

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

Volume: 48 No.: 2

Summer 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.

2026 Annual Meeting Maryland Yacht Club October 22-25 2026

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2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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International Order of the Blue Gavel

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DISTRICT 2

OPEN

DISTRICT 4

OPEN

DISTRICT 5

OPEN

DISTRICT 24

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SOUTHWEST - RICHARD DOOLEY

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DISTRICT 25

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DISTRICT 12

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DISTRICT 20

OPEN

DISTRICT 22

OPEN

DISTRICT 26

OPEN

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SOUTHEASTERN - BARBARA DOLAN

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DISTRICT 18

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904-806-4142



ENGLAND

DISTRICT 70

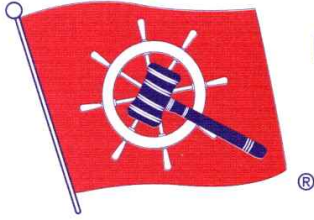
OPEN



NEW ZEALAND

DISTRICT 75

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INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL®
THE ASSOCIATION OF PAST COMMODORES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

To: The qualified members of IOBG, the 2026 Nominating Committee is putting out the call for the following positions to be filled for the 2026-2027 year. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT ELECT
1ST VICE PRESIDENT
2ND VICE PRESIDENT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
TREASURER

AREA VICE-PRESIDENT – SOUTHWEST
AREA VICE-PRESIDENT – NORTHWEST
AREA VICE-PRESIDENT – NORTHCENTRAL
AREA VICE-PRESIDENT – NORTHEAST
AREA VICE-PRESIDENT – SOUTHEAST

If you are interested, please check out the by-laws make sure you are qualified or email me at hyders@hyderlawfirm.net for any questions.

Furthermore, please send a simple email/letter of interest to hyders@hyderlawfirm.net for the position you are seeking by July 17, 2026.

Thank you
Nomination Committee
Steven Hyder (Past President 2025 – Chair)
Robert P. Buzz Bisanz, Col.
Marsha Landreth (Past President 2024)
Don Shuster (East Rep)
George Iaconis (West Rep)

Australia, Canada, England, Japan, New Zealand, United States



PRESIDENTS REPORT

ROBERT P. (BUZZ) BISANZ, COL.

Welcome everyone to IOBG LOG for Summer 2025. We are planning to publish the LOG on a quarterly basis throughout 2026 in an attempt to keep you our members abreast of activities in IOBG.

Please see the list of our International officers on our leadership team for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year.

- President – Robert P. Buzz Bisanz, Col.
- President Elect – Dave Kowert
- 1st Vice President- Dean Smith
- 2nd Vice President- Mark Cain
- Executive Secretary – Phil LaCourse
- Treasurer - Kathy McCarthy
- Past President- Steve Hyder

Area Vice Presidents & Assigned Districts

- Northwest- Butch Brown
District Directors 1 & 5
- Southwest – Richard Dooley
District Directors 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, and 51
- North Central- Rodger Dutton
District Directors 7, 9, 23, 25 and 50
- Northeast- Don Peacock
District Directors 3, 12, 20, 22, 26 ,27
- Southeastern- Barbara Dolan
District Directors 8, 18

Continued on Page 5

Introduction of Appointed Officers

- Legal Officer – Alec Chabalowski
- Communications Director- John Gaddis
- Protocol Officer - Marsha Landreth, Col
- Recording Secretary – Nancy Bisanz
- Education Officer – Open
- Sergeant at Arms – Open
- Past President Liaison officer – Steve Willing
- Historian – Open
- Supply Officer – Commodore Insignia

Since our last LOG communication to our members we have lost a past international president in PP Joe Dowdell, Jr. Joe was a dedicated officer in Blue Gavel for many years and in addition to serving as president he was our International Legal Officer for many years. We will miss Joe tremendously and we send our condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

In our preparation for the next IOBG Annual meeting scheduled for October 2026 we have completed our introduction to the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association and have become a member of their Partner Program. I signed and sent a letter of intent, and it was approved by the IOBG Executive Committee and the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Assoc. board of directors last month. We are now associated with more than 200 yacht clubs in the Chesapeake Bay area. We look forward to this opening the doors to a number of Yacht /clubs that were aware of our existence and hopefully increase our visibility in that area of the country. My special thank you to IOBG President-Elect, Dave Kowert and District Director Carl Treff for their efforts on behalf of IOBG in connection to the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association.

I am proud to announce that our IOBG financial status is in excellent condition. We have just renewed the two CDs at the rate of 3.7% and 3.2%. With our strong membership renewal we are now carrying a bank balance higher than our starting balance and that is after absorbing 6 months of operational costs. Your Executive Committee and our treasurer Kathy McCarthy are keeping a sharp eye on your money and the associated expenses. I also want to thank all of our District Treasurers in their processing of the District membership roles. Sending the International dues to Kathy in a timely manner allows us to properly manage your membership dues. Keep up the good work.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for October 23-25 in Baltimore, MD. Please read the announcement prepared by President-Elect Dave Kowert and our LOG editor John Gaddis located in this edition of the LOG.

Thank you for your support of the IOBG and I challenge each of you to recruit a new member into Blue Gavel. Contact your District Director and/or your IOBG Area Vice President for membership application forms.

IN MEMORIAM



**THOMAS JOSEPH "JOE" DOWDELL, III
OCTOBER 28, 1939 – APRIL 6, 2026**

THOMAS JOSEPH "JOE" DOWDELL, III, A LIFELONG FLORIDIAN, PASSED AWAY ON APRIL 6, 2026. BORN AND RAISED IN CORAL GABLES, JOE GRADUATED FROM MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN 1957, EARNED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY IN 1962, AND RECEIVED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI IN 1965. IN 1966, HE MOVED TO MARATHON, FLORIDA, WHERE HE PRACTICED LAW FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 2002.

JOE'S LOVE OF FISHING BEGAN AT AGE FIVE IN BISCAYNE BAY AND QUICKLY GREW INTO A LIFELONG PASSION. BEGINNING IN 1950, HE SPENT HIS SUMMERS FISHING IN MARATHON, OFTEN STAYING ON CONCH KEY. HE WENT ON TO BECOME A DEDICATED COMPETITOR IN THE MARATHON FISHING TOURNAMENTS. IN 1972, JOE EARNED THE PRESTIGIOUS TRIPLE CROWN AWARD FOR ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST COMBINED POINTS IN THE BONEFISH, TARPON, AND CAY SAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENTS.

A WORLD-CLASS ANGLER, JOE EXPANDED HIS FISHING ADVENTURES IN THE 1980s, TRAVELING TO THE YUCATÁN, COSTA RICA, COCOS ISLAND, GUATEMALA, MAZATLÁN, PANAMA, AND NEAR THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS. HE EVEN COMPETED IN THE ROLEX BILLFISH TOURNAMENT IN AUSTRALIA. REMARKABLY, JOE CAUGHT EVERY BILLFISH RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION—TWICE—AND THEN BEGAN CATCHING THEM AGAIN USING FLY RODS.

BEYOND FISHING, JOE WAS DEEPLY ENGAGED IN HIS COMMUNITY. HE WAS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE MARATHON YACHT CLUB SINCE 1968, SERVING TWICE AS COMMODORE AND ON MANY COMMITTEES. HE WAS A PAST PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL, AND MEMBER OF THE ELKS CLUB. JOE ALSO LOVED DANCING AND LIVE MUSIC AND COULD OFTEN BE FOUND ENJOYING EVENINGS AT FAVORITE LOCAL SPOTS SUCH AS THE DOCKSIDE, HAVANA JACK'S, AND SKIPJACK'S RESORT. KNOWN FOR HIS QUICK WIT, GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, AND GENUINE LOVE OF LEARNING, JOE MADE FRIENDS WHEREVER HE WENT.

JOE WAS PREDECEASED BY HIS LIFE PARTNER OF 30 YEARS, JUNE THACKER, IN 2020. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS CHILDREN, LINDA DOWDELL MAZZEO AND THOMAS J. DOWDELL, IV; HIS SON-IN-LAW, JOE MAZZEO; AND HIS THREE BELOVED GRANDCHILDREN, ANTHONY, NICHOLAS, AND MICHAEL MAZZEO, OF ATLANTA. HE IS ALSO SURVIVED BY HIS SIBLINGS; DEL MILLER, TED DOWDELL, DON DOWDELL AND MANY NIECES, NEPHEWS, AND DEAR FRIENDS WHO WILL MISS HIM GREATLY.

CHESAPEAKE BAY



Save The Date

2026 ANNUAL IOBG MEETING



MARYLAND YACHT CLUB
1500 FAIRVIEW BEACH ROAD
PASADENA, MARYLAND 21122
410-255-4444



OCTOBER 22 THRU OCTOBER 25, 2026



BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON INT
THURGOOD MARSHALL AIRPORT



CAMBRIA HOTEL ARUNDEL MILLS-
BWI AIRPORT
7700 MILESTONE PKWY,
HANOVER, MD 21076



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CLICK ME





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 south of Baltimore Maryland, towards Annapolis and directly on the Chesapeake Bay at the beautiful Maryland Yacht Club on October 22-25 2026.

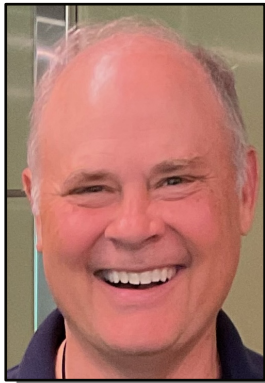
Thanks to IOBG member Carl Treff, the Maryland Yacht Club has agreed to host our event with activities schedule there throughout the weekend. We are still working on the final agenda and list of special IOBG activities (next months LOG) but this is shaping up to look like a truly special Annual Meeting. 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 if "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



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

DEAN SMITH

It seems like summer's sneaking up on me here in Washington state! More than halfway through my term as 1st VP and still so many districts to visit... Hopefully in the next few months I'll visit the North Central area again, and continue on for my first visit to the Northeastern area.

My thanks to Ronn Murphy and Larry Uebbing in District 7 for the invite to their "Blue Blazer" at Forest City YC in March. I really enjoyed meeting fellow Blue Gavelers, talking with International Past Presidents Joel Kay and Mark Vadaj, and cheering on new members during their induction.

It was nice to see so many District Directors at the last Executive Committee (EC) online meeting in April. The EC acts in lieu of the Board of Directors between our Annual Meetings, and it's important for us to hear all of your concerns. Your Director and Area Vice President are the best conduits to let us know how we're doing, both things you like and areas we can improve on (and yes, the IOBG website's at the top of that list).

Speaking of communication, we hope you're all receiving this Log via a direct email (rather than a forwarded one). Let your district know if you're not getting that email and they can check with Kathy McCarthy to ensure we have your correct address.

Finally, during Opening Day visits to Bellingham YC and Port Ludlow YC, I (again) found that while many have heard of Blue Gavel, many also haven't heard from Blue Gavel lately. The adage that "showing up is 80 percent of life" is appropriate here. I encourage all of you to fly your burgee or wear your IOBG gear whenever possible, remind fellow Past Commodores of what Blue Gavel is, and (hopefully) have personal examples of how you've found Blue Gavel a worthy organization. We've also recently reprinted our IOBG tri-fold brochure, and every district should now have copies to help recruiting (let us know if you need more).

Looking forward to a great Blue Gavel summer!



IOBG IVP Dean Smith addresses Port Ludlow YC Opening Day



MARK CAIN

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

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 District 51 Director Michael Kirchgastner 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,



It's finally here! Another great boating season is officially starting. There are so many different activities happening at all the different clubs. Make sure you get out and enjoy the friendship and comradery of your fellow boaters. Your membership in IOBG offers "hospitality" at most clubs. This does not mean, All clubs. You need to check with individual clubs to see if they accept IOBG first. I think you will find the benefits from IOBG worth the small dues you pay to be a member.

On that note, I will tell you that IOBG has almost 1400 members nationwide. That is 1400 past commodores who have served their clubs as commodore and continue to share their knowledge and experience with current commodores. I'd like to see that number grow. If you have not yet paid your 2026 dues, I kindly ask that you do so now. If you know of a past commodore who is currently not a member, please share my contact information with them. I'd love to talk with them.

Also, as my first year of serving as the IOBG International Treasurer, I have enjoyed conversing with many of the District Treasurers or Officers, whether it be by email or phone. It has been a pleasure trying to get to know many of you and working with you to collect membership dues and get membership cards out to your membership. Please keep up the good work you all have been doing. If you ever have anything I can help you with, feel free to reach out to me.

I happen to be a member of District 7 in Northeast Ohio. I wanted to share a little about a recent event District 7 had, which was organized by our auxiliary. We had a Brunch Cruise on the Lady Caroline, which is a local cruise ship docked on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio. For many of us who did not have the luxury of going to Florida or someplace warm for the winter (like me), it was the first time on the water for the season. There was a sold-out crowd with 200 passengers from various clubs around the area. A wonderful brunch was served. Raffle baskets were raffled off. It was a little chilly that day, but warm and cozy inside the boat. Many people ventured the chill to the outside deck to see the views of Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River. It was a wonderful fundraising event for our auxiliary who use the proceeds to purchase books for needy children in local school districts.





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



New Chapter Application Procedure

- I. Required approvals on Application:
 - A. Established District:
 - 1. District President
 - 2. District Director
 - 3. Area Vice President
- II. Required Information about Yacht Club:
 - A. Club name and description of facilities.
 - 1. Number of members.
 - 2. Years in existence.
 - B. Chapter President Pro-Tem's name, address and telephone number.
 - C. Activities (Newsletter, etc.).
 - D. Letter(s) of recommendation if waiver of qualification requirements is necessary.
 - E. List of Charter Members:
 - 1. Name and spouse's name.
 - 2. Address - City, State, Zip, and Country.
 - 3. Telephone - Home, Business, and fax numbers.
- III. Application routing:
 - A. Area Vice Presidents will:
 - 1. Forward application, comments, and dues payment to International President-Elect
 - B. President Elect will:
 - 1. Distribute copies of application and comments to voting members of the Executive Committee.
 - 2. Conduct telephone poll of Executive Committee members for approval or rejection of application (if an Executive Committee meeting is not held in a timely manner).
 - a. If rejected, send letter, dues payment, and reason for rejection to Area Vice President
 - b. If approved:
 - (1.) Notify Executive Secretary via telephone/email that application has been approved and mail original application to the Executive Secretary.
 - (2.) Notify, in writing, Area Vice President and District Director.
 - (3.) Mail dues payment to International Treasurer.
- IV. Processing of Approved Application:
 - A. Executive Secretary:
 - 1. Prepare Charter.
 - 2. Mail Charter to District Director (unless otherwise notified).
 - 3. Mail Charter letter to International Treasurer, President Elect, and Area Vice President
 - B. District Director or Appointee:
 - 1. Present Charter to New Chapter.
 - 2. Provide Bylaws and Policy Manuals to new members.
 - 3. Send list of new members to District Treasurer.

-
- C. District Treasurer:
 - 1. Receive roster.
 - 2. Receive District Dues, if any.
 - D. International Treasurer:
 - 1. Receive Dues.
 - 2. Process Membership Cards.
 - 3. Notify Editor of the “Log” of the following:
 - a. District number.
 - b. Name of Chapter.
 - c. Names and addresses of new charter members.
 - V. New Chapter Procedure:
 - A. It shall be the duty of the Executive Secretary to:
 - 1. Maintain this procedure and revise as necessary.
 - 2. Distribute this procedure to the new District Presidents
 - B. It shall be the Duty of the District Presidents and Directors to:
 - 1. Have Charter Application forms and the current procedure available
 - 2. Abide by this procedure.

POLICY REGARDING MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS

Members may move or relocate to a different geographical area. A member may also affiliate with more than one District or Chapter. From the perspective of the International, a member may only be listed on the master database as affiliated with one Chapter and one District.

The reason for this restriction is that the paid membership of a given District is the determining factor for the number of votes assigned to a District for the Annual Meeting. With the foregoing in mind, the policy of the International, regarding membership affiliations is as follows:

- * A member must first qualify for membership in accordance with the IOBG bylaws.
- * A member may affiliate with more than one District or Chapter, but must designate which District and Chapter will be used by the International for purposes of assigning votes and the member’s membership card.
- * The member pays International dues once, but pays District and/or Chapter dues as charged by the respective jurisdictions.

It is the member’s responsibility, to notify both the International and the District of his or her affiliation. When differences of data arise and notification has not been received, the last proper registration will be used by the International, for a member’s membership card and assigning votes to a District for the annual meeting.



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:

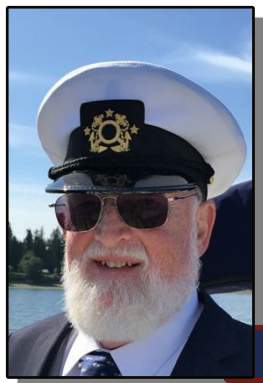
Executive Committee Member Title:

Print

Signature

(Page 2 of 2)

Revised January 20, 2026



NORTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT

BUTCH BROWN

Greetings from NWAVP

The Pacific Northwest is now in full boating swing. May starts our boating season with Seattle Yacht Club hosting a full day of activities. IOBG was represented during the festivities. Other Yacht Clubs also had opening days in the following weeks that IOBG was represented at.

District 1 had their Spring meeting in April hosted by the Shelton Yacht Club. Many thanks to Shelton YC for a successful weekend. Plans are in the works for the Summer Picnic and Fall Meeting (Change of Watch). D1 is growing again this year thanks to recruiting efforts by our members and board.

Our area needs to re-establish District 5 which has lost membership the last few years. Juneau Alaska is another target to get back in IOBG. We have also had interest in some clubs in British Columbia.

Hope everyone has a great boating season.

Butch Brown
NWAVP





SOUTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT

RICH DOOLEY

Currently, most of the Southwest Area Districts are gearing up for their opening day festivities. District 14 is planning a wine tasting and opening day event on the San Francisco Bay at Treasure Island. I received an invitation, and I will be attending this event. On May 17, District 15 is having their Opening Day event in San Diego, and District 19 is having its Opening Day event, which I previously committed to. I was invited to participate in Discovery Bay Yacht Club's opening Day parade and received Second Place in this event with my 40-foot Sea Ray Sundancer (pictures attached). As always, Ray Wilson's District 10 in LA Southern California has submitted a very informative Newsletter attached, with many of their recent events.

Dean Smith, Mark Cain, and I will be conducting a Zoom meeting with District 21 Director Cleve Sproule to explore ways to support the growth and development of District 21.

I am very pleased with the response from the Southwest Area District Directors regarding their assistance in updating the officers listing for Kathy McCarthy and me. All the Districts in the Southwest Area have sent in current updated lists of officers.

The newly revised tri-folds have been sent out to all of the districts in my area that have requested them. Districts 10, 14, and 19 have used them at several of their recent events with positive feedback on the new format.

Regards,
Rich Dooley
rich.dooley@yahoo.com





NORTH CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT

RODGER DUTTON

Greetings from the North Central Area

I attended the D9 Spring Meeting, hosted at Bayview Yacht Club, in Toledo, OH. The D9 President, Diane Wright had invited Local Historian John Thompson to review "The Golden Age of Sailing" in the Toledo Area which dates back to well before WWI. He just scratched the highlights and was very interesting.

Also, what has become an annual event hosted by Catawba Island Club Blue Gavel Chapter, the Voyage for Veterans event scheduled for August 19 was reviewed. Scan the QR code on the Save the Date reminder pic for more info and to register if you would like to attend.

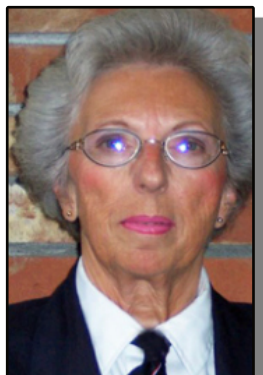
District 7 has also been busy with a boat cruise fundraiser in Cleveland, by their Auxiliary. D7 and D9, both with strong Auxiliaries, are working with International to get the Auxiliary operating again at the International level.

Also, D7 has an E Board meeting hosted at Vermillion Boat Club coming up soon. A great club with a very active Jr Sailing Program

Also coming up quick is our Memorial Day Services. For many years, Monroe, Detroit Beach, and Swan Boat Club Blue Gavel Chapters have put on an excellent service to honor our fallen. With this being our countries 250th Anniversary, there are some special things in the works to pay tribute.

A lot going on, if your a PC and not in the Blue Gavel look into joining today, as your missing out.

Sincerely,
Rodger Dutton
North Central Area Vice President



MARLENE BARRINGTON

The short description of what came up in conversation with the great group of folks I met at the annual NBF meeting goes like this: The Blue Catfish has in recent years so taken over some of the rivers of the Chesapeake that they are 75% of the total fish biomass. They overtake habitat and outcompete valuable native species of seafood, including finfish, forage fish, shellfish, crabs, clams which they "hoover" up. They grow to 5' and 100 pounds and eat daily 8 to 9% of their body weight. Worst of all for the warming Great Lakes, they are a freshwater species that was introduced between the late 1960's and the early 1980's by Virginia to 2 or 3 of their tributary rivers of the Chesapeake.

Turns out, they can also adapt to and take salinity up to about half of what is in the Ocean, thereby invading most all of the Chesapeake from the freshwater parts of these tributary rivers of introduction. By 2013, it was though there were some 20 million of them, just in the James River, and causing bad impacts.

All the jurisdictions of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Association (CBYCA) are now being impacted to some degree and with the issues growing. Various state measures are being looked at with an eye toward adjustment in law and policy to deal with it all. This I see as a preview of coming attractions for the Great Lakes that frankly, I am surprised has not already occurred.

The state modifications have included the lifting of gear and harvest restrictions in the hope that abundant harvests (that also avoid by catches of other species), can temper the matter, together with encouraging acceptance of the Blue Catfish such as by the recipe in the Boat U.S. magazine. Other efforts have included opening up the product for use as cat food and with the byproduct ground into fertilizer.

Interestingly, these last items do lead to a unique federal regulation that is now sought by the Chesapeake Executive Council for relaxation! Catfish, as it turns out, are the only wild-caught fishery that is required to undergo an inspection process that is unique to it, and required by our Uncle Sam.

Now you have an example of how a local situation that is spreading regionally and prompting innovative solutions, has graduated to a point where national regulation and law has become involved as it grows toward a problem of national standing. I look to keep you posted on this!

National Boating Federation
N.B.F. Representative Marlene Barrington
NBF Past President - IOBG Delegate & District 1 Member



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.

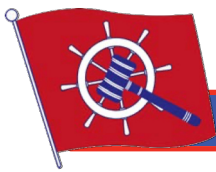
The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation provides the boating community with the ability to create real differences in others' lives. The foundation provides resources to existing charities and benefits communities through new initiatives involving boating activities and education. 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 Corinthian 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

Spring in the Pacific Northwest – as elsewhere – brings a plethora of yachting events! Between getting boats and other gear out of winter storage, Blue Gavel members enjoyed the inaugural gala of the season, the Tacoma Daffodil Marine Festival, in mid-April. Hosted for the last 82 years by Tacoma YC, we again joined hundreds of fellow boaters from clubs across Puget Sound to enjoy the receptions, contests, flag ceremony and boat parade.



D1 New Inductees at Spring Meeting, L-R Bruce Moneymaker, Alan Kester (D1 President), Chuck Turner

The following weekend we ventured down to the logging town of Shelton for a wonderful, District 1 spring meeting at Shelton YC. With attendance numbers (finally!) returning to our pre-COVID levels, we also welcomed two members to the region – P/C Bruce Moneymaker (formerly of District 19) and P/C Chuck Turner (a new inductee from Kingston Cove YC). Shelton YC also arranged for three yachts to host our IOBG group on a fascinating cruise down Hammersley Inlet, and dinners on Friday and Saturday that gave us a chance to mingle with other yacht club members.



Seattle YC Opening Day line of Commodores. L-R KCYC Commodore Jim Dilanni and D1 President Alan Kester

The season officially kicked off the first weekend in May with Seattle YC's Opening Day. Blue Gavel's burgee flew proudly alongside dozens of others in one of the nation's largest Opening Days. We enjoyed "showing the flag" at four other Opening Days that weekend and the next – a busy time that also included another induction, that of P/C Dale Blackburn at Port Ludlow's Opening Day.

We look forward to our summer picnic in the central part of the state, in Cle Elum, in July. Then, in September, we'll venture up into the North Cascades to enjoy a change of watch at our district's largest chapter, Lake Chelan YC!

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District 3 – Don Peacock, District Director

It has already been a remarkably busy season for our district 3, highlighted by the proud induction of 8 new Past Commodores into the International Order of the Blue Gavel. As the summer weather warms up, our waterways are coming alive; in fact, one of our members just completed a beautiful four-day transit from Cape Vincent, NY on Eastern Lake Ontario through the fully open storied and beautiful Erie Canal. Looking ahead, momentum is building for our annual District 3-subsidized IOBG Summer Party on July 23rd at the Buffalo Launch Club. We are expecting a fantastic turnout, so mark your calendars for an incredible day of fellowship and celebration with fellow past leaders.



District #6 - Linda Weiland, District President

Aloha from Hawaii!



Kaneohe YC Tiki Bar prep, L-R: Mele Magazzeni, Kailee Magazzeni, Sandy Ragley-Wood, Sherry Royal, Karen Brown, Renee Goodwin

District 6 is gearing up for an exciting and active summer as we prepare for our board transition. The coming months will be filled with opportunities for fellowship, celebration, and planning, with social events scheduled before and after the transition as we recognize this year's accomplishments and begin shaping the vision for the year ahead.

At the same time, volunteers from Kaneohe Yacht Club—including many of our District 6 members—are busy preparing for the arrival of 50 boats competing in the PAC Cup, The Fun Race to Hawaii from San Francisco. The event will be followed by a week of festivities, including the Red Hat Rum Party, a luau, and the Awards Night celebration.



Linda Ladeira (P/C Pacific YC) and Sandy Ragley-Wood (P/C Pearl Harbor YC) greet arriving boats at Kaneohe YC.

Finally, we're sad to report the unexpected passing of our very long-time Secretary / Treasurer, Donna Salisbury, on May 7. A native of Charleston, SC, Donna spent many years in Hawaii, was a Past Commodore of Pacific Yacht Club, and a stalwart member of the D6 Board. She will be greatly missed. Mahalo Nui Loa.

Continued on Page 25

District 7 – Ronn Murphy, District Director

Ahoy, IOBG International from District 7, Past Commodores:

The Bridge Officer's 2026 hope that you are well and healthy. Together we are IOBG District 7 and only through your support are we able to continue with the programs and furthering the mission of IOBG and having more fun.



D7 New Officers

I turn to each of you to assist in spreading the word about the awesome organization and the benefits of belonging to the IOBG around the world. This season is full of fun events, review the schedule in this chatter and place the events on your personal calendar.



D7 Inductees

Please make sure we have your updated and current email address on record. Communication is the key to keep all members informed with current plans going on in IOBG. Join me and share the fellowship and friendship with the other IOBG Clubs across the world, Commodores of local IOBG's please ask a fellow Commodore to join and spread the word.

The season is beginning with the Blue Blaze event at Forest City Yacht Club followed by the Lady Caroline and USS Cleveland and USS COD event on Memorial Day morning or just a few events, love to see each one of you at these awesome events.

Please write a check and pay your dues to IOBG District 7, we are the largest district by membership in the world, come join the friendship. I will see you in June at the events. Please share your ideas with me to improve the FUN.

May God bless You

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AHOY! Ronn Murphy, District Director
murphyrm2361@gmail.com

District #8 - Barbara Dolan - District President

Before we even think about the fast approaching Hurricane Season here in Florida, let's look at another catastrophic event. The St Andrew's Yacht Club in Panama City Florida was burned down in 2023. They continued operating out of their sailing center. I read a comment from a member that the clubhouse burned down but not the club. They will be rebuilding their clubhouse and more this year. St. Andrews YC hosts one of the most outstanding youth sailing programs in Florida. Years after the St Augustine Yacht Club started a youth sailing program we researched many other programs. We reached out to St Andrews for advice and more on their very successful program. In my opinion clubs and IOBG Chapters that work together experience more success and enjoy the camaraderie that grows Friendships and grows our IOBG family.



*SEAVP Barbara Dolan and
St. Augustine YC
Commodore Jan Spencer*



On another note hurricane Season is fast approaching quickly here in Fl. June 1st is a day we do not look forward to its arrival. Many yacht clubs here in Florida have experienced extensive damage and many were closed for long periods of time. The Dunedin Boat Club had to be completely demolished. They did receive a \$100K donation from a local couple to help rebuild. They are far from their financial goal to rebuild their club. If you are interested in contributing to their building fund please reach out to me. I will give you contact information. Also the Gulf Harbors YC in Ft Myers was also closed due to damages from Hurricane Ian. They are open and are bigger and better. Gulf Harbors YC has hosted several Blue Gavel D8 CO Watch's. It is a beautiful friendly club. Have you reached out in your area or formed a group of liaisons to keep you informed of how good or bad, in your area? D8 has that in our plans. We need VP's in several areas! Please include D8 in what is going on in your club/area.



Jim and Cecilia Rappaport

Also we were blessed at the SAYC to meet Drs. Stanley and Katherine Paris, benefactors of our SAYC youth sailing center. Also Jim and Cecilia Rappaport from Boston has been supporters of our fund raising endeavors for our YSC. Recently

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they held their second "Run for the Roses" event benefitting the SAYC Youth Sailing Center. They plan to make this an annual event. Please get involved in your district and you will be pleasantly surprised how much you have to offer. It is very rewarding and a time to give back to your community.

Barbara Dolan
President IOBG D8
IOBG SEAVP

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

On Saturday March 28th, Districts 7,9,and 25 met at the Inter-Lake Yachting Association Spring Meeting held at the Sheraton in Romulus, Michigan. Some of the topics covered were interdistrict communication and cooperation. This included event participation and philanthropic development.

On Sunday May 3rd, District 9 met at Bay View Yacht Club in Toledo, Ohio. A delicious lunch of Mexican chicken and Tamales was served as we heard a presentation by Associated Yacht Clubs Historian John Thompson on the importance of Toledo in sailing in the early 20th century, the design of the Toledo catboat and the establishment of the President Taft Cup Race



L-R VP Dave Mead (Catawba Island Club) VP Gary Baker (Swan Boat Club) Treasurer Stan Ziemkiewicz (River View Yacht Club) President Diane Wright (Swan Boat Club) VP Willard Buttner (Cooley Canal Yacht Club) Secretary Lynne Shoup (Cooley Canal Yacht Club) VP Pat Slee (Perrysburg Boat Club)

Respectfully submitted,
P/C Chris Jurek
Director District 9

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

The District ended the winter quarter of 2026 with four of seven new members inducted into the Order. January 2026 saw the induction of Los Angeles Yacht Club's 2026 Jr Staff Commodore Marjorie Irvin (highlighted in the previous issue of The Log), Cerritos Bahia Yacht Club's Junior Staff Commodore Bryan Engersol, Shoreline Yacht Club's Junior Staff Commodore Patricia Covarrubias and Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach's Junior Staff Commodore Becky Byrum, at each club's respective opening day ceremony.

District membership in 2026, including new members, remains near 80% of year-end 2025. Our annual BBQ at Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach remains on track for Sunday, June 7.

Invitations to attend Opening Day ceremonies of yacht clubs of neighboring districts are

Continued on Page 28

welcomed, and create new perspective with attendance. This year I attended two opening days in District 16 (Santa Barbara Channel Yacht Clubs) on April 12. At the Channel Islands Yacht Club (CIYC) ceremony I saw what I've not seen at other clubs. The IOBG burgee was hoisted in tandem with the staff commodore (officer) flag as part of the ceremony.

The implication, intended or not, seems clear as one equating membership in the IOBG (International Association of Past Commodores) with the officer rank of Past or Staff Commodore of one's yacht club if remaining a member. Whereas the traditional staff commodores' flag would be sufficient, the IOBG burgee adds special recognition of the staff commodores who are IOBG members.



I've also been researching a few of the "cherished" emblems of the yachting world. In this case, the Staff, or Past, Commodore flag. It is often described as a white "fouled" anchor set toward the fly relative to three white vertical stars on a blue field. There exists much inconsistent use of "foul" versus "fouled" describing the anchor; however, it is a foul anchor. A foul anchor is one that cannot set properly on the bottom; whereas a fouled anchor would be one that has gotten (i.e., action) "hung-up" and cannot be easily retrieved.

The opposite of foul is fair. For example, a foul ball cannot be played, whereas a fair ball can. A foul bottom is one on which an anchor might not or will not set, whereas on a fair (good) bottom it will. A fair lead of a line on a yacht is one that does not obstruct the working of the line, halyard, or sheet; whereas a foul lead obstructs. We frequently use snatch blocks on sailboats to create fair leads for our working lines. Foul is an adjective that describes the anchor whereas fouled is the past-tense conjugation of the regular verb, "to foul." The anchor as depicted on the officer flag has not been "fouled" like a hockey player in a game, but it may be foul because of the cable illustrated as winding through it would interfere with the anchor setting itself.



*District 10 Vice President
Wayne Galloway inducts
CerBYC Jr Staff
Commodore Bryan Ingersol,
February 24*



*District 10 Director
Raymond Wilson inducts
SYCLB Jr Staff Commodore
Patricia Covarrubias,
March 21*



*District 10 President Jay
Zaidenburg inducts NYCLB
Jr Staff Commodore Becky
Byrum, April 11*



*The Empty Chair
In commemoration of
members who have Crossed
the Bar*

Continued on Page 29

IOBG District 15 - Jeanne Irwin - District Director

We have a new Vice President for District 15. His name is Rich Chambers. Rich is past Commodore of Silver Gate Yacht Club; Past Commodore of Cortez Racing and race committee; currently a representative of San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs and Race Committee Chair for San Diego Catalina Association.

Our annual get-together barbecue is scheduled for August. We will be having a raffle to benefit one of our noteworthy charities in our District yet to be determined. As with all Districts, we are working steadfastly on recruiting past and current IOBG members. Relevancy seems to be the keyword.



District #16 - Lisa Marie Medlen - District Director

For the fourth consecutive year, members of District 16 of the International Order of the Blue Gavel (IOBG) played a major role in supporting the annual Real Guppies of Ventura County fundraiser, held on May 31.

Real Guppies of Ventura County is dedicated to empowering and inspiring youth, families, and the community through education and personal development. The organization provides opportunities for young people to experience fishing, learn valuable life skills, and participate in educational programs at its community center.

District 16 members proudly prepared and served a tri-tip and shrimp dinner with all the fixings for approximately 120 guests attending the event. Participating yacht clubs included AYC, PCYC, HIYC, and CIYC, which hosted this year's fundraiser.

As Real Guppies' largest fundraising event of the year, the evening was a tremendous success and showcased the strong partnership between the organization and the boating and fishing community.

District 16 is proud to be a sponsor of Real Guppies of Ventura County and looks forward to supporting this important cause again next year.

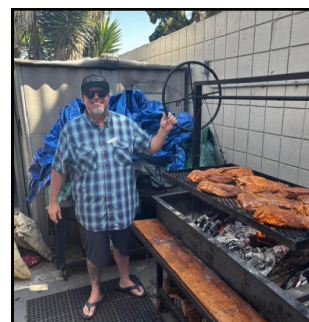
Submitted by Sheldon Berger, Past President, District 16



The Cooks



The Guests



Tri Tip Entree

Continued on Page 30

District #27 - Maryland, Chesapeake Bay

Hello from District 27 - the great Chesapeake Bay. Boating season is in full swing! A who's who of tall ships are heading here for our America 250 celebration. The Star Spangled Banner flies proudly over Ft. McHenry. Steamed crab season is upon us. All is right with the world!

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

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

COMMODORE INSIGNIA

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: _____



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

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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MLrs4742@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

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LEGAL OFFICER

Alec Chabalowski
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MEMBERSHIP

Kathy McCarthy

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marsha Landreth

PAST PRESIDENT LIAISON

Steve Willing

IOBG COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

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

WEBMASTER

Josh Wagner

2026 IOBG DIRECTORY

REFLECTS UPDATES RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 2025



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Jack Skidmore (Nancy) [Email](mailto:JackSkidmore@gmail.com) 805-896-5555

BOAT U.S. MEMBERSHIP

Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

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HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON

John W. Gaddis 661-974-6286

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NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

Marlene Barrington [Email](mailto:MarleneBarrington@gmail.com) 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

8577 Hilltop Drive

Mentor, Ohio 44060

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

International Order of the Blue Gavel THE LOG PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

SUNDAY AUG 2 - ARTICLES DUE

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