

It was interesting to see the leaders have the motivation to encourage youth to get involved and visualize a project that enable's the yacht club members, members of city council, administers and families to create a synergy that increased everyone's involvement that is leading to the success of a great project, that will help in the future development of not only young sailors but also strengthening the future of our communities where we live, work, and enjoy.

A special thanks to these inspirational leaders of our boating community. It's time to get on board and support programs like these!



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING 2024 PUT IN BAY, OHIO OCTOBER 10-13 2024

MORE INFORMATION SOON!



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

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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: _____