

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

Volume: 48 No.: 3

Fall 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.

LAKE CHELAN YC'S MEMORIAL DAY EVENT



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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



(443) 737-4498 Code: XD68G8



2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

ROBERT P. BUZZ BISANZ, Col.
529 VICTORIA, ROAD
WOODSTOCK, GA 30189

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PRESIDENT ELECT

DAVE KOWERT
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MT. PLEASANT, SC 29466

TEL: 843-412-0137
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International Order of the Blue Gavel

AREA VP'S AND DISTRICTS



NORTHWEST - BUTCH BROWN

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DISTRICT 2
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DISTRICT 4
OPEN

DISTRICT 5
OPEN

DISTRICT 24
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butchbrown83@gmail.com

541-602-3220



SOUTHWEST - RICHARD DOOLEY

DISTRICT 6
Linda Weiland
5412 McMorris Dr
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Cell: (808) 478-2156
lweiland@yahoo.com

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2653 Nipomo Ave
Long Beach, CA 90815
Tel: 562-627-1726
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wilson_kingsgambit@yahoo.com
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DISTRICT 12
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DISTRICT 20
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DISTRICT 22
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DISTRICT 26
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DISTRICT 27
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donaldapeacock@gmail.com

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ENGLAND

DISTRICT 70
OPEN



NEW ZEALAND

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International Order of the Blue Gavel

The Association of Past Commodores

— Please Read —

August 11, 2026

TO: Members of the International Order of the Blue Gavel

FR: The Nominating Committee

RE: Slate of Officers for 2026-2027

The nominating committee is honored to present the following slate of candidates for the 2026-2027 year.

President – **Dave Kowert**
President Elect – Dean Smith
1st VP – Rich Dooley
2nd VP – **Rodger Dutton**
Exe Sec – Phil Lacourse
Treasurer – Kathy McCarthy
Imm PP – P.C. Robert (Buzz) P. Bisanz
NCAVP – Ronn Murphy
SEAVP – Barbara Dolan
SWAVP – Vacant
NWAVP – Butch Brown
NEAVP – Don Peacock

Steven M. Hyder
Immediate Past President
Chair of the Nominations Committee

Committee Members:
President P.C. Robert (Buzz) P. Bisanz
PP Marsha Landreth
Don Shuster (East Rep)
George Iaconis (West Rep)



PRESIDENTS REPORT

ROBERT P. (BUZZ) BISANZ, COL.

Thank everyone for your support of Blue Gavel in 2026. We now have over 1450 Blue Gavel members and growing. Our annual expenses are currently under budget with our total funds at a higher level now than they were at the start of this fiscal year. The District Treasurers have an excellent working relationship with our IOBG Treasurer Kathy McCarthy so keep up the good work.

Please make sure you review the information on the upcoming IOBG annual meeting which is scheduled for October in Baltimore, MD. IOBG President Elect Dave Kowert has been working to provide a business meeting and social event for the dates of October 22nd thru October 25th. See the detailed information from Dave Kowert in this LOG. This meeting will also be available via Zoom on Saturday morning and into the afternoon for those members who are unable to attend in person.

This year's group of IOBG Area Vice Presidents have been doing a great job communicating with their assigned Districts and membership. If you have any questions regarding IOBG please contact your District leadership group and your assigned IOBG AVP. The list of these individuals are available on our IOBG.org website so utilize that site for your initial information then contact your District representatives if you cannot find the topic and answer you are seeking.

I would like to publicly thank our IOBG Executive Committee members for all their efforts this year on behalf of our membership. 1st VP Dean Smith has been on the road representing the Executive Committee and meeting our members across the country. His last trip was to Put-in-Bay and Buffalo, NY. Thanks Dean for spreading the Blue Gavel comradery around the USA.

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.



DAVE KOWERT

PRESIDENT ELECT REPORT

Note from P/C Dave Kowert – President Elect

There has been a lot of work and planning that has gone into creating an Annual Meeting Event that will be both productive to IOBG and hopefully a lot of fun for all who can attend. I want to Thank both Carl Treff and Dean Smith for all their help and advice in bringing this program together.

I'd like to make a special request to each of you to consider attending this year's Annual Meeting. Frankly, we need your voice and opinion as we all work to meet IOBG's Mission and grow our organization. Being part of the Annual Meeting is the best way to have your views heard and to share ideas you might have with other IOBG members. Our weekend on The Chesapeake only has two official meetings but they are both important to our strategic plan for the entire year ahead. These meetings determine our budget, our Boards, who participates in special groups that make IOBG a first class organization, and what we want to tell the Executive Committee we elect are the priorities we want them to focus on during the year ahead.

Equally or even more important, these Annual Meetings are the best opportunity we have to network with others outside of our individual Districts. It's a chance to share what's working well and to learn from others how they deal with challenges we might be facing in our own Chapters and Districts. We build friendships that encourage us to travel and enjoy other areas of the Country and the regional yacht clubs we might find there.

Please think about investing your time in a trip to Maryland this October. If you ARE planning to attend, PLEASE email me your preferred email and phone ASAP as I will be sending out additional information as it becomes available and asking you what activities you want to enjoy over the course of the weekend. You can pay for your event tickets when you arrive but it is important that we know how many people are planning to attend each event so we can make the required arrangements. My email is davekowert@bellsouth.net. My cell phone is 843-412-0137 if you have any questions.

Thanks for your consideration and I hope to see MANY of you in October.

Dave Kowert
President Elect
P/C Charleston Yacht Club 2011



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (TENTATIVE)

IOBG 2026 Meeting / Maryland Yacht Club

October 23-24, 2026

Prepared by Dave Kowert (President Elect)

Thursday October 22 Arrival Day. The Cambria Hotel Arundel Mills

5:00p-7:00p **Meet and Greet in Hotel Lobby**

Cash Bar at The Cambria

Dinner on your own or with friends ... at Hotel or

Nearby Arundel Mills Mall Attire: Casual

Friday October 23rd

8:00a-9:30a **Buffet Breakfast at The Cambria (\$15.00/Person)** Paid to the Hotel (There are other nearby breakfast options if so desired)

9:30a-10:30a **Round Table Discussion on “What’s going well around IOBG”**
- Facilitator – Dean Smith (Presentation of District Survey)

10:30a-12:00a **Regional Meeting at The Cambria Hotel Meeting Room**
- Presiding Officer Buzz Bisanz President
- Will have ZOOM link for national participation – including voting
- Delegate guests visit to Arundel Mall (Super Mall) 10:00 – 12:00

12:30p-2:00p **Lunch and travel to Annapolis**
Lunch on your own

2:00p Meet at “Muster Point” in Annapolis

2:00p-5:00p Enjoy one of two possible “tracks” in Annapolis
Based on your desire to walk and your past experience in Annapolis

Track 1 – Walking Tour of The Naval Academy at Annapolis

Hosted by: Dean Smith - Annapolis Graduate

Approximately 2.5 mile walk (worth every step)

Track 2 – Walking Tour of Annapolis Downtown

See quaint boutique shops

High Tea at 3:00 at Reynold’s Tavern in Annapolis

Participants order off the menu

A “pub crawl” type of afternoon getting to know the history of Annapolis

Walking tour led by Carl Treff (local resident)

5:00p Regroup at “Muster Point” in Annapolis

5:00p-5:30p **Drive to The Seafarers Yacht Club** (about 2 miles)

Continued on Page 8

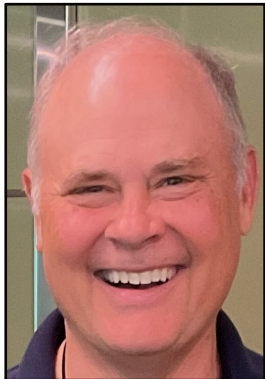
- 5:30p-7:30p **Meet, Greet, Learn, and make some new friends**
The Seafarer's Yacht Club Annapolis
Light Foods and Drinks (**cost: \$35.00 per person**)
- 7:30p-8:00p **Travel back to The Cambria Hotel**
Dinner (if desired) on your own at hotel or nearby restaurants
- 9:00p-10:30p **Nightcap at Hotel Lobby Bar**

Saturday October 24th

- 9:00a-9:30a **Travel to The Maryland Yacht Club**
- 9:30a-10:30a **Annual Meeting**
Presiding Officer: Dave Kowert (Incoming President)
Meeting will be open to all IOBG members through a ZOOM link
- 11:00a-1:00p **Brunch with Buzz**
A celebration of Buzz's year at the helm of IOBG
Discussion on "Servant Leadership" hosted by Dean Smith and Dave Kowert
- 1:00p-4:00p **Chesapeake Bay Cruise**
Hosted by Carl Treff and Members of The Maryland Yacht Club
Those wishing NOT to cruise can spend time at the Arundel Mall
- 4:00p-4:30p **Travel back to The Cambria Hotel**
Chance to rest, dress for dinner
- 5:30p-6:00p **Return to The Maryland Yacht Club**
- 6:00p-8:30p **IOBG Change of Watch Celebration Dinner**
Drinks Appetizers and Networking
Buffet Dinner (catered)
Music and Entertainment
Formal Introduction of 2026-2027 Officers
Brief Program
Cost: \$55.00 per person (cash bar at MYC)
Attire: Blue Blazers Grey Slacks/Skirts Caps
- 8:30p-9:00p **Return to The Cambria Hotel**
- 9:00p-10:00p **Nightcap at The Cambria Hotel Lobby Bar**

Sunday October 25th

Open day for return travel.



DEAN SMITH

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

As we enjoy the summer boating season's last few months, I've appreciated visiting districts in the North Central and Northeast areas. In July I joined Districts 7, 9 and 25 at Put-In-Bay for the Inter-Lake Yachting Association's 2026 Powerboat Regatta and IOBG Reception. I also made a quick trip up to Buffalo for District 3's annual Summer Party at the venerable Buffalo Launch Club, where I again realized that summer on the Great Lakes is truly a special experience.

Over the past two years, I've had the fortune to meet with all 17 District Directors, much of their boards and many of their members. It's been very enlightening to learn about how the districts operate, and listen to their members' opinions of what the Executive Committee can do for the districts. The need for communication is a common thread, and I'm hoping these editions of the Log, frequent updates to our IOBG website, discussions at our annual meeting (where ALL are invited), and continued outreach by EC members (both in-person and virtual) will help address that.

I've seen firsthand some of the challenges that many districts have – yearly efforts to get renewals in a timely fashion, decreasing membership in some districts, finding new board members in others, and the constant need for IOBG to remain relevant and engaged with both current and future members.

I've also seen a number of success stories – partnerships with other local yachting associations, educational seminars for new bridge members of yacht clubs, district and inter-district events like wine tours, cruises, and charitable fundraising, among others. All of these directly tie to IOBG's mission. The Log exists for us to share these experiences, and explore opportunities for members and districts to network outside their normal "cruising range."



EC members Dean Smith, Steve Hyder, and Mark Cain at the I-LYA IOBG Cocktail Party

So, I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting in October, and look forward to continuing to learn about and help Blue Gavel succeed in the future.



MARK CAIN

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Wow, time keeps moving on.....time to start planning for our annual meeting at the beautiful Maryland Yacht Club located on the Chesapeake Bay. This will be a wonderful event as we will be bringing our new officers on board. This is all happening October 22-25, 2026, which should be a great time of year to be at the bay. I'm hoping Dean Smith, IOBG VP, who is a graduate of the Naval Academy in Annapolis will enlighten us with some of the historical richness of this beautiful area, as it is also known as America's Sailing Capital.

We've had a great summer so far, attending the IYLA week in Put-In- Bay, this was attended by several boating dignitaries including three (3) current and past International Presidents of the International Association of Shrine Yacht Clubs. This group has member clubs throughout the United States and several neighboring countries. They pride themselves on supporting Shrine Hospitals worldwide, who give free care to families who suffer from burns and spinal conditions. Providing free care for both injured people and their families. This is a great organization to be working with...we salute you!

There has been a lot of activity in our SW District. Rich Dooley, SW area VP, has been working with his districts stirring up interest and working on bringing in new clubs and memberships. They are having a big BBQ event in late August at the San Diego Yacht Club; we are hoping to attend.

We've also been getting a lot of membership activity in the Houston, Texas area. Dean Smith, 1st VP, has been working with Michael Kirschgestner, Area 51 Director. They are talking with Lakeside Yacht club. So glad to see districts working so well together.

Looking forward to our annual meetings that will be here before you realize it and starting to prepare for next year's exciting events.

Mark Cain, 2nd VP



TREASURERS REPORT

KATHY MCCARTHY

Hello IOBG Members,

I hope you all are enjoying your boating season. It is hard to believe that the summer is slipping by us so quickly. It is also hard to believe that my first term as International Treasurer is almost over. I would like to express how pleased I have been with conversing with many of you and getting to know some of the officers from various districts. I have strived to process membership cards quickly as soon as payment of International Dues are received. I am always available to answer emails, texts, or phone calls from anyone if I can help. I hope I have met everyone's expectations and plan to run for another term if I am so elected.

I am proud to say that our membership has seen a steady increase. Our area Vice Presidents have been doing a fantastic job reaching out to the various districts. They are the first line of contact to answer any questions about IOBG and are there to help promote additional membership. (I can always be the second line of contact so feel free to reach out if necessary).



Pictured: All Past Commanders of the Greater Cleveland Boating Association and all Members of IOBG District 7.

On a personal note, my husband and I cruised from Fairport Harbor, Ohio to the Huron Boat Basin in June for the Greater Cleveland Boating Association's Summer Rendezvous. (which for us, is about a 75-mile cruise). Boats from various parts of Lake Erie cruised in. On Saturday, IOBG District 7 hosted a cocktail party which was very well attended. There were also officers from various agencies, such as ODNR, Coast Guard, and Border Patrol that were there to answer questions or listen to concerns from any boaters that attended.

In closing, I would like to encourage all of you to promote IOBG to any past commodores that are not currently members of IOBG. IOBG remains the most prestigious fraternity in the boating industry.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

PHIL LACOURSE

Greetings everyone,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer so far this season. Sadly, here in the mid-west it is quickly coming to a close. Also, we all hope that you are enjoying our new and improved web-page.

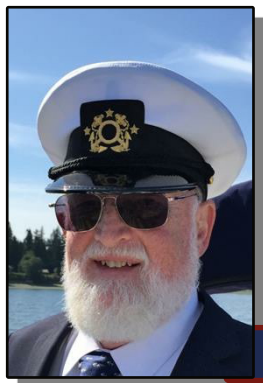
As you all have seen by now, we hope that a lot of you will take advantage of all of the work and planning that President Elect Dave Kowert has put together for our Fall Convention and Change of Watch. Please check out the LOG for all of the details. He has put together some really great tours and events. Thanks to everyone for their planning in attending and make this weekend one to remember. Also, thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work in nominating a slate of officers for the 2027 season for the IOBG.

The latest project that I have been working on is a new Charter for the Stockton Sailing Club. Unfortunately, the original that I mailed out is somewhere in hyperspace. A new one was mailed and I hope that SSC receives it very soon. Welcome Stockton Sailing Club as a newly Chartered Member of the IOBG. We are honored to have you aboard.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the Officers of the IOBG from the International President to the District VP's and to all of the IOBG Members. The amount of time that the International Officers dedicate to the IOBG is unbelievable. I have witnessed this first hand and I am in awe of their commitment. The Area VP's have all been the right arm of the International and the Districts are all doing a great job in communicating and recruiting. There are also a lot of people behind the scenes of the IOBG that are very committed to everything that they do and for what they are responsible for. Thank you to everyone for all that they do for the IOBG.

Best wishes to all,

Philip LaCourse,
IOBG International Executive Secretary



NORTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT **BUTCH BROWN**

Greetings from NWAVP.

The Pacific Northwest is now in full boating swing. May starts our boating season with the opening day at Seattle Yacht Club hosting a full day of activities. IOBG was represented by Alan Kester, President during the festivities.

We had a Great Summer Picnic in Cle Elum, WA, the weekend of July 17 to 20th! Thanks to Chris Heide for organizing, and to all who participated! Next event is next month – our Fall Meeting and Change of Watch at Lake Chelan YC on Sept 18-19. Our nominating committee is hard at work forming a slate of officers next year.

We are working hard at recruiting and are attracting new members and chapters.

Butch Brown NWAVP





SOUTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT **RICH DOOLEY**

In July, Districts 19 & 14 held the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic at the Stockton Yacht Club. The Newest and one of the largest IOBG District 19 Chapters had five Past Commodores sworn in, along with two other Past Commodores, one from Weber Yacht Club and one member from Barbary Coast Yacht Club. An Eight Bells Ceremony was held for long-time and active member Ed Stetson, who recently passed away.



*District 19 Chapters five
Past Commodores sworn in*

On July 18, 2026, the Ebony Boat Club of Antioch held its Jazz on the Water event at the Bridge Marina Yacht Club. This event featured the Larry Vann Band with dancing and a Barbecue.

Later this month on August 30, I will be attending the District 15 meeting and Barbecue at the Navy Yacht Club on Coronado Island in San Diego, California. I will also be meeting with D51 Director, Michael Kirchgestner, and officers from D11. I will also be meeting with Director Jeanne Irwin, D 15 Director, and Rich Champers, the new President of District 15, to share and discuss ways I can assist them and District 15.

Regards,
Rich Dooley
Southwest Area Vice President
rich.dooley@yahoo.com

**IOBG-Dist. 15 Membership
Appreciation BBQ & Meeting & Raffle**
(Bring cash and try your luck for 3 generously donated raffle prizes)

You are invited to join and
celebrate with:

- Dist. 15 IOBG Members,
- Past Commodores,
- SDAYC—Commodores & Vices & Rears

**NYCSD patio
(Fiddler's Cove)**
August 30, 2026
Noon to 3:00 pm
Casual Dress

District 15 will provide:
Water, Soft Drinks, Beer,
Wine
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs

Members - please bring
something to share: Pot-
Luck style sides or des-
serts & bring cash for the
raffle

Volunteers - needed for
BBQ & Food Management

Susan Rodriguez, President
IOBG Dist. 15
Please RSVP
(for head count)
srodz@proton.me
709.845.3161
Remember, bring cash
Thank you!

**EBONY BOAT CLUB'S
Jazz on the Water 2026**

July 18, 2026 ~ 12-5 PM
Bridge Marina Yacht Club
20 Fleming Lane, Antioch, CA 94509
MUSIC BY THE LARRY VANN BAND
For further information contact
Jennifer Dubon @ 415.299-7053



NORTH CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT

RODGER DUTTON

Hello from the Salt Free Seas,

I guess this is the article for the Fall Log, as summer is flying by here in the North Central Area.

Coming up, I plan on attending the Voyage for Veterans event, created and put on by the CIC Chapter Blue Gavel. It has become an annual event and grows larger each year to honor and Thank our Veterans. Such a great cause, and proud to see Blue Gavel do this, as it punctuates what the IOBG is all about.

Too many things to list of what is going on for whats left of our short but packed summer. I need to get back on the water, so this ends my report.

If your a Past Commodore and have yet to join the IOBG, please reach out to join so you quit missing out.

Hopefully, see you on the water.

Rodger Dutton
North Central Area VP





SOUTH EAST AREA VICE PRESIDENT

BARBARA DOLAN

Our members in D8 are communicating with our District Director, Kathy Hockenberry, treasurer Gary Anderson and myself. Communication is a very important part of keeping everyone involved and also it shows that you appreciate them and their involvement with our district.

As most of you know one of our most respected and beloved past presidents of International Blue Gavel, Joe Dowdell III passed away in April of this year. A Celebration of Life was held at the Marathon Yacht Club where Joe was a member for many years. Even in death Joe is still impacting our organization. PC Jeff Skoda from the Marathon Yacht Club has reached out to our district offering his participation with the D8 Board. It is because of Joe that he would like to volunteer even more. Jeff will be returning to the Helm as Commodore in February, a 3rd term. He is also very active on the board of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs serving on the Executive Committee for three years. How rewarding and exciting to serve in the same yacht club as PC Jow Dowdell III.

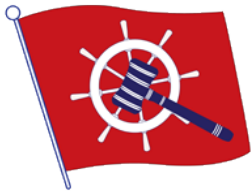
I have also been in communication with the Palm Coast Yacht Club. They actually called to offer their restored Herreshoff Pilot boat to The St Augustine Yacht Club. It will be a very nice addition to our club. Commodore Les Ball said that it was offered to the SAYC because of our generosity to them. They are without a club house. Three of their past commodores will be applying to the SAYC Blue Gavel Chapter for membership. We will welcome them. Do you have any clubs near you that need help locating a clubhouse? Reach out to them.



The Dunedin Florida Yacht Club is currently without a clubhouse which was lost in a hurricane. They still maintain their Blue Gavel Chapter and hope to rebuild. They would be grateful for any donations to their building fund.

WATCH FOR IT! Grand Opening of the St. Augustine Yacht Club: Stanley and Catherine Paris Youth Sailing Center. Our youth IS the future of our yacht clubs, please sponsor a child.

Barbara Dolan
SEAVP



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL AUXILIARY

PAMELA MYERS

International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary

As you are aware, the IOBGA has not been very active in the last couple of years. As we are still in the process of 'rejuvenating' the IOBGA, our first step was to elect officers.

Officers are as follows:

President – Pamela Myers (D9) – pamelas1960@yahoo.com

President Elect – Gina Aune (D7) – ginabling16@gmail.com

Secretary – Cindy Ziemkiewicz (D9) – cindy.ziem@bex.net

Treasurer – Karla Reamsnyder (D9) – karlareamsnyder@aol.com

Please reach out and introduce your District to the above officers. We are all excited to serve our members and look forward to the interaction we can all have (same as the IOBG).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the above with questions, concerns, or advice. We look forward to sharing what our Districts are doing and also encourage each District to share ideas on fundraising and/or support of local boat/yacht programs.

As a start, D7, D9, and D25 are sponsoring their annual Wine Tour September 18-19, 2026. This event is well attended and everyone has a fantastic time!

Pamela Myers
President, IOBGA





IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

LEE J. HOMYOCK

TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR LOCAL AREA GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2027

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 for 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.

Local Area Program Grants provided in Fiscal Year 2026 are:

- Forest City Yacht Club, Cleveland Ohio – CPR/AED training and Waterproof AED Cabinets
- Channel Island Woman's Sailing Association, Oxnard California – Adventure Day Sailing
- Catawba Island Club Blue Gavel, Port Clinton Ohio - Voyage for Veterans
- Ottawa River Yacht Club, Toledo Ohio – Pickley Cub Youth Regatta

Recent recipients of Local Area Program grants included

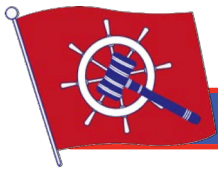
- Coral Ridge Yacht Club, Florida
- Santa Margarita Yacht Club, California
- Monro Boat Club, Michigan
- Mentor Harbor Yachting Club, Ohio
- Pacific Corinthian Youth Foundation, California

In planning your boating and education programs for 2027 it is time for submitting your Local Area Program grant applications. Applications and Instructions can be found on the IOBG Humanitarian Foundations website www.iobghf.org. The Website also lists the Humanitarian Board of Directors if have questions while completing your applications.

IOBG Humanitarian Board of Directors are:

- PC Lee J. Homyock
- PC Jack White
- PC John W. Gaddis
- PC Lloyd Bogue
- PC Linda Leff
- PC Janet Blanchard
- PC Susan Rodrigus
- PC Barbara Dolan
- PC Karen Shea

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



DISTRICT NEWS

District 1 – Butch Brown, District Director

It's another wonderful summer here in the Pacific Northwest, though wildfires in the east of the state have us concerned for our members there.

Over Memorial Day, our Lake Chelan YC chapter commemorated the day by raising their new IOBG flag, then lowering it to half-staff in honor of US military members who died in service of the country.

July brought warmer temperatures, and District 1's summer picnic in Cle Elum in July had great weather and very good turnout. We enjoyed a lunch trip to the nearby town of Roslyn - an old mining town and current tourist destination. It's also home to the Brick Saloon, built in 1889 and Washington state's oldest operating saloon. Several members also braved reports of bear sightings and rode their bikes from Cle Elum to Roslyn! A buffet dinner on Saturday capped a great weekend of socializing and catching up.

Next month, our Fall Meeting and Change of Watch will be hosted at Lake Chelan YC, home to District 1's largest chapter. We're looking forward to journeying into the North Cascades and enjoying a boat ride on the US's third deepest lake, as well as seeing the (relatively) new clubhouse, docks and breakwater which the dynamic members at LCYC are rightly proud of!



Group photo - D1 summer picnic in Cle Elum, WA



D1 members at Washington's oldest saloon



District 3 – Don Peacock, District Director

Here are some pictures from our District's 2026 Summer Picnic, which was held at the Buffalo Launch Club's Pavilion.

In attendance was the 2026 **Executive Committee's First Vice President, Dean Smith**, from Hansville, WA. He gave a short speech congratulating our District on its large membership, noting that only a handful of districts nationwide have over 100 members.

Continued on Page 20

Looking forward to our Christmas Party in December and to having well over 100 members renew their membership for 2027.

You are cordially invited to the
*International Order of the
Blue Gavel District 3*
Summer Party



**Thursday July 23rd**

Buffalo Launch Club - Grand Island NY
• Cocktails at 6 • Dinner at 7

— — — — —

Cost: \$30 per person
Checks payable to IOBG District 3 and mailed to:


PC Andy Barbasch
131 Thamesford Ct
Amherst NY 14221

RSVP to PC Kenny Burgio
716.990.9260 | kburgio@yahoo.com





Ahoy, Members, from the Bridge Officers for 2026, and I certainly 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 across the area and having more fun during the year.

Summer is here and enjoy every moment by the water or on a boat.

Please make sure we have your updated and current email address on record with Kathy McCarthy. Communication is the key to keep all members informed with current plans going on in IOBG.

Another phenomenal event is the Wine Tour at Holiday Inn Express, Madison, Ohio, dates September 18th and 19th. What a FUN time. Join me and share the fellowship and friendship with the other IOBG Clubs across the district. Commodores of local IOBG's, please ask a fellow Commodore to join and spread the word.

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL LOG PAGE 21

From Page 20

I will see you on October 17th at the Change of Watch for IOBG Officers at the Forest City Yacht Club.

The International IOBG meeting will be in Maryland this year on October 23rd and 24th. Come and support the officers and staff. It will be a great time.

Remember to pay your dues to District 7 IOBG, and please share your ideas with me to improve the FUN.

May God bless You.

Ronn Murphy, Director, District 7, IOBG

murphyrm2361@gmail.com



Catawba West Harbor Yacht Club officers



Catawba West Harbor YC at I-LYA Powerboat Regatta



District #8 - Kathryn Hockenberry - District Director

The Vero Beach Yacht Club chapter of the International Order of the Blue Gavel (IOBG) is committed to the mission of “Preserving the Customs, Traditions and Ethics of Yachting” by helping organize and coordinate its Club’s different ceremonial events.

Most recently, Doug Case, Chapter President, took charge of hosting local clergy for the Club’s annual Blessing of the Fleet. President Case’s presence provided a warm welcome to the visiting clergy--a presence which has long been a tradition at the annual event and the Club. The annual Blessing of the Fleet is a cherished tradition that began centuries ago in Mediterranean fishing villages. The purpose of the Blessing of the Fleet is to ensure a safe and prosperous boating season for all participants. It involves the tossing of flowers or floral wreaths into the water to honor sailors and fishermen who have perished at sea. In modern day ceremonies, we also honor members of our local yacht clubs who have passed away since the previous year’s ceremony.

Another important part of this annual event, there is a fleet review with vessels passing in front of the yacht club. Each vessel was saluted by the officers and received blessings from three distinguished spiritual leaders: Cantor Kelly Onickel from Temple Beth Shalom, Deacon Tom Norwak from St. Helen Catholic Church and Pastor Earl Morgan, the VBYC Chaplain. While passing by the officers and spiritual leaders, the occupants of the vessels tossed flowers into the water.

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From Page 21

In addition to the Blessing of the Fleet, President Case and his fellow Past Commodores assist with the Commodore's Ball, Annual Meeting, Change of Watch and other events, when asked by the Club for historical procedures and protocols.

Jim Stanly, Chapter Treasurer, created distinctive hats for chapter members which recognize their status as Past Commodores and Club members to celebrate various Club milestones and events.



L-R: Past Commodore Doug Case, Deacon Tom Norwak, Cantor Kelly Onickel, Pastor Earl Morgan



Pictured L-R are Past Commodores Jim Stanley, Doug Case and Rey Neville.



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

The members of District 9 attended the IOBG cocktail party hosted by districts 7,9 and 25 at Put in Bay Yacht Club during the Inter Lake Yachting Association Power Regatta on Saturday July 25th. Each President gave an update on what was going on in their respective districts over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. It truly was wonderful seeing so many past commodores in their whites and covers taking time and enjoying the fellowship of our great organization. At the time of this report District 9 is planning its largest philanthropic event, Voyage for Veterans. It's being held on Wednesday August 19th at the Catawba Island Club.

At this event we honor our veterans with a brunch and speakers from our armed forces culminating in a short parade for our vets to the Miller Line Ferry for a cruise around the Lake Erie Islands off Catawba Island.

District 9 has wrapped up its main fundraiser, the OSU vs Michigan raffle. We use these funds for our three main philanthropies which are The Ronald McDonald House, The Special Olympics and The Voyage for Veterans.



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

District ended the spring quarter of 2026 with the final three of our seven new members of 2026 inducted into the Order as part of Opening Day ceremonies. On April 19 it was JSC Steve Parsons of Huntington Harbour Yacht Club, on April 25 JSC Chris Johnson-Pasqua of

Continued on Page 23

SeaGate Yacht Club and on May 2, Derby Day, JSC Mardele Gardiner of Seal Beach Yacht Club. We concluded our successful spring activities on June 7 with our successful annual BBQ at Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach that members of several chapters attended.

I did some traveling in Florida in April. The yacht club yachting environment in Florida is different from here in southern California. Whereas it is very welcoming, access may not be as "open" as here. We visited the Davis Island Yacht Club in Tampa which hosts an IOBG chapter (District 8) and which is a founding member of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs.

The Council is a body of 36 clubs distributed along Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coastlines. A club's membership in the Council, by way of formal reciprocity, offers individual members of those respective clubs certain privileges at other member clubs. A traveling yachtsman or yachswoman could enjoy social and dining privileges among those 36 private yacht clubs of Florida. Within this formality, a "reciprocal visitor" at Davis Island Yacht Club, for example, is seen as one who is a member of one of the other clubs of the Council, and who should arrive with a letter of introduction from that club's commodore, rather than as a member of another yacht club at large, of which there are many. A visitor of a yacht club outside of Florida with proper "credentials" and advance notice is likely welcomed as a guest, although not as a formal "reciprocal" per se. In other areas, such as in southern California, yacht club reciprocity may be accomplished via pair-wise exchanges of invitation cards among the club's commodores.



P/C Bob Brown & Felicia (Shoreline Yacht Club) at the annual BBQ at Navy Yacht Club Long Beach



JSC Mardele Gardiner inducted into Seal Beach Yacht Club



JSC Chris Johnson-Pasqua inducted into SeaGate Yacht Club



District #16 - Lisa Marie Medlen - District Director

On Sunday July 26, District 16 held its summer BBQ meeting at Channel Islands Yacht Club. Members in attendance represented Channel Islands YC, Harbor Island YC, Westlake YC, and Pacific Corinthian YC.

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All attendees were treated to the usual delicious tri-tip and chicken with all the fixings. After dinner there was a special program with guest speaker Port Hueneme Police Department Chief Michael Federico who brought along members of the canine division Joel Magana and his partner K9 Georgio.

Afterwards there was music and dancing. Everyone had a great time.



District #19 - Rich Dooley - District Director



PHPD Chief Michael Federico, officer Joel Magana & K9 Georgio.



In July, Districts 19 & 14 held the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic at the Stockton Yacht Club. The newest and one of the largest IOBG District 19 Chapters had five Past Commodores sworn in, along with two other Past Commodores, one from Weber Yacht Club and one member from Barbary Coast Yacht Club. An Eight Bells Ceremony was held for long-time and active member Ed Stetson, who recently passed away.

I participated in the Discovery Bay Yacht Club Cruise to the Delta Yacht Club and met with their Commodore and Junior Staff Commodore to promote IOBG. They wanted and set up a stack of our IOBG Tri-folds in their lobby. This was a very casual meeting, but highly productive.

I was once again invited to Stockton Yacht Club for the Toga Party and a meeting with Commodore Melissa Marvin, who wants to join IOBG once her term as Commodore has been completed. While at the Toga Party, my wife, Pam, and I won the award for best-dressed couple.

This quarter has been one of the busiest times for me as District 19 Director. I have met with and visited the following Clubs listed below: The Delta Bayliner Club, Stockton Yacht Club, San Joaquin Yacht Club, The Delta Yacht Club, Benicia Yacht Club, Village West Yacht Club, Weber Yacht Club, Marina West Yacht Club, and The Discovery Bay Yacht Club.



District #25 - Chuck Brock - District Director

Reengaging Clubs and Growing the Blue Gavel

As Director of District 25, covering the area from the Detroit River north to Mackinac Island, one of our biggest opportunities is reengaging area clubs with the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

Across our district, many members proudly take the Blue Gavel oath, but unfortunately, some

Continued on Page 25

clubs do not continue their involvement in a meaningful way after that initial commitment. Our goal is simple: bring at least one inactive club back into active IOBG participation each year.

We believe the best way to accomplish this is by being visible, creating opportunities to gather, and working together. Throughout the year, District 25 is looking to host or cohost events with other districts, chapters, and area clubs. Recently, we had the opportunity to cohost a cocktail party at Put-in-Bay during the ILYA Power Regatta with Districts 7 and 9. The event was well attended and provided a great opportunity for Blue Gavel members to reconnect, meet new members, and strengthen relationships across our districts.

Events like this are important, but they are only part of the solution. Our chapters and clubs are essential to the future of IOBG. We encourage each club to make sure its current Bridge is aware of and involved with Blue Gavel. Building that relationship early can help ensure that the tradition and fellowship of IOBG continue.

We are also looking at new ways to strengthen our relationship with the boating community. Historically, District 25 has supported local foundations through charitable donations. Going forward, we are exploring the possibility of giving back directly to area boat clubs, provided they qualify as 501(c)(3) organizations. We welcome suggestions for clubs or organizations that may benefit from this type of support.

Most importantly, we want District 25 to be a resource for our clubs and members. If you have an idea for an event, know of a club that could be reengaged, or have a suggestion for how we can better support the boating community, please reach out.

Together, we can keep the Blue Gavel active, visible, and growing throughout District 25.



District #27 - Carl Treff - District Director

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

Continued on Page 25

District 51 – Michael Kirchengestner, District Director

Exciting news from District 51, TWO new members!!!! That brings the district's total to 6 members counting some older members and two transfer for west coast districts 16 and 15.

International Past President Marsha Landreth joined District 51 when she moved from California to Arizona. I moved from California to Texas in 2025 and am the District Director for District 51.

Our newest members are spread out from California to Texas. Tom Wright is from Morro Bay Yacht club on the central coast of California and Gerrit Rickwalt is from the Lake Conroe Sailing Association in Southeast Texas. Equally important, as D51 Director, I have been working with 1st Vice President Dean Smith to reengage with former chapters/yacht clubs in the Houston Area.

A very productive meeting was held with the Commodore of Lakewood Yacht Club in late June. More to come.....



D51 Director Michael Kirchengestner inducts P/C Gerrit Rickwalt of Lake Conroe Sailing Association

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: _____

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.

Updated September 18, 2019

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-
- 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



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

PROTOCOL OFFICER

Marsha Landreth -805-889-0054
Mrslrs4742@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Nancy Bisanz- 770-337-8701
Buzznan1111@yahoo.com

LEGAL OFFICER

Alec Chabalowski
ajchabal@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Kathy McCarthy

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marsha Landreth

PAST PRESIDENT LIAISON

Steve Willing

IOBG COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

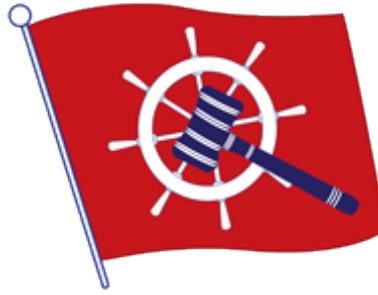
John Gaddis - 661-974-6286
johnwgaddis@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Josh Wagner

2026 IOBG DIRECTORY

REFLECTS UPDATES RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 2025



REPRESENTATIVES

BOAT U.S.

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

BOAT U.S. MEMBERSHIP

Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

AUXILIARY LIAISON

Marsha Landreth 805-899-0054

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON

John W. Gaddis 661-974-6286

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marsha Landreth 805-899-0054

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