

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

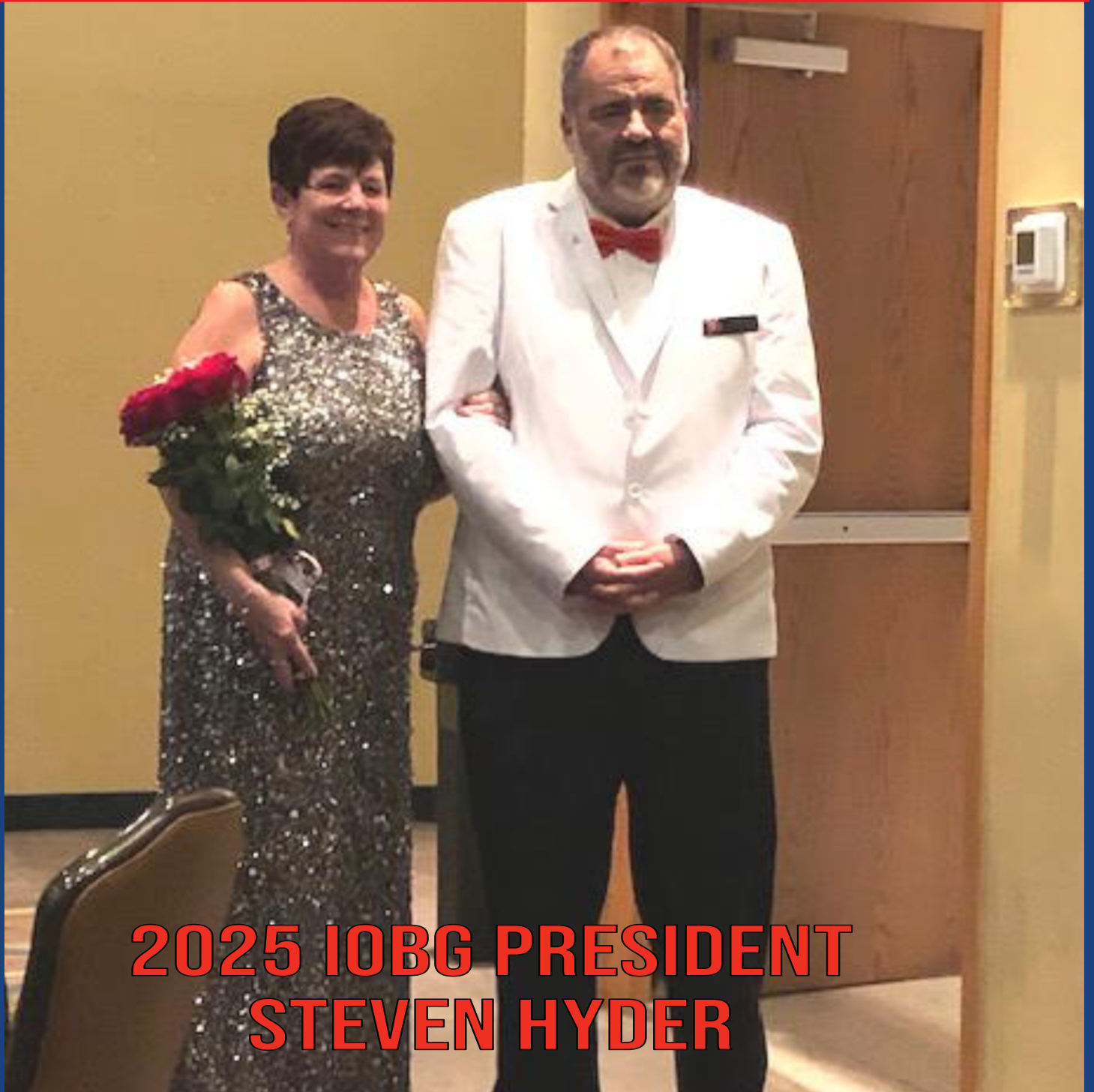
Of The
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL
An Association of Past Commodores

Volume: 47 No.: 1

January/February 2025

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.



**2025 IOBG PRESIDENT
STEVEN HYDER**

2025 IOBG DIRECTORY

REFLECTS UPDATES RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 2024

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Steve Hyder
Jack Skidmore

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Marsha Landreth
Dave Kowert
Jack Skidmore

ANNUAL MEETING 2024

Robert "Buzz" Bisanz

ELECTIONS

Marsha Landreth
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Marsha Landreth (Chair)
Steve Hyder
Kathleen Jo Smith

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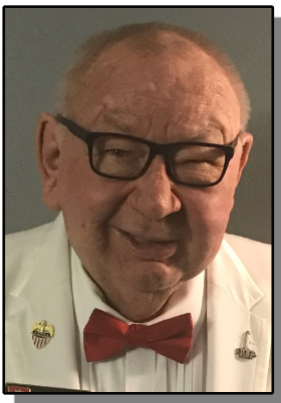
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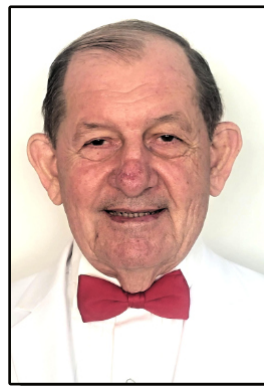
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PRESIDENT ELECT

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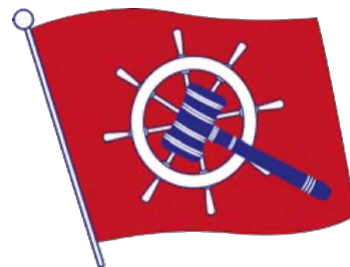
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ANNUAL CONVENTION 2024 PUT IN BAY, OHIO





IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MARSHA LANDRETH

It seems like just yesterday I sat down to write my remarks for the banquet last year and here it is time to write my closing report. Many things have happened this year, but first of all, I owe a debt of gratitude to so many people who were instrumental in making the year run smoothly.

Kathy McCarthy processed over 1,500 membership cards for IOBG this year and has agreed to process them again next year. Processing the membership cards and sending them out is a huge time commitment, and I can't thank her enough for volunteering.

Also, I want to thank John Gaddis for the five Logs he published for IOBG this year. He wanted to get out one more before the convention, but the Executive Board decided to wait until after the convention at Put-In Bay to have more articles and pictures. BZ, John!

Judge Advocate Thomas "Joe" Dowdell had to do more than his share of pro bono legal work for IOBG this year. Thank you, Joe, for digging out those law books and listening to all sides of the many legal issues this year.



Early in the year the appointed Recording Secretary had carpal tunnel surgery, forcing him to resign. Nancy Bisanz filled in taking the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings for a couple of months, and then Joe Dowdell determined that because we had another spouse of a member as the Recording Secretary in the past years, we could appoint Nancy as the official Recording Secretary. What a wonderful thing that was! Nancy had the minutes from the meetings out almost before I could disconnect from the Zoom meeting. Thank you, Nancy.

Buzz Bisanz took on three tasks for IOBG this year. He worked hard with Josh Wagner to get the Website up and running; he was the liaison to the past presidents, and he facilitated the monthly Zoom meetings. Thank you, Buzz. The problem with thanking people is that you are always going to forget someone. Suffice it to say, that plenty of people pitched in to make it a great year.

Still on our plate is the need to renew the IOBG trademark by next October; nevertheless, we did accomplish a number of things this year. We issued a seize-and-desist order to a company using the IOBG logo without our permission. It is perfectly fine if you initiate having a trophy store or embroidery shop use the IOBG logo on something you are purchasing; however, an entity cannot initiate the sale of anything with IOBG logo.

IOBG established two new chapters, one in District 1, and another in District 27. Another in District 20

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was reactivated, and we are discussing a new district in the Chesapeake area.

The Executive Committee asked the Districts to have elections each year, and asked that each chapter should take a vote on each new candidate. Many chapters think the candidate's appointment is automatic, but it turns out to be a nightmare if someone is determined to keep another PC from joining IOBG. We stopped the practice of funding gifts the outgoing president gives to the officers or the officers giving to the outgoing president. The one big expenditure we made, which was authorized by the Board of Directors at the last annual meeting, was to replace Lahaina Yacht Club's flagpole.

I would like to remind each of you that the International needs volunteers to step up. If you have a special talent or are simply willing to take an appointed office, let me or someone on the Executive Committee know. To be elected to an Area Vice President or to be a member of the Executive Committee you first need to be a District Director. The District Director's job is to come to the annual meeting and vote for the district. Someone once explained the difference between the District Director and District President as being Senator (Director) or Governor (President). Sometimes there aren't enough members in the pool of past directors. To alleviate this problem, please elect a new director each year. The Executive Committee meets by Zoom once a month and asks the Area Vice Presidents to audit the meetings in order to report back to the Directors in their area.

Thank you for allowing me to be your International President last year. It has been the honor of my life.

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www.commodoreinsignia.com



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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: _____

SAVE THE DATE

Ahoy All IOBG members,

Plans have been made for us to conduct our annual IOBG meeting during the dates of October 23 thru October 26, 2025.

Location will be on the Cruise Ship operated by MSC Cruises SA USA based in Port Canaveral, FL. The airport servicing this cruise is Orlando, FL.

This 3-night cruise will be to two ports in the Bahamas giving us enough time to enjoy a leisurely cruise along with conducting IOBG business.

Marsha Landreth has volunteered to be our IOBG cruise guide as she has multiple trips on various cruise lines over the years. Please look forward to reading her emails and/or answering her phone calls in the next couple of days. Marsha will provide detailed information on making your reservations for our meeting.



The signup with the Cruise line will be conducted directly between you and the reservations desk at MSC Cruise line. Marsha will provide you with details.

Please make your reservations within the next few days with the Cruise line. We want to make this IOBG meeting a success and that can't happen unless you are in attendance.

Looking forward to your joining us on this cruise with members of IOBG.

Regards,

Buzz
Robert P. Bisanz, Col.
President Elect - International Order of the Blue Gavel

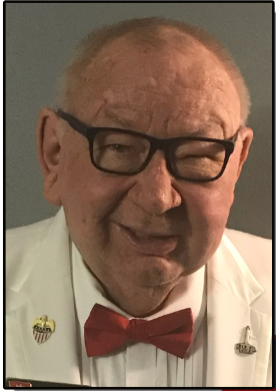
From Marsha:

Dear IOBG Members,

I will be the point person for securing the information you might need for booking your cruise. Although two categories of cabins are listed, you can also book an ocean view for around \$758.12 and a suite for \$1398.12. These prices are for two people in a room. If you are going to be in the cabin alone, the price is lower, but not 50% lower as they charge a supplement.

The nearest airport is Orlando International. You can buy a transfer to the ship. Give me a call at 805-889-0054 if you have questions.

Marsha Landreth, PP



PRESIDENT - ELECT REPORT

ROBERT P. (BUZZ) BISANZ, COL.

During this past year, I was assigned the position of managing the IOBG Website. In that capacity IOBG hired the expertise of Josh Wagner as webmaster. That job was to create the website and grow the site as we directed from the Executive Committee level within IOBG. Josh did a great job for IOBG and in the report below you will see stats on the condition of the website. You will note that your input is greatly needed in keeping our site updated.

In the new year of 2024-2025 our new IOBG President Steve Hyder has replaced me with Jeff Upholzer (jeff@upholzer.com). All of your District officer updates should be sent to Jeff for inclusion on our IOBG Website.

Now, please see the report on the utilization of our 2024 IOBG website as reported by Josh Wagner our Website creator.

IOBG Website Report - Webmaster Update

As the webmaster of iobg.org, I have been responsible for the creation and ongoing management of the site. After initially launching the website, I returned to oversee its maintenance and technical functionality. My primary focus has been ensuring the site remains fully operational, including regular updates and troubleshooting any issues that arise.

1. Newsletter Campaigns - "The Log"

A significant part of my responsibility includes managing our newsletters, particularly "The Log," which is distributed to members regularly. Over the past year, we have seen substantial changes in both the list size and overall engagement rates. Here's a breakdown of our newsletter statistics:

- **List Verification and Updates:**

A year ago, I conducted a thorough verification of our member list, ensuring accuracy and up-to-date contacts. Recently, two months ago, I added a new list, which has resulted in changes to the numbers, both in total recipients and overall engagement.

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• **Open and Click Rates:**

The table below highlights the key performance indicators (KPIs) for our recent email campaigns:

Newsletter Name	Total Recipients	Open Rate	Click Rate	Unsubscribe Rate	Bounce Rate
Update on the Nominations	1,467	25.09% (368)	15.06% (221)	0.14% (2)	0%
Committee Report (No Title - August 2024)	2,122	16.54% (351)	4.9% (104)	0%	0%
(No Title - June 2024)	2,126	19.61% (417)	9.45% (201)	0%	0%
IOBG Nominating Committee Announcement	2,129	17.66% (376)	7.56% (161)	0%	0%
IOBG March/April 2024 Log	2,130	22.44% (478)	12.21% (260)	0%	0%
IOBG Jan/Feb 2024 Log	2,115	19.66% (417)	8.33% (177)	0%	0%
Explore the Latest Insights: IOBG Jan/Feb 2024	2,124	19.09% (409)	9.57% (205)	0%	0%
November 2023 Blue Gavel Newsletter (2)	2,113 (452)	20.56% (246)	11.19% (12)	0.55%	0%
November 2023 Blue Gavel Newsletter	52	21.15% (11)	17.31% (9)	0%	0%
Test	2	0%	0%	0%	0%

Key Observations:

The Update on the Nominations Committee Report (August 28, 2024) performed well, with a solid 25.09% open rate and 15.06% click rate.

We experienced some fluctuations in engagement, such as in the untitled campaign on August 13, 2024, which had a lower open rate of 16.54% and a click rate of 4.9%.

The IOBG March/April 2024 Log Inside! campaign saw an open rate of 22.44% and a strong click rate of 12.21%.

The November 2023 Blue Gavel Newsletter (second campaign) showed a slight increase in both open (20.56%) and click rates (11.19%) compared to previous months.

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Overall, the campaigns are performing well, with most newsletters maintaining open rates in the 19-25% range, and click rates averaging between 7-15%. The unsubscribe and bounce rates remain minimal, indicating strong member retention and effective list management.

2. District Information and Website Updates

One of the more persistent challenges has been the update of district information. I rely on timely submissions from the respective districts to keep their details current. While some districts have been updated with fresh information, several others still display content from the old site.

Challenges:

The current issue lies in the inconsistent provision of district updates. My efforts are focused on updating the information provided as soon as it is received, but gaps remain due to the lack of submissions from several districts.

- Recommendation: A formal reminder or system to prompt districts for regular updates might help mitigate this issue.

3. Old Website Maintenance

Although the old website is no longer publicly accessible, it remains fully intact underneath the current version. This approach ensures that no data or previous content is lost, should it ever be required. However, its inaccessibility to the public ensures that the focus remains on the current, up-to-date version of the site.

4. Site Maintenance

I am responsible for ensuring all plugins, integrations, and technical aspects of the website remain functional and up-to-date. This includes:

- Routine plugin updates
- Security checks to ensure the site is protected from potential threats
- Regular backups to safeguard all data and content

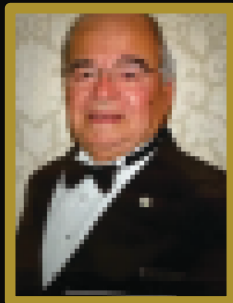
In conclusion, the website is running smoothly with all essential functions intact. The primary focus moving forward will be ensuring all district information is up-to-date and continuing to optimize engagement with our newsletters, particularly "The Log."

If there are any additional requests or recommendations regarding content updates or technical adjustments, I am happy to accommodate them.

Joshua Wagner
IOBG.org Webmaster

IN MEMORIAM

LAWRENCE ELI INGUAGIATO, JR.
OCTOBER 24, 1947 - OCTOBER 10, 2024

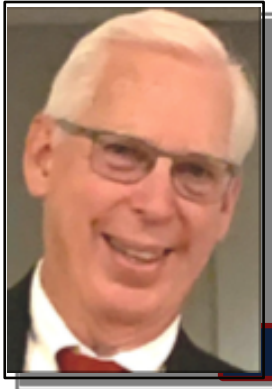


LAWRENCE E. INGUAGIATO, JR., 76, DIED PEACEFULLY ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024 UNDER HOSPICE CARE IN LEHIGH ACRES, FL, WITH HIS DEVOTED WIFE BESIDE HIM. BORN IN NEW ORLEANS, LA TO THE LATE LAWRENCE AND LILLIAN (GEGENHEIMER) INGUAGIATO. HE WAS A RECENT RESIDENT OF CAPE CORAL, FL, ALTHOUGH RESIDED IN PERRYSBURG, OH FOR MANY YEARS. GROWING UP IN LOUISIANA, LARRY SPENT MUCH OF HIS TIME ON THE WATERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA AND GULF COAST. HE GRADUATED FROM LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN 1970. DURING HIS TIME THERE HE MET MARY KATHRYN (KAY) (COULTER) INGUAGIATO HIS MUCH BELOVED WIFE OF 54 YEARS.

HE WORKED AS AN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER AT A GLASS MANUFACTURING PLANT AND TRANSITIONED INTO BENEFITS AND LABOR RELATIONS FOR PILKINGTON GLASS (FORMERLY LOF), RETIRING IN 2006. LARRY WAS INTERESTED IN COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY; HOWEVER IN RETIREMENT HE RECONNECTED WITH HIS LOVE OF BOATING, NAVIGATING THE WATERS OF LAKE ERIE WITH HIS WIFE ABOARD THEIR BOAT VINTAGE. HE WAS A DEDICATED BOATER ATTENDING REGATTAS AND CLUB EVENTS ACROSS THE LAKE ERIE BOATING COMMUNITIES AND SERVED AS COMMODORE OF INDIAN HILL BOAT CLUB, FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND POWER FLEET CAPTAIN OF MONROE BOAT CLUB, AND DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL (IOBG). LARRY WAS PARTICULARLY PROUD OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AS PRESIDENT OF THE IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOCUSED ON PROMOTING BOATING AND BROADENING ITS ACCESS TO NOVEL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPONSORSHIP OF BOATING SKILLS TRAININGS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

LARRY WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY HIS WIFE MARY KAY, THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN LAW; LAWRENCE (LARRY) AND JANICE (JAN) (VAN DEUSEN) INGUAGIATO, III OF MOUNT PLEASANT, SC, JAMES (JIM) AND ASHLEY (MEFFORD) INGUAGIATO OF ERIE, CO, AND JOHN AND MICHELLE (D'ACOSTA) INGUAGIATO OF WILBRAHAM, MA, AND GRANDCHILDREN; JESSIE, KAITLYN, AVA, JOHN (JACK), LUCAS, AND MICHAEL INGUAGIATO. LARRY JOINS HIS LATE PARENTS AND DAUGHTER SARAH MARIE INGUAGIATO IN HEAVEN.

VISITATION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2024 FROM 2-8 P.M. WITH AN IOBG CEREMONY FROM 7-7:30 P.M. AT WITZLER-SHANK-WALKER FUNERAL HOME, 222E. SOUTH BOUNDARY STREET, PERRYSBURG (419-874-3133) A CELEBRATION OF LIFE MASS WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M. AT SAINT ROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 215 E. FRONT STREET, PERRYSBURG. BURIAL WILL FOLLOW IN SAINT ROSE CEMETERY. A RECEPTION FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WILL FOLLOW THE BURIAL SERVICES. IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE SENT IN LARRY'S NAME TO THE IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION C/O KAREN SHEA 5027 HERRING CT. NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34652. CONDOLENCES MAY BE MADE ONLINE TO THE FAMILY AT WWW.WALKERFUNERALHOMES.COM.



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DAVE KOWERT

JUNIOR SAILORS AT ST. AUGUSTINE YACHT CLUB TAKE A WELL-DESERVED BREAK ON A PICNIC AT CONCH ISLAND.



Well, despite the minor (i.e., “non-fatal”) heart problem of our layout artist, the July/August issue of The Gulfstream finally went out. The issue is chock-full, with 9 pages of Convention news, including things to do and see in Put-In-Bay, along with weather prognostications for mid-October and instructions for viewing dozens of Put-In-Bay videos on YouTube.

BOATS FROM THE COCKTAIL CLASS WOODEN BOAT ASSOCIATION (CCWBA) COMPETE AT MARYLAND YACHT CLUB. THE BOATS ARE MADE OF PLYWOOD AND HAVE OUTBOARD ENGINES RANGING FROM 6 TO 8 HORSEPOWER.



If you haven't heard about it yet, The Gulfstream is “unofficial “news magazine” of the Eastern IOBG regions. It's published every other month (6 times a year) and its “unofficial” status means it does not receive funds from the national IOBG, or any chapter or district.

If you haven't seen this free, independent publication, send me an email, and I'll send you this special “Convention Issue” right away.

Maybe it's because of the additional communication here in the East or maybe it's just dumb luck, but we're hearing from people we haven't heard from in a while. District 27 Director Carl Treff sent information and color photos about his home Maryland Yacht Club while juggling his responsibilities for the establishment of the brand- new National Potomac Yacht Club Chapter being promoted by P/C Harold Seigel (known to his friends as “H”). And the regular “Academy of Yachting” slot was filled by 2nd VP P/C Dave Kowert's article on leadership and the importance of mentoring young people.

District 3 Director Steve Tiscack is a regular contributor to the “Eastern” cause, and can always be counted on for information and support. And, speaking of the Eastern Region—the regular feature “Cap'n Kelly's Lucky Bag” (“a compendium of this ‘n' that”) took readers back to the founding of United States Power Squadrons at the Boston Yacht Club and its link to the yacht club world.



MEMBERS ENJOY A COOKOUT AT NATIONAL CAPITAL YACHT CLUB, A SOON-TO-BE IOBG CHAPTER.

Finally, the Southeast is alive and well with St. Augustine Yacht Club once again leading the way with a story and color photos of its youth sailing program.

On the whole, IOBG east of the Mississippi is doing just fine, thank you!



DEAN SMITH

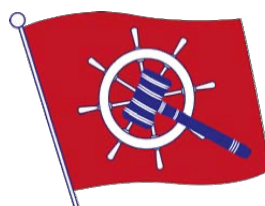
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

I am honored to serve as IOBG's Second Vice President this coming year and to assist the Executive Committee in serving you, the members of IOBG.

My background includes 20 years of service in the U.S. Navy, followed by another 20 years working within the federal government. While living on Oahu, I was the Commodore of the Pearl Harbor Yacht Club in 2009 and again 2010, and I joined IOBG District 6 in 2011. In 2012, my job brought me back to the mainland and, after several work-related moves across the U.S., I joined District 1 in 2019 after retiring and moving to Washington State. I am now a member of Kingston Cove Yacht Club and served as District 1's President for two years and as the Northwestern Area Vice President this past year.

As Second Vice President, I look forward to assisting the President, coordinating public relations, and updating the IOBG brochure. I will also work closely with the Southwest and Northwest Area Vice Presidents, as well as the Director of District 51. All three positions are currently open, and we are actively seeking interested applicants.

I am eager to learn more about each of IOBG's Districts—your successes and how the rest of IOBG can support you in engaging with and serving your membership. I believe the Executive Committee can strengthen communication within the organization, and we can achieve this through transparency of actions and continuity of our initiatives. Please share your thoughts, concerns, and recommendations throughout the year, and be sure to read the Log and check our website for the latest information





EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

PHIL LACOURSE

Greetings to all of you,

Congratulations to incoming IOBG International President Steve Hyder and to all of the incoming Officers of the International IOBG. The Annual Meeting and transition were wonderful and enlightening. Personally meeting with all of the past Offices and the new Officers within the organization was a delight and their welcoming to me was very gracious. Also, congratulations to all of the newly elected District and Chapter Officers from all of our areas.

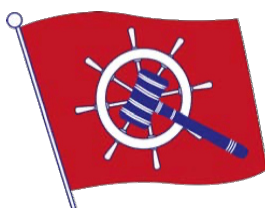
I am looking forward to my new position as IOBG Executive Secretary and working with so many great leaders and to continue the good work of the IOBG and continued growth within the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

I would also like to encourage all of our District Vice Presidents to continue their good work in encouraging growth in all their Chapter Clubs. This growth to each Chapter continues by inviting all qualified new Past Commodores and to reach out to other qualified PC's within their areas to invite them into or back into their Chapters and our organization.

I also want to welcome into the IOBG two new Chapter Members. They are the: Michigan Ohio Power Boat Association based in Gross Isl Michigan District 25 and the National Potomac Yacht Club based out of the Annapolis Maryland area District 27.

In closing, I would like to thank all of those that have confidence in me to fulfill this role and again I look forward to serving you and the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

Good wishes to all of you,
Philip LaCourse





IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

LEE J. HOMYOCK

“The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation provides the boating community with the ability to create real differences in others’ lives. The foundation provides resources to existing charities and benefits communities through new initiatives involving boating activities and education.” The Humanitarian Foundation has a long history of providing support to boating and educational initiatives within the community.

Board of Directors

P.C. Lee J. Homyock – President

P.C. John Gaddis - Vice President

P.C. Linda Leff- Secretary

P.C. Karen Shea -Treasurer & C.F.O.

P.C. Susan Rodriguez – Director

P.C. Jack White – Director and Accountant

P.C. Lloyd Bogue

P.C. Buzz Bisanz – IOBG Liaison

How Can You Help?

At this time the IOBGHF has 4 Director vacancies which need to be filled.

Become a Director of the Board. The IOBGHF is a volunteer organization, which depends on generous contributions of time and talent. The IOBGHF needs people can participate in

the administration and operation of the IOBGHF.

We would prefer members to represent the Regions of; South Eastern, North Western, North Eastern or Canada to enable regional balance.

As a Foundation Director, you will have several important responsibilities, such as:

- Promoting the Humanitarian Foundations Fund Raising Opportunities
- Promoting and Recruiting Organizations to apply for Local Area Project (LAP) Grants.
- Participating in the Humanitarian Foundations monthly meeting (via Zoom call).

Please consider serving as a Director, as the success of the International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation depends on participation of members such as yourself. If you are or know someone who may be interested in serving, please contact P.C. Lee Homyock at leehomyock@att.net

Local Area Projects 2024

In 2024 provided two Local Area Projects:

- A \$1500.00 grant was awarded to The Detroit Sailing Center for their Wind Challenge Youth Sailing Program.

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- A \$1000.00 grant was awarded to the Catawba Island Club Blue Gavel for Voyage for Veterans Project.

We hope to increase participation and encourage all members to apply for or refer those organizations in need of financial help to contact us.

Information, applications & requirements can be obtained by contacting leehomyock@att.net or by downloading an online application from the IOBGHF Website.

Website

The Humanitarian has been working to activate our new IOBGHF Website. Having a operating website is vital to promoting the Humanitarian Foundation's mission. We hope to have it up by the Annual Conference.

Editors Note: The new website is up for those who would like to take advantage of the grants the Humanitarian Fund offers. Go to www.iobghf.org.

Financials

The Humanitarian Foundation had a 2024 beginning balance of \$48,831.31. As of September 13, 2024, the balance of funds is \$46,532.37 with a net loss of \$2,298.94.

California Tax Exempt Status 501C7 has been reinstated.

The Foundation will be receiving \$20,000.00 from the Estate of Audrey Hall. The Estate's Council is preparing his final report and will forwarding funds in the near future.

Contribute

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the IOBGHF. Donations can be sent to the IOBGHF c/o P/C Karen Shea, 5027 Herring Ct, New Port Richey, FL 34652

Catch our spirit and make hope a reality, you can make a. The opportunity to make a difference for another's life is one of the greater human satisfactions. The IOBFGHF is committed to provide opportunities for participation for people to conveniently select a cause, which means something special to them. We invite you to make a world of difference, catch our spirit and make hope a reality.

Respectfully Submitted

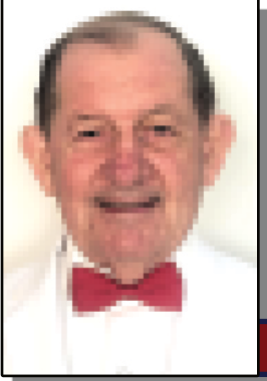
Lee J. Homyock

P.C Lee J. Homyock

President

International Organization of the Blue Gavel
Humanitarian Foundation





TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER JACK SKIDMORE

TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY 31, 2024

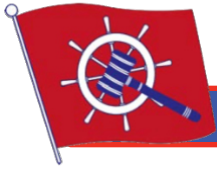
IN JUNE FUNDS WERE TRANSFERRED TO CD'S AT CHASE BANKS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HIGHER INTEREST RATES AVAILABLE. THIS BROUGHT OUR ACCOUNT BALANCES TO THE FOLLOWING:

OPERATING CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 16,861.61
BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 50,368.82
60 DAY CD	\$ 50,000.00
270 DAY CD	\$ 150,000.00
TOTAL CASH BALANCE	\$ 267,230.43

INTEREST ON THE CD'S IS ACCRUING AND WILL BE POSTED ON THE DATE OF MATURITY.

TOTAL DEPOSITS TO THE OPERATING ACCOUNT HAVE BEEN \$35,441.25. DEPOSITS AND EXPENDITURES TO DATE ARE IN LINE WITH THE BUDGET.

THE MAJORITY OF IOBG EXPENSES OCCUR THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR AND OUR MONTHLY EXPENSES ARE NOMINAL.



DISTRICT NEWS

District 1: Washington State

District 1's membership is stable at 52 members. The District recruited several new members this past year, but also lost three members who passed away. They successfully recruited a new chapter at Duwamish Yacht Club, which received its IOBG charter in June.

The District participated in several social activities, mainly in the spring, including the Seattle Yacht Club's Opening Day in May - where our IOBG burgee flew alongside 38 other clubs - as well as the Tacoma Daffodil Festival and the South Sound Opening Day. The District also held their annual summer picnic at Spokane Yacht Club, along the Washington-Idaho border at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.



District 1 continued to hold monthly board meetings via video, which were open to the entire membership. The new President indicated he may reduce these to bi-monthly meetings, which is probably a good idea for the slower winter months. Similarly, the District skips the monthly meetings that follow in-person membership meetings in the spring and fall.

The spring membership meeting at Port Townsend Yacht Club in April and the fall change of watch at Des Moines Yacht Club (south of Seattle - not in Iowa!) were well attended, and the District continued to offer a video link to the meeting for members unable to attend in person. This was extremely useful for me, as I was called away to a family funeral in California but was able to virtually turnover my duties as President. Several of the District's newer members accepted positions on the board, which bodes well for succession planning through the coming years.

In addition to the video links to spring and fall meetings, the District continued online registration and online payment - via credit card, with a small charge for transaction fees - for member meetings, something which now accounts for half of the registrations. The District also continues accepting online renewals for

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members, and hopes to have an online application process for Past Commodores who are invited to join IOBG.

The District does not have a newsletter, but submitted articles for all four of this year's Log newsletters.

District 1's Auxiliary continues to meet in conjunction with the membership meetings, and raises funds to support local charities. The District hasn't applied for Humanitarian Foundation funds, but is aware of them and may do so in the coming year.

District 1 held our Fall General Meeting and Change of Watch at Des Moines Yacht Club (DMYC), south of Seattle. Members gathered on Friday evening, September 20th for a delicious barbecue, and then our General Meeting on Saturday morning, where Alan Kester was elected to relieve Dean Smith as District President. On Saturday afternoon, members and the Auxiliary attended a US Power Squadron lecture on the diverse types of standard and new digital Visual Distress Signals (VDS), followed by interactive demonstrations on the use of live handheld and aerial flares. A catered dinner that evening, with induction of the new officers, capped off the weekend.



As the weather turns colder, we remember it was just a few months ago that we enjoyed the District's Summer Picnic at Spokane Yacht Club, along the banks of the Spokane River in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (just across the state line with Washington). Members enjoyed a cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene, followed by a tasty, catered barbecue at the yacht club while watching recreational boaters on the river in the mid-summer late afternoon.

Lastly, the District has a new Facebook site at "District 1 - International Order of the Blue Gavel", where these and other pictures are posted. District 1 continues recruiting new members throughout the state of Washington.

Butch Brown
District One Director

District 4: Vancouver, BC

West Vancouver Yacht Club recently contacted me, and said they were interested in restarting an IOBG Chapter at their club. I will work with them next week, after returning from the Annual meeting.

District 5: Oregon

Chapters at the Portland and Columbia River Yacht Clubs continue to be inactive. This is an item (again) for the NWAVP to attempt to restart in 2025. Both clubs are members of the Columbia River Yachting Association's 19 yacht clubs, so there is considerable possibility for reinvigorating the District.

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DISTRICT 7: Ohio, East of Sandusky & Western Pennsylvania

District 7 is doing well, our membership is up this year.

We partner with other yachting organizations such as the Inner Lakes Yachting Association and The Greater Cleveland Boating Association and we work with each other to have events together. Board members from all these organizations have been on each others boards at one time or another and most members of these other organizations are also members of Blue Gavel. We all try to work together for the betterment of boating.

Each year we all participate in a Memorial Day Service in Cleveland aboard the USS COD, a World War II Submarine. It is a very moving event.

We also had a Cooler of cheer raffle this year to help raise money for District 7, that worked out very well.

Respectfully Submitted

Lewie Kuhn
District 7 Director.

DISTRICT 14: San Francisco Bay, California

Renewals continue to come in a few at a time. But as long as past members continue to renew that is good news.

We started the year a bit early with a Christmas lunch at Alameda YC. Our President, Reg Smith, laid out one of his fabulous salad bars & our V-P & host, Erich Schoenwisner, generously provided a lavish sandwich board. Director Liz Allison took care of desert.

We are looking forward to the late February joint installation meeting & brunch with D-19, our sister district on our East side, at the gorgeous Discovery Bay YC. Making this a special gathering will be IOBG International 2nd V-P Dean Smith joining us, in person, from the Seattle area.

In April we are trying out something new. It is not a YC event of any kind but a train ride. We have in our district a restoration railroad that offers rides through an undeveloped canyon. It is in the San Francisco Bay Area and once in the canyon you would think you were far from civilization. The train is pulled by historic old engines including steam. We hope to rent the caboose just for us.

Of course April is Opening Day season & we will be participating.

Liz Allison

DISTRICT 16: Channel Islands, California

Attached is the District 16 2025 elected officers, with pictures from our Holiday Party, General Meeting and Elections. Unfortunately, as you can see in the attached document, we have lost a long time IOBG member, recently elected Co-Treasurer of District 16, and Past Commodore of Harbour Island Yacht Club, friend, and mentor Iris Siegel. Iris passed away on January 8th in the hospital. She will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Iris's friends and family.

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International Order of the Blue Gavel

AREAS & DISTRICTS

NORTHWESTERN AREA

District #1 - Alaska & Washington
District #2 - Vancouver Island, Canada
District #4 - Province of Vancouver, Canada
District #5 - Oregon & Southwest Washington
District #24 - Okanagan, British Columbia, Canada

SOUTHWESTERN AREA

District #6 - Hawaii & Guam
District #10 - Hawaii & Guam
District #11 - Santa Monica, California
District #14 - San Francisco Bay, California
District #15 - San Diego, California
District #16 - Channel Islands, California
District #19 - Delta Area, California
District #21 - Orange Coast, California

NORTH CENTRAL AREA

District #7 - Ohio, East of Sandusky & Western Pennsylvania
District #9 - Southeast Michigan & Western Ohio
District #23 - Upper & Western Michigan
District #25 - Northeast Michigan

NORTHEASTERN AREA

District #3 - Southeast Ontario, Canada & Western New York
District #12 - New Jersey
District #20 - Eastern New York & Delaware
District #22 - Southern New Jersey
District #26 - Long Island Sound, New York
District #27 - Maryland, Chesapeake Bay

SOUTHEASTERN AREA

District #8 - Florida & Mobile Bay
District #18 North & South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee & Alabama

EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

District #50 - (Unless assigned to an established District above)

WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

District #51 - (Unless assigned to an established District above)

ENGLAND

District #70

NEW ZEALAND

District #75

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On a brighter note, 2024 was a good year for IOBG District 16. We had our summer BBQ at Ventura Yacht Club that was well attended by members and family. The Bridge and board members cooked and served our guest. Music by Channel Islands Yacht Club member John Medlen.

We had several mixers during the year. Our members also participated in a Charity event to support The Reel Guppy's Program based here in Channel Islands Harbor and supporting youth programs throughout Ventura County. One of their original programs was taking kids out fishing, teaching them a skill and educating them on becoming good stewards of our ocean. The event hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club raised in excess of \$28,000.00 for the charity.



Our last event of 2024 was our Holiday Party, General Membership Meeting and Election held at the Waterside Restaurant in Channel Islands Harbor.

We look forward to a successful 2025 as we reach out to new charter members in the Northern portion of District 16 territory. Stay tuned to future IOBG District 16 newsletters.

Gary Gallinot
President, IOBG District 16



International Order of the Blue Gavel
Post Office Box 131
Port Hueneme, CA 93044

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED