

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

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Spring 2026

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.

CHANGE OF WATCH AT THE PUNTA GORDA YACHT CLUB



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International Order of the Blue Gavel AREA VP'S AND DISTRICTS



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DISTRICT 20 OPEN

DISTRICT 22 OPEN

DISTRICT 26 OPEN

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

ROBERT P. (BUZZ) BISANZ, COL.

First let me thank everyone for your support in placing me in the position of International President. I think it is important that you know a little about my yacht club background. I had published some of this information in the past but I think it is important enough to share with you as I start my second term as IOBG International President.

The following is a summary of my history as a member of a yacht club in the Atlanta, GA area. I have been a member of this IOBG organization since 2005 after serving my qualifying term as the Commodore of Allatoona Yacht Club in Georgia in 1987 and again in 1991. My wife Nancy and I own a floating house moored at the Allatoona Yacht Club. We joined our club in 1982 and have been members since that time. We have four grown boys who grew up in and on the water either fishing, swimming or water skiing. In fact our twin boys were water skiing at the age of 2 ½.

My life in Blue Gavel started as a member assigned to District 50 not hearing about District 18 for about 2 years. After hearing about District 18 I became a member of that District which today is my home District. My service in the leadership role in the District began by serving 2 years as District Vice President, 2 years as District President, 2 years as District Director, an additional 2 years as District Director while serving 2 years as Southeast Area Vice President then I moved into the International leadership rotation. I served the usual 1 year as International 2nd Vice President, 1 year as 1st Vice President, 1 year as President Elect and in 2020 - 2021 your International President. I also served 3 years as a Board member of the International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation. One of those years I served as its Vice President. I had to resign from the Foundation at the time I was nominated for International 2nd Vice President. My service as Southeast Area Vice President included the territory of Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. The area was geographically spread out and that caused challenges in providing proper coverage and support. But we did have fun attending meetings across the territory. I would not exchange my time in the SE Area as we met many fellow Blue Gavel members and visited many yacht clubs and boating clubs that we would otherwise not have visited.

Since 2021 my IOBG leadership service continued as a Past President. I served as the Past Presidents' Liaison between the Executive Committee and the Past Presidents and for 2 years with the Humanitarian Foundation. I also conducted the ZOOM meetings for the Executive Committee and Foundation for the past 3 years. In 2024 – 2025 I was elected as International President Elect which lead to my position today as serving for a second time as International President. For me personally this summary brings us up to today in 2026.

Now, for an update on filling some of our open positions within the IOBG organization. The Executive Committee has appointed Richard "Butch" Brown, District 1, as our Northwest Area

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Vice President and Don Peacock, District 3, as our Northeast Area Vice President. Both individuals are long time IOBG members that have supported our organization with honor. The Executive Committee also approved Michael Krishgestner as the District Director of District 51 which represents members not associated with a Chapter West of the Mississippi River. Congratulations to these three individuals.

Please make sure you read President Elect Dave Kowert's article in this LOG. He is announcing the dates and location of this year's annual meeting in October.

New Announcement: Mark your calendar for Tuesday evening April 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM for the open IOBG Executive Committee meeting. Any member who would like to audit this meeting you are welcome to attend. I will have an open time frame at the end of the meeting for your questions if you have any. Your assigned Area Vice President will have the ZOOM call in information so contact him for this information and reserve your access to this call. The AVP email and phone information should be located within this LOG.

Please support your IOBG District activities and provide us with any questions or suggestions to the IOBG Executive Committee via your District Director and the assigned Area Vice President.

Thank you for your continued support of IOBG.

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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: _____



DAVE KOWERT

PRESIDENT ELECT REPORT

Save the Dates!!!!

Hello Fellow IOBG Members!

As promised.... I am VERY pleased to announce the location and dates of the 2026 Annual Meeting in this edition of The Log. Its been quite a few years since we located our annual meeting anywhere in the Northeast, so this year, we are going to head in that direction.

Our Annual Meeting will be held just outside of Baltimore Maryland, directly on the Chesapeake Bay at the beautiful Maryland Yacht Club on October 22-25 2026.

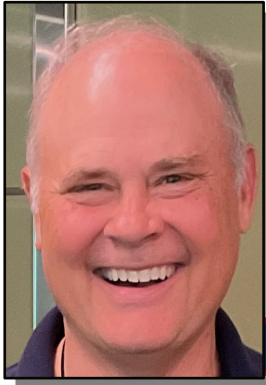
Thanks to IOBG member Carl Treff, the Maryland Yacht Club has agreed to host our event with activities schedule there throughout the weekend. We are still working on the final agenda and list of special IOBG activities (next months LOG) but this is shaping up to look like a truly special Annual Meeting. In addition to our important IOBG Meetings, you can look forward to: meeting a bunch of new Past Commodores from clubs around the Chesapeake, a guided side trip to Annapolis, a harbor cruise on the Chesapeake, dinners at Maryland Yacht Club and potentially another nearby club, an informative seminar on the importance of "Servant Leadership" at the yacht club level, and lots of social time.

The Chesapeake is beautiful at this time of the year and I sincerely hope each and every one of you will consider setting October 22-25 aside and joining IOBG Members from all around the County at this important event. Next month we will let you know which hotel we have a block of room at, and a much better agenda so you can plan accordingly.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

P/C Dave Kowert

President Elect IOBG



DEAN SMITH

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

One of the greatest privileges of serving on the Executive Committee is connecting with the outstanding members and districts that make Blue Gavel strong. In January, I joined District 8's Change of Watch virtually in Florida and, the following week, attended District 15's Change of Watch in San Diego. Both districts are highly active and fortunate to enjoy excellent boating weather this time of year—especially compared to those of us further north.

Speaking of colder climates, this past weekend I attended the US Sailing Northwest Regional Symposium at Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle. US Sailing has adopted a new Strategic Plan focused on strengthening partnerships with yachting organizations, including IOBG as an organizational member. I look forward to sharing more about potential opportunities for Blue Gavel in the next edition of The Log. In the meantime, members can receive a \$5 discount on annual US Sailing memberships through their MVP Program.

I know that a good number of members didn't receive our last Log newsletter. As we work to fix our distribution issues, I also ask that members ensure their district has the most updated email address for them. Treasurer Kathy McCarthy works with your district leadership to keep the database current, and we use it for emailing the Log. Districts can verify what information she has on file by contacting her directly.

Finally, I hope to attend District 7's Blue Blazer Social and induction ceremony at Forest City Yacht Club in Cleveland next month. I look forward to continue learning more about the North Central Area and welcome additional opportunities to visit districts—please don't hesitate to reach out!





SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

MARK CAIN

Off to a Great Season

First off our newly elected treasurer PC Kathy McCarthy has sent out over 1,100 IOBG membership cards as of February and has established herself with most all of the IOBG's District Directors, Presidents and Club Treasurers. Congratulations on some great networking and dues collections. A great addition to the IOBG's executive board. A great big thanks to Kathy's tireless efforts to improve the membership experience, Thanks Kathy!

Congratulations to our new Southeast Area VP, PC Barbara Dolan. Barbara has stepped up to SEVP while still heading up District 8 President's position at the same time. It's been a great experience watching her and her hard working board continue to pull Florida, which has one of the largest coast lines by networking and bringing all the various boat and yacht clubs together. Thanks to your team for all the hard work and effort to support membership in the IOBG. We salute and thank you and your team.

"Go west young man" as the saying goes. What a great experience working with the West Coast Directors and are VP's. Starting with the transition with the Westlake Yacht Club from District 11 to District 16. I would like to thank all involved for facilitating an orderly transition especially, SWA VP PC Richard Dooley who helped oversee a smooth and orderly transition. It's been a pleasure to observe the coordinated efforts and leadership of IOBG's Vice President Dean Smith and his Regional Vice Presidents attending and networking with all the various yacht clubs from Seattle to San Diego to Texas.

A special thanks for bringing on board Southwest Area VP Michael Kirshgestner and NW VP PC Butch Brown, from District 1. Michael comes from Southern California and will be in the Texas area while Butch will be representing the North West Area from his Seattle base. Thanks for stepping up and supporting our IOBG organization.

International's IOBG convention coming soon, October 23rd, Maryland Yacht Club on Chesapeake Bay.

April 21st all area Vice Presidents are invited to bring their views via Zoom to the Executive Board meeting. Let us know what's happening in your districts and what we can do to help us improve our IOBG presence in our Boat and Yacht Clubs and our communities.

Thanks, 2nd VP Mark Cain



KATHY MCCARTHY

TREASURERS REPORT

Hello IOBG Members,

I cannot believe it is almost the end of March and boating season will soon be approaching, even if the weather here in Northeast Ohio (where I am) doesn't agree yet.

I am five months in so far as your new IOBG International treasurer. I have encountered a few hiccups in the transition but feel I am slowly working everything out. I have had the opportunity to talk either by phone or via email to several of the district treasurers and some of our members and have enjoyed getting to know them. It is exciting to me that I am conversing with people all over the country.

I feel all the Districts are working hard to collect membership dues from their members and then submit to me for preparation of membership cards. I have prepared over 1300 membership cards so far this year. If anyone has paid their dues and not received their membership card, please reach out to me at kmccarthy725@yahoo.com or 216-470-2857. It is important to make sure your districts have your correct mailing address.

All our members are very important to us. There is still time to pay your dues if you have not yet. We value your membership in IOBG and hope everyone will continue their membership in one of the finest fraternities in boating.

Hope everyone has a happy, healthy, and safe boating season!

Kathryn McCarthy

IOBG Treasurer





EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

PHIL LACOURSE

Greetings everyone,

I hope that as of this communication to you that I find all of you well.

I am happy to report that the International Executive Committee approved another IOBG Charter for the North Coast Yacht Club in Sandusky Ohio. They will be a member of District 7 in Eastern Ohio. On behalf of the International Executive Committee, I would like to welcome you into the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

Just to give everyone an idea of how the Executive Committee works: we have a monthly zoom meeting and everyone from across the country gives their reports on their areas that addresses concerns within their areas, visits District events and attends Chapter Meetings to give updates from the International. I am amazed at how much time and effort is given by our IOBG Area Vice President's and our First and Second International Vice President's. Some of the areas of concern and the issues that are dealt with and the amount of time with contacts are truly generous and selfless. It is also reported that from the local Chapters themselves their commitment, their time and efforts and events to support the camaraderie within their Chapters are magnanimous.

In closing, I would like to again thank everyone for their commitment to the IOBG, the boating community and to their respective clubs.

Best wishes to all of you,
Philip LaCourse,
International Executive Secretary





International Order of the Blue Gavel
The Association of Past Commodores

Charter Application

District # _____ Date _____

Yacht Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province _____

Country: _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Location of Club House or Regular Meeting Place:

Club Establish Date: _____ # of Members _____

of Past Commodores: _____

Does the Club meet the qualifications for Membership as defined in the IOBG By-Laws? _____

If not, please explain: _____

Chapter President: _____

Print

Sign

Please attach a list of Charter Member's names, names of spouse or companions and addresses. Please include a check for International dues for each Member.

(Page 1)

Recommendation of District President:

Print

Sign

Recommendation of District Director:

Print

Sign

Recommendation of Area Vice President:

President /s/:

Print

Sign

Area Vice President:

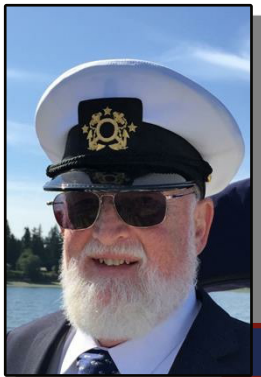
Print

Sign

IOBG Executive Committee Approval / Disapproval:

Executive Committee Member Title:

_____ Print _____ Signature



NORTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT

BUTCH BROWN

My name is Butch Brown. I was born in Chicago but grew up in Southern California, where I later attended Long Beach State College and began my career with General Electric.

In 1969, I was invited to join a team in Roseburg, Oregon, working on what became the first computer-controlled sawmill in the world. It was an exciting and groundbreaking project, and I'm proud to have been part of that innovation. The following year, in 1970, I earned my Professional Engineering registration in Control Systems Engineering. In 1972, we went on to start our own Control Systems Integration firm, continuing to develop and implement automation solutions for industry.

In 2005, I moved to Port Gamble, Washington, and joined Kingston Cove Yacht Club in nearby Kingston. Becoming part of Kingston Cove Yacht Club was a wonderful chapter in my life. I worked my way through the chairs and had the honor of serving as Commodore from 2013–2014. After completing my term, I joined the International Order of the Blue Gavel and continued my involvement through District 1, serving two terms as President and later as District 1 Director.

I am truly excited to now assume the role of Northwest Area Vice President. Blue Gavel has provided me with lasting friendships and meaningful opportunities to serve, and I look forward to supporting our districts, strengthening our connections, and helping continue the great traditions of our organization.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to working with all of you in the Northwest Area.





SOUTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT

RICH DOOLEY

The Southwest area District Directors cast their votes unanimously to elect Michael Kirchgestner. The Executive Committee made a motion to approve Michael as the new District 51 Director. Michael was the District 15 Director before moving to Texas, where he will be working on building up that district. He is also the acting Treasurer of District 15 until a replacement can be brought up. Congratulations Michael.

I have reached out to all my Districts this week to make sure all the Directors and Treasurers send in their dues to Kathy McCarthy. After communicating with Kathy, she has received several recent District dues Payments. Kathy just received a dozen District 14 payments from Director 14, Liz Allison, who was recovering from back surgery, which was a success, and she is back to running her District impeccably. I still have several districts to work with to help get past members signed up after Dean Smith provided the districts with older rosters. Thank you, Dean.

District 19 just held its Induction of New Members Ceremony, where 14 new members were inducted. These new inductees represented the Northern California Sea Ray Boat Club, Village West Yacht Club, Bridge Marina Yacht Club, Pittsburg Yacht Club, Sportsman Yacht Club and Stockton Yacht Club. District 14 Director, Liz Allison, also attended and will be having their own New Member Induction Ceremony in late February.

Once again, District 10 Director, Ray Wilson, has put together an outstanding Newsletter, and not to steal his thunder, please see his newsletter articles in this copy of the log.

Looking forward to a fantastic Year in 2026.





NORTH CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT
RODGER DUTTON

Greetings from the North Central Area. This is our Spring publication, but as I write this Lake Erie is over 95% hard water. Ice boats, sleds, and 4 wheelers all having their fun. By the time you read this it should all be melted and ready for boats.

We welcome and Congratulate North Coast Yacht Club (NCYC) as a new chapter into the North Central Area, in District 7. Located in the Sandusky Area, a very popular boating location.

We also host a pizza break at the ILYA Spring meeting, held near Detroit Metro Airport this year. as was their fall meeting. Many other activities occur in our districts throughout the area, where I could write a book.

We are now all prepping our boats so we can live our short summer to the fullest.

If you are not in IOBG your missing out.

Sincerely,
Rodger Dutton
North Central Area Vice President





IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

LEE J. HOMOYOCK

CALL FOR LOCAL AREA PROGRAM GRANTS

The International Order to the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation is requesting your help.

We need IOBG Members to “Catch our Spirit” make hope a reality and in providing opportunities to make a difference for another’s life is one of the greater human satisfactions.

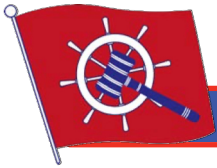
The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation provides the boating community with the ability to create real differences in others’ lives. The foundation provides resources to existing charities and benefits communities through new initiatives involving boating activities and education.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

We ask you to assist IOBGHF’s efforts in providing these grants to organizations which are in need of the Humanitarian Foundations assistance by promoting and applying for our Local Area Program Grant.

Recent recipients of Local Area Program grants include:

- Edgewater Yacht Club Cleveland Ohio– Sail Camp Scholarships
- Lake County Yacht Club, Ohio – Fun Day on the Water for Special Populations
- Coral Ridge Yacht Club, California – Camp Scholarships
- Catawba Island Club Blue Gavel, Ohio – Voyage for Veterans
- Pacific Corinthain Yacht Club California– Camp Scholarships
- Santa Margarita Yacht Club, California – Youth Awards Program
- Monro Boat Club, Michigan – Life Preservers for Safe Boating Education Program
- Mentor Harbor Yachting Club, Ohio - 2025 USA Sailing Jr. Olympics Lake Erie Sailing Festival, Ohio
- Forest City Yacht Club, Ohio – CPR & AED Training and Waterproof Cabinets for AED

Please refer to the IOBGHF Website or leehomyock@att.net for more information.



DISTRICT NEWS

District 1 – Butch Brown, District Director

Though the winter rains haven't decreased, we're seeing some initial signs of spring here in the Pacific Northwest, as plum and cherry trees are beginning to show buds and some flowers. That said, we also commiserate with our fellow IOBG members in the Midwest and East with their stories of ice and snow.

Our District 1 website is now fully online at www.iobgd1.org Many thanks to P/C Carl Polson of Lake Chelan YC for his expertise in getting this done. We're finding the online renewal option – to include the option for credit card payments – is enormously popular, and something we highly recommend other districts investigate, if they haven't already.

Our 2026 calendar of events is finalized, and our spring meeting is just two months away on April 24-25 at Shelton YC. P/C Debbie Bell Daly is arranging a great welcome to this historic lumber town on the far western reaches of Puget Sound. The next weekend, Seattle YC Opening Day on May 2 provides a great opportunity to show off the IOBG burgee among 50+ other clubs. Our summer picnic returns to Cle Elum, on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains during the weekend of July 17-19. The year will wrap up with our Annual Meeting and Change of Watch at Lake Chelan YC on September 18-19. Please consider joining us for any of these events if you're in town!

Finally, as we think about the coming of spring, we include a photo from 66 years ago, featured in the March 8, 1960 edition of the Tacoma News Tribune, depicting preparations for that year's District 1 Spring Ball. Fashions have changed, but Blue Gavel continues!



BLUE GAVEL SPRING BALL—Wives of past commodores of yacht clubs will assist with festive duties for the spring ball planned by the International Order of the Blue Gavel Saturday evening at the Wild West VFW Hall. Seen above are, left to right, Mesdames Kenneth Abrahams, Day Island Yacht Club; LeRoy Strasser, Totem Yacht Club; Carl Krause, Day Island Yacht Club; and Carl Hagberg, Totem Yacht Club. The Blue Gavel is made up of past commodores of yacht clubs all over the world.—Photo by Penthouse Studio.

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District 3 – Don Peacock, District Director

District 3 held a district subsidized holiday party and a brief meeting on December 11th 2025. District Vice President Ken Burgio and his wife Nicole arranged the beautiful event and president Steve Tisack lead the meeting at the unique Inner Harbor Yacht Club (IHYC) located at the eastern end of the Erie Barge canal in Tonawanda, NY. The party was limited to 100 attendees but all name badges and thoroughly enjoyed the holiday.



District #6 - Linda Weiland, District Director

Aloha from Hawaii!

IOBG District 6 held our annual Christmas Party, Induction, and Installation Ceremony on December 4th. From the warm welcome at Kaneohe Yacht Club to the heartfelt transitions in leadership, every moment reflected the pride and unity of our members.

We looked back on a full year of district activities, including our annual BBQ at Kaneohe Yacht Club in September—a favorite gathering that brought members together for good food and great conversation. Another fun outing in May took us to the Ko’olau Distillery and Tasting Room for an afternoon of pupus, beverages, music, and, once again, wonderful conversation.

At the Christmas Party, the fun continued with a spirited White Elephant gift exchange that had everyone laughing and sharing in the holiday cheer.

A highlight of the evening was recognizing outgoing District 6 Director Juli King. She then installed our 2026 officers—District 6 Director Linda Weiland, and Secretary/Treasurer Donna Salisbury for another term – expressing her appreciation for their ongoing dedication and service.

Before the installation, outgoing District 6 President Linda Weiland performed her final act in office by inducting new member John Coller from Kaneohe Yacht Club. Surrounded by the aloha and fellowship of our IOBG ‘ohana (family), the celebration concluded with a festive Christmas dinner and joyful moments among friends, marking a memorable close to the year and an exciting start to the next.

We wish you all Mele Kalikimaka a Hau’oli Makahiki Hou! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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District #8 - Barbara Dolan - District Director

It was an honor to receive an invitation to be the guest speaker at the Blue Gavel Change of Watch at the Punta Gorda Yacht Club. I was warmly welcomed by their members and was "wined and dined" by them as well. It is a beautiful clubhouse with some very amazing Blue Gavel Members.

Doug Scheid formally passed the Gavel to incoming President Roswitha Askew-Hergenhan. Vice President Mark Kuharski and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Ackerman were also installed.

Doug Case at the Vero Beach Yacht Club along with the Blue Gavel Officers are designing new hats to be worn by Blue Gavel Members. Stay tuned for an update with photos in our next log.

We also encourage you to find other Yacht Club's on Facebook and Instagram and follow them. As a yachting community we could share many ideas and lots of news via Facebook/Instagram.

What is going on at your yacht club? Do you have a little time to perhaps be a liaison to the district board? Working together guarantees S U C C E S S and I promise we can also have an enjoyable time.



Barbara Dolan
SEAVP
District 8 President



From Page 19

District #9 - P/C Chris Jurek - District Director

The District 9 Auxiliary held its annual "The Lights Before Christmas" at the Toledo Zoo on Sunday November 23rd . We all met at the Toledo Sailing Club after walking through the beautifully decorated grounds of the zoo and enjoyed snacks, refreshments and fellowship. This event raises money and accepts donations for the Ronald McDonald House of Toledo.

District 9 was well represented at the ILYA Fall meeting held at the Sheraton Hotel in Romulus on the weekend of December 5th and 6th . We had a productive meeting with the other local districts primarily about improving communication between the districts and expanding cooperation with joint events.

District 9 had an E Board meeting on January 14th and due to a snowstorm held a zoom Board meeting on February 12th . The major topics were the dates for the spring and fall meetings. The spring meeting will be on Sunday May 3 rd with registration at 11:30, lunch at noon and the meeting held at 1pm. The location is to be determined soon.

Respectfully submitted,
P/C Chris Jurek
Director District 9



District #10 - P/C Raymond Wilson, - District Director

The District ended the fall quarter of 2025 with its annual IOBG Christmas party. Several members also gathered nearer Christmas to view or participate in Christmas boat parades of our waters. The 2025 Annual Party enjoyed record attendance in numbers and breadth of chapters represented. President Zaidenberg recaps the Christmas party below.

A Delightful Evening of Celebration

The members of IOBG District 10 gathered on December 4 for a memorable and festive occasion at the 2025 Christmas Party. The event was filled with joy and camaraderie, as Past Commodores from several yacht clubs attended for a record turnout including from Cerritos Bahia, Huntington Harbour (HHYC), Hollywood (HYC), Lake Gregory (District 11), Long Beach Singles, Navy of Long Beach (NYCLB), SeaGate (SGYC), Seal Beach, and Shoreline. The gathering also welcomed attendance from the American Legion Yacht Club (District 21) and the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA). Guests enjoyed a delectable meal at Sebastiani's Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar located in Huntington Beach--a venue owned by Past Commodore Ventura (HHYC) and his wife. Their hospitality contributed greatly to the warm atmosphere of the evening.

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Festivities and Fun

The gift drawing was well managed by Bette and Rosemary, two IOBG Auxiliary members. Their efforts ensured that the activity was engaging and enjoyable for all attending. The highlight was the Ugly Sweater Contest where P/C Wheeler (NYCLB) and P/C Davydovits (SGYC) tied for the win. They each received a bottle of fine wine.

Giving Back to the Community



P/Cs of NYCLB and SGYC

Guests brought unwrapped toys which we donated to the Shriners Children's Medical Center in Pasadena, and which have been officially acknowledged. The contribution was overwhelming, and gratitude is extended to everyone who contributed. My car was filled with toys which I personally delivered to the medical center the following morning.

The New Year

2026 has begun with five new members joining the district but also with the sad loss of another. We held one induction on January 24 at the Los Angeles Yacht Club Opening Day Ceremony. The next two scheduled are on February 28 and March 21 at Cerritos Bahia and Shoreline yacht clubs, respectively. Annual renewals, still being pursued and received, are at 70% of year-end 2025. We have scheduled our annual BBQ at Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach for Sunday, June 7. Monthly board meetings began in February and will continue through the year.



Director Wilson inducting JSC Irvin at the Los Angeles Yacht Club



P/C John Caldwell

On February 15 the members and P/Cs of Seal Beach Yacht Club, an IOBG Award recipient, organized a Celebration of Life and scattering of ashes for P/C John Caldwell, our dear friend and colleague in the Blue Gavel, and even more generally, who passed away in early January. Many IOBG members attended both. John bestowed an immeasurable amount of dedicated service on our southern California yachting community as Commodore of two District 10 yacht clubs and as Commodore and Staff Commodore of the Southern California Yachting Association.

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IOBG District 15 - Jeanne Irwin - District Director

Our annual installation was held at Southwestern Yacht Club on January 18th. Southwestern Yacht Club is home of two past IOBG International presidents, Dr. Disraeli and Kathleen Jo Smith . District 15 is proud to claim four International Presidents, Dr. Burton Jay; Dr. Phil Arms; Dr. Disraeli and Kathy Smith.

We were privileged to have First Vice President, executive committee, Dean Smith presently international organization updates and introduce our new board. 2026 President, Susan Rodriquez. Secretary Paul Farell, Past President Mark Mallaby, Director Jeanne Irwin, alternate Director, Roger Robinson.



First Vice President, Dean Smith; District 15 President, Susan Rodriguez; Past President, Mark Mallaby & Director Jeanne Irwin

A personal thank you on behalf of District 15 to the 2025 Board of Directors: Mark Mallaby, Susan Rodriquez; Paul Farell and Peter Hunt for great service to our District. We extend our sincere appreciation to Director Michael Kirchgastner for his steadfast leadership and convey our best wishes to him and Mary as they embark on the next phase of their journey. We are actively filling this year’s vacancies caused by other commitments.



It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of William “Bill” Thayer in January. Bil and Marybeth have represented District 15 on the local and international scene for decades with style, grace and knowledge. Two such dedicated members are a rare phenomenon.

Semper Fi Bill, you will be missed.



From Page 22

District #16 - Lisa Marie Medlen - District Director

IOBG News, Save The Dates.

Thursday March 26, 2026, The Reel Guppies Open House 5:30 – 7:30 pm 2741 Victoria Ave, Suite D, Oxnard (at Fisherman’s Village

April is the beginning of Opening Days for District 16 Yacht Clubs. Please plan accordingly.

Wednesday April 8, 2026 at 7 pm, Wet Wednesday at Anacapa Yacht Club Let’s get as many of our IOBG members there to show support for our District 16

Saturday April 18, 2026, 4 pm Cocktails, 5 pm event for Costal Conservation Association of California (CCA)

Annual Fundraiser Poker Tournament at CIYC. Donation \$100.00 Contact Frank Sullivan for tickets.

Sunday May 31, 2026, 3-8 pm, The Reel Guppy Annual Fundraiser at CIYC, more info to follow

On a side note, we will be having several meet and greets throughout the year. All of our events are meant to keep us all active not only in our respective clubs but in other clubs and community organizations as well. We all have a collective brain trust that can benefit all of District 16.

If anyone has any ideas for events or get togethers please let me or one of our board members know and we will bring it up at one of our monthly meetings.

Thank you all for your participation in IOBG District 16. Please stay involved and attend as many of these events as possible. It’s a great way to maintain old contacts and establish new ones. We all have a lot of fun as well.

Sincerely,
Gary Gallinot
President, IOBG District 16



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District #19 - AVP Rich Dooley - District Director



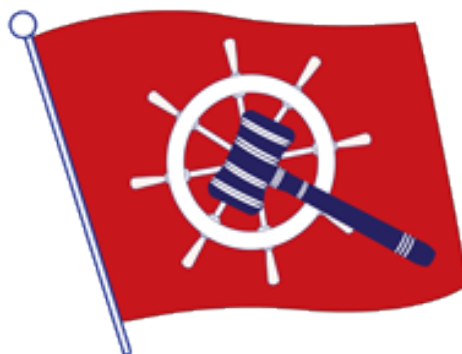
Commodore Dan Flood

I am honored to announce that our good friend and past DBYC Fleet Captain has agreed to be our 2026 Delta Bayliner Club Commodore. I hope everyone will welcome Dan Flood and support him in his new position. Dan and I will be working on the cruise-out schedule and will have it available for the next newsletter.

We had a great Start to 2026 with our January Cruise to San Joaquin Yacht Club for their annual crab feed. As always, we sold out our 25 tickets within minutes. We had three hardy boat crews bring their boats to this event. The Mourelatos,' Scott's, and Dooley's all faced the gray skies and safely docked their boats for this fun event, while most members came by car. The crab was the best and sweetest I have had in years.

As many of you know, our Club Secretary, Hillary Lee, has stepped down to travel with her husband, Aaron. So, for now, Director Rich Dooley will be producing this Newsletter, but Staff Commodore Tara Bell has agreed to take it over next month.

Save The Date, and RSVP to me if you can make it to the Change of Watch Ceremony. It is planned for Saturday, February 28, at 5:30 at the Roadhouse in Byron. Because we did not have our Captains' cookout, the club will be picking up a large portion of the bill. Details to follow on meal selection and cost on Wednesday, February 18



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District #27 - Maryland, Chesapeake Bay

Hello from District 27 and the Chesapeake Bay! Like many districts, we are finally seeing the ice break up and with a few warmer days ahead we can start to plan for unwrapping boats and getting launched.

Here at the Maryland Yacht Club chapter in D27, we are making plans to host the 2026 IOBG Annual Convention October 22-24. Located halfway between Baltimore and Annapolis, there are plenty of things to do and places to go. The hotel is selected, the meals are coming together, and local activities are being planned.



We look forward to thanking President Buzz for his service, and also we look forward to celebrating incoming President Dave Kowert. MYC and D27 truly hope to see you in the "Land of Pleasant Living."

Carl Treff P/C of Maryland Yacht Club 2022 & 2023
IOBG District 27 Director

APPOINTED OFFICERS

PROTOCOL OFFICER

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RECORDING SECRETARY

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LEGAL OFFICER

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MEMBERSHIP

Kathy McCarthy

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marsha Landreth

PAST PRESIDENT LIAISON

Steve Willing

IOBG COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

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WEBMASTER

Josh Wagner

2026 IOBG DIRECTORY

REFLECTS UPDATES RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 2025



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BOAT U.S. MEMBERSHIP

Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

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John W. Gaddis 661-974-6286

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marsha Landreth 805-899-0054

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

Marlene Barrington [Email](mailto:MarleneBarrington@nbf.org) 928-759-7158

US SAILING

Open

COMMITTEES

AUDIT

Chair: Steve Hyder, Buzz Bisanz, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith, Mark Cain, Phil LaCourse, Kathy McCarthy

BY-LAWS & POLICY/PROCEDURES

Chair: Dave Kowert, Mark Cain, Dean Smith, Marsha Landreth

FINANCE

Chairman: Buzz Bisanz, Steve Hyder, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith, Jack Skidmore, Kathy McCarthy.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Chair: Marsha Landreth, Buzz Bisanz, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith

ELECTIONS

Chair: Marsha Landreth, Nancy Bisanz

NOMINATIONS

Chair: Steve Hyder, Buzz Bisanz, Marsha Landreth, West Rep, East Rep



International Order of the Blue Gavel AREAS AND DISTRICTS

NORTHWESTERN AREA - BUTCH BROWN

- 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 - RICHARD DOOLEY

- District #6 - Hawaii & Guam
- District #10 - San Pedro Bay (Long Beach/Los Angeles) & Huntington Harbor
- 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 - RODGER DUTTON

- 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 - DON PEACOCK

- 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 - BARBARA DOLAN

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

EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI - RODGER DUTTON

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

WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI - RICHARD DOOLEY

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

ENGLAND - OPEN

- District #70

NEW ZEALAND - OPEN

- District #75

GROUP PICTURE ANNUAL IOBG MEETING



International Order of the Blue Gavel
8577 Hilltop Drive
Mentor, Ohio 44060

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

International Order of the Blue Gavel THE LOG PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY MAY 10 - ARTICLES DUE
FRIDAY MAY 25 - LOG PUBLICATION**

**SUNDAY AUG 2 - ARTICLES DUE
FRI, AUG 14- LOG PUBLICATION (INCLUDES
PUBLISHING THE SLATE OF OFFICERS)**