



# THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

*Volume 30 No. 1*      *February 2010*      *Mary Nye Meyers, 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.



**Pres. Ray & Dorothy Thompson**



**2009 Annual Meeting - Hosted by District 8's Palm Coast YC**



**Tony Razzel - District 70  
England**



**Passing the IOBGA Gavel**

## 2010 IOBG DIRECTORY

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## President Ray Thompson

It is an honor and I feel privileged to be your 2010 President and will make every effort to prove equal to that responsibility. Each newly installed President must formulate an agenda that will best serve the needs and expectations of the organization. To this end, my proposed agenda would include; the continued activity of the combined By-law/District Directors Committee. Fully support our Marketing Program. Encourage more participation of Appointed Officers. Initiate a committee to evaluate current, as well as, proposed water related legislation.

By-law and Policy controversies the past several years has occupied too much of our meeting time. To help resolve this situation, an ad hoc committee consisting of District Directors and By-law committee, were asked to review certain controversial By-laws and to submit recommended changes to the Executive Committee. Submitted and approved recommendations by this committee were then presented to the membership for vote and were all readily approved. My reaction to the success of this combined group is to make it a permanent method of operation. This group, reacting quickly, would eliminate long and often bitter By-law controversies.

Fully supporting our Marketing Program is a must. Stratagems to acquire new members, while at the same time retaining old members is necessary for growth and essential to maintaining a balanced budget. With our current dismal economic outlook, persistent and diligent marketing efforts by District Directors will be vital if we are to meet our 2010 budget.

To make sure every tenet of our Mission Statement is receiving as much coverage as possible, Appointed Officers will be asked to submit a report for each meeting. These reports will better acquaint the membership with our broad and continuing involvement with other associations.

I have asked George Knies to lead an open forum on regulations affecting Yacht Clubs and boating activities. Hopefully this could turn into a quasi-PAC committee that would be enlightening and thought provoking to the membership. Giving the above duties our full attention will reduce internal faultfinding and permit more time for positive and helpful external programs.





# President Elect Vern Bendsen



Following your Rainbow takes you to places that you usually would not visit. My Rainbow took me to the Renaissance Hotel in Orlando, Florida to attend the IOBG Annual Meeting. There was an added bonus there. I was able to attend District 8's Annual Meeting also.

The members of District 8 can be proud for the outstanding job they did, hosting the Annual Meeting. Especially, when one realizes that the 2008 Board of Directors, resigned enmass, and left no records.

As I look over this past year, I have to say, 2009 has been an interesting year for our Blue Gavel Districts and Chapters. The gamut runs from we are getting new members and having positive, fun events, to, we are losing members and nobody wants to do anything.

When I look at the Districts and Chapters that are doing things, it seems that the main reason for this is their communication. The leaders talk with all of the membership, asking for their input and getting them involved.

If this is the case, then the Districts and Chapters that are having a hard time, are the ones where there is little communication with the membership and not much involvement.

In some cases, I hear that the Districts and Chapters that have been doing nothing are waiting to see what the Executive Committee is going to do. I find this hard to believe; that a District or Chapter can not do any positive things until the Executive Committee does something.

Did you join the Blue Gavel because of the Executive Committee? I think not. You joined the Blue Gavel because of the members in your District or Chapter. You did not even know, or hardly knew, what the Executive Committee was or did.

As a members of a District and Chapter, you have a responsibility to yourself; to do what is best for yourself, within the context of the Blue Gavel's framework.

We all took an oath to become members of the Blue Gavel. Our oath was to: Work for the best of our clubs; To participate and be active with our Clubs; To promote highest standards of sportsmanship and seamanship; And to up hold the standing and reputation of our Clubs. Let us all remember that oath, and live by it.

Communication to the total Blue Gavel membership and their involvement was limited to a few, and has been a problem in the past. This year there has been a strong effort to communicate with all the membership and to get more members involved. We are not there yet, but we are continuing to work on our communications to all and to get more of the membership involved.

There are some of our members who will not let the past go, and move into the present, to work toward the future for the betterment of our Blue Gavel. For the members who refuse to let the past go, we will work around them and over them and leave them in the past, as we move into the future.

As the Holidays Seasons have come and gone, it is my sincere wish that you all have had a FUN filled Holiday. And as the Spring season approaches, 'Follow Your Rainbow' to a Fun filled boating year.



# First Vice President

## Marc Connelly

I cannot believe 2009 is already at a close. Northeastern boats are in storage and our Annual Meeting is history.

To the Palm Coast Yacht Club: " Thank You " for a terrific Annual Meeting. Great location, great weather and above all wonderful friendships.

Congratulations to the 2010 Executive Committee. This new year should be fun and full of new accomplishments for IOBG.

Working as liaison with the Auxiliary this year was a great experience. Your interest in the betterment of IOBG is most appreciated. My wishes for continued success in 2010.

Over the years, I have felt that the Humanitarian Foundation offered our members and Chapters many benefits. new President, Jim Hinckley, has some great ideas for increased benefits. I am sure Jim would appreciate your comments and / or ideas.

The Marketing Program for 2010 will take new steps. We will endeavor to place the complete program on the IOBG web site. Thus its concept will be available to all our members and Chapters.

Speaking of the web site...Mary Nye Meyers you deserve a round of applause. The updates to our site are terrific. Your diligent efforts continue to make the site a definite "go to" for all our members.

Lastly, Kathy and I wish you all a happy and healthy 2010

*Thanks for the Pictures...  
Contributing  
photographers  
for this issue...*

*Mary Nye Meyers  
Michael L. Meyers  
Marybeth Thayer*





## Second Vice President

Stephen Willing

I would like to thank the nominating committee, the Board and the members, for your support and confidence as I assume the position of 2nd Vice President. I joined the IOBG in 1996, serving as District 25 President and Director, followed by 2 years as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation, before becoming the North Central Area Vice President for 2 years.

Shirley and I thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of District 8 at the Annual Convention in Orlando. The hard work of the officers and their spouses was evident, as the weekend was flawless. Thank you and well done! The opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones is an important part of the IOBG experience. We urge all members to attend Regional meetings and meet the people who are working hard on your behalf.

Thomas Edison once said "Restlessness and discontent are the necessities of progress." If this is true, then we have had enough of the former, and it's time to move on with the latter. One entire day at the convention was spent reviewing by-law changes, discussing the marketing plan, exploring new ideas, and in general listening to the membership. My idea to restructure/retitle the offices was not met with much enthusiasm. However the important thing to note here is, even an unpopular, somewhat radical idea, was heard.

In order for the organization to make real progress, we need to hear from YOU. The phone numbers and better yet, our e-mail addresses are listed beside our photos in the LOG newsletter and on the web site at [www.iobg.org](http://www.iobg.org). They are there for a purpose, and we welcome your comments. We all know that not every idea is a great idea, but if the membership does not hear the idea, how will we know?

2010 promises to be a good year, and we encourage you to get involved and join the fun. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our meetings. Remember, the International Order of the Blue Gavel is still the only international organization recognizing the hard work and achievements of you as a "Past Commodore."

### *Meeting Minutes*

The Executive Committee, in response to suggestions to reduce the publishing cost of the Blue Gavel LOG, has decided not to print the Minutes in future issues of the LOG.

The minutes will now be available on the IOBG web site, [www.iobg.org](http://www.iobg.org) - or to request a set by mail, please contact:

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## Legal Officer George C. Knies

The By-laws Committee is making rapid progress revising and adding long needed additions and changes to our by-laws. Our next project will be the updating of our Procedures Manual.

The current economic crisis facing our nation today is causing retention and enlistment problems for clubs and other volunteer organizations. Unfortunately some organizations have lowered their standards for membership in their recruiting zest. Improper vetting of new members has caused serious legal and financial consequences for some clubs and other organizations that I am involved with. In one instance I will be conducting a hearing in several weeks concerning a new member of a Bay Area Yacht Club who unfortunately mentioned his membership in said club when initiating a complaint to the City Attorney, as well as, sending said complaint to a widely read Yachting Publication concerning issues that did not involve the club. The claimant also mentioned a confrontation with a city employee that took place in said club accusing said employee of being intoxicated. Claimant's actions have jeopardized the clubs liquor license and relationship with its landlord, as well as, exposing the club to potential litigation by the recipient of the charge.

Youth programs sponsored by clubs, churches, etc. require a background check for all adults involved in the programs. Said checks are required by local statute, as well as, your insurance carrier. A recent event involving a parent driving several youngsters to a church outing was involved in a auto mishap. It turned out that the driver had a suspended license, resulting from a DUI charge. The church insurance carrier was absolved from liability.

The IRS is in the process of increasing its ranks by 100%, this means more investigators and more attorneys. Our current administration is "taxaholic", expect usage tax increases and tighter scrutiny regarding 501(c) unrelated income filing. For further information in this regard check my article "Reciprocal Arrangements with 501(c)(7) Clubs - The Unrelated Income Controversy" appearing in the July 2008 edition of The Blue Gavel Log.

Prosecution of Copyright Infringement cases has increased considerably especially in the music industry, i.e. pirated DVD sales on the internet, etc. In this regard we should revisit club music license requirements; violation penalties can amount to six figure fines.

Our name and logo are registered with the U.S. Patent Office and the Canadian Patent Office. This gives us exclusive rights of use; use of our name and logo by any other organization or business without our granting license is illegal. U.S. Patent renewal every ten years, next renewal year 2015. Canada renewal every 15 years, next renewal year 2017.

This is a re-occurring problem: Former Blue Gavel members wearing/displaying the Blue Gavel insignia or flying the Blue Gavel Flag are in violation of copyright law. They should be challenged and requested to provide a current membership card. An event advertised as a Blue Gavel Regatta, Dinner, etc has to have at least one Blue Gavel member in good standing organizing or attending that event. It has been noted that some Yacht Clubs have advertised such events held by their Past Commodores none of whom were current members of the Blue Gavel.

This is just a reminder that the information contained in the IOBG Roster i.e. addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are not to be used as mass marketing tools. Meaning we are not to use the email addresses to send out unsolicited business advertising or personal political statements and emails. This goes for regular mail, phone and fax solicitations as well.



## DUTY TO RESCUE AT SEA from CUSTOM TO WRITTEN LAW

George C. Knies

Courts have acknowledged that there is a legal concept called the "unwritten law," which is founded on tradition and usage. Such a tradition and usage can establish a practice, which will then acquire the force and effect of law. This legal concept has resulted in the courts creating the legal duty to render assistance to persons and/or property in peril at sea.

46 U.S.C. 2304 (a) applies to all vessels whether or not they were involved in the casualty or situation. When a person wrongfully fails to attempt to rescue another on the high seas or his negligent attempts at rescue exacerbate the injuries to the victim resulting in his death, such conduct creates a recognizable maritime tort, which would be for a monetary damage claim, triable in the Federal Court System. Statutory basis for this cause of action is found in the Death on the High Seas Act.

Since 46 U.S.C. 2304(a) constitutes a statute designed for the preservation of life in the advent of calamity at sea, the violation can constitute negligence. When the violation of this safety statute is so gross as to constitute a conscious disregard for the life of another that then leads to the loss of that person's life, the misconduct becomes gross negligence. Such gross negligence can be the basis for a manslaughter prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1112 (a), provided that the applicable jurisdictional requirements of 18 U.S.C. 7 are met.

The crime of manslaughter, the unlawful killing of a person without malice, can be either voluntary or involuntary. Since voluntary manslaughter results from a quarrel or the heat of passion, involuntary rather than voluntary manslaughter is more applicable for the failure to render assistance at sea. Involuntary manslaughter is the commission of an unlawful act or the failure to perform a legally required act (failing to render assistance) which produces death. The penalty is a fine and/or imprisonment.

Once the rescue attempt of persons in peril at sea is undertaken, the "would-be" rescuer must act in good faith and exercise reasonable skill and prudent seamanship. Any rescuer whose conduct falls below this standard must be held accountable to the same degree as would one who was negligent in performance of any other assumed or imposed duty.

This universal custom of the sea that is found in the forgoing Federal Statutes and U.S. Navy Regulations, Articles 0925 & 1144 mandates that the rendering of assistance to those in peril at sea is the responsibility of the individual in charge of the vessel and that he should use every means reasonable to save the life of a human-being, who has no other source of help, wherever human life is in danger. What has been an adequate rescue attempt must be decided on a case-by-case basis, but the burden of proof is on the master to show that he did everything possible - consistent with safety of his ship, passengers and crew - to ensure the success of the operation.

The so called "unwritten law" that requires the rendering of assistance to those in peril at sea recognized in the substantive maritime law, but is in fact "not unwritten." Statutes have been enacted by Congress placing the duty to rescue clearly on the vessel's master. A violation of these statutes risks criminal penalties, and should death result from the failure to rescue, it could become the basis for a manslaughter criminal prosecution.



# Rose Spirit



## *The International Order of the Blue Gavel*

*Spring Regional Meeting June 10-13, 2010*

### Thursday, June 10

- 8:30 Buses Pick up IOBG/IOBGA Members
- 9:00 IOBG/IOBGA General Meeting at Portland Yacht Club
- 11:30 Lunch at Portland Yacht Club
- 1:00 IOBG/IOBGA General Meeting Continues
- 3:30 Transportation back to Double Tree Hotel  
Dinner On Your Own

### Friday, June 11

- 8:30 – 9:00 Buses leave for Knighting ceremony  
Washington Park Amphitheater
- 10:00 ROYAL ROSARIAN KNIGHTING CEREMONY  
Washington Park Amphitheater
- 11:30 Buses return to Double Tree Hotel
- 1:00 - 4:00 Hospitality Suite-Presidential Suite, 14th Floor
- 5:00 Transportation departs for Tyee Yacht Club  
No Host Bar and Dinner
- Or  
5:30 Fun Night with the Rosarians  
"A Knight Out in the West" - Ballroom



### Saturday, June 12

- 8:00 Tri-Met MAX Lightrail free to Coliseum for Float viewing, Queen's Coronation & Grand Floral Parade
- 8:30 Coronation of the 2010 Rose Festival Queen  
Preferred seating at Memorial Coliseum is included with purchase
- 10:00 GRAND FLORAL PARADE  
After Parade - MAX (Lightrail) for return to the Double Tree Hotel
- 1:00 - 4:00 Hospitality Suite-Presidential Suite, 14th Floor
- 6:00 GRAND FLORAL "Black & Pink" BALL - Ballroom  
Festival Formal or Black Tie  
Multnomah/Holladay Ballroom

### Sunday, June 13

- 8:30 Farewell Breakfast- Ballroom

# International Order of the Blue Gavel

June 10 - 13, 2010

Spring Regional Meeting

Hosted by District #5

## Thursday, June 10

Transportation from Double Tree departs at 8:30 AM. Approx. cost, if any, to be determined.

### **Dress of the Day:**

**Summer Uniform i.e. Blue Blazer, White Shirt, Slacks, Socks & Shoes, IOBG Tie**

### **Portland Yacht Club**



9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

No. of Persons

Cost

Total

IOBG & IOBGA General Meeting

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - Lunch

\_\_\_\_\_

\$14.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

IOBG & IOBGA General Meeting (Continued)

3:30 PM

Transportation back to Double Tree Hotel

## Friday, June 11

Please refer to Royal Rosarian's Activities Schedule

Transportation from Double Tree departs at 5:00 PM.

### **Tyee Yacht Club**



6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

No. of Persons

Cost

Total

No Host Cocktails

7:00 PM

Dinner (Menu to be announced) Dress is casual

\_\_\_\_\_

\$27.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED:**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "IOBG District 5" AND SEND THE RESERVATION FORM TO:**

Jerry Miller, Secretary  
IOBG District 5  
15298 NW Casey Drive  
Portland, OR 97229

Deadline: May 29, 2010

Questions? Ron Timmerman, District 5 President 503-297-1030 Email: rontimmerman@msn.com

District Number \_\_\_\_\_

Office Held \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



The International Order of the Blue Gavel  
The Royal Rosarian Rose Festival Weekend  
Hotel Reservations

**DoubleTree Hotel – Lloyd Center**

**1000 NE Multnomah**

**Portland, OR 97232**

**503-281-6111**

**1-800-996-0510**

Please call the hotel to make your own reservations and ask for the Royal Rosarian Room Bookings. Use the code “**ROS**” to receive special room rates. The room rates are \$124.00 - \$134.00 plus tax. Reserve your room early.

Reservations received by the hotel after May 11, 2010 will be accepted on a space available basis at prevailing hotel room rates.

For more information, please contact:



**THE ROYAL ROSARIANS**

Korrie Hoeckendorf, Chairman  
Royal Rosarian Hospitality  
Cell phone: 503-784-8150  
email: hoecken@verizon.net

James Brennan  
Council Liaison for Hospitality  
Cell phone: 503-703-6998  
email: roseriders@msn.com



Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safeguarded and the page clearly labeled.

The publication of these rosters, addresses and telephone numbers on any computer on-line service including the Internet is prohibited by the 1974 Privacy Act.

# The Royal Rosarian Rose Festival Weekend

## Registration and Ticket Order Form

Early registration discount expires May 11, 2010  
All registrations must be received by May 29, 2010  
**Registrations must include payment**



### PACKET PRICING

Includes: Hospitality Suite, Fun Night, Grand Floral "Black & Pink" Ball, Farewell Breakfast and transportation for Knighting Ceremony.

Couple	\$280 per couple x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Single	\$140 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Packet Price AFTER May 11	\$300 per couple / \$150 per single		=	\$ _____

### ALA CARTE PRICING

Hospitality Suite for 3 days	\$50 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Hospitality Suite One Day Only	\$25 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Queens' Garden Party (Friday)	\$35 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Fun Night (Friday) "A Knight Out in the West"	\$60 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Grand Floral Parade/Coronation (Saturday)	\$29 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Grand Floral Black & Pink Ball (Sat)	\$70 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____
Farewell Breakfast (Sunday)	\$27 per person x	# _____	=	\$ _____

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Floral Parade/Coronation Preferred Seating tickets are available as an Ala Carte item until May 11th. Parade tickets can be purchased after May 11th by calling 1-877-789-7673, subject to availability and handling charges. The parade can be viewed for free, 5 blocks from the hotel, along the parade route.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization The International Order of the Blue Gavel Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your Grand Floral "Black & Pink" Ball dinner choice(s):**

**Beef** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fish** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian** \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: If you have special needs due to a physical disability, dietary restrictions, etc. please attach a note and we will do our best to accommodate you.

**Send this completed Registration Form  
with**

**Check made payable to 'Royal Rosarians' to:**

ROYAL ROSARIANS  
2010 Hospitality  
8410 NW Copeland Street  
Portland, OR 97229-6765

# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

Submitted by  
Past President Jerry Rudd  
Committee Chairman

Notice is hereby given in accordance with our Bylaws that the Nominating Committee for 2010 consists of Past President Jerry Rudd, Chairman; President Ray Thompson and First Vice President Marc Connelly, committee members.

The Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of Officers to the membership and Board of Directors for consideration and election.

Members in good standing wishing to be considered for an elected office must submit their letter of consideration to each member of the Nominating Committee either by e-mail or direct mail by the June 2010 Regional Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

The Nominating Committee will announce its recommended slate of Officers at the August 2010 Baltimore, Maryland Regional Meeting. The recommended slate of Officers will be published in the September 2010 Blue Gavel LOG newsletter.

Elections will be held at the October 2010 Annual Meeting in California.

**2010 Summer Regional Meeting    Hosted by District 27**  
**August 20-22,**  
**2010**





# *US Sailing Representative Report*

*by Bill Thayer*

The US Sailing website, the Video Podcast of the Week, and the Member Benefits Store, has been joined by a Facebook page and a Twitter site.

The 2009-2012 edition of the US Sailing Judges Manual is now available on line for free to members.

The IOC has confirmed 10 sailing event classes for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The Tornado Multihulls been dropped.

The 7th Annual Thomas Clagget Jr. Memorial Regatta for sailors with disabilities and vision impaired, designed to increase the talent pool of U.S. sailors vying for Paralympics competition, was held at the Rhode Island Public Sailing Center, Sail Newport in August. It was sailed in single person 2.4 Meter, two person Skud-18 and three person Sonar, the classes sailed in the Paralympics Games. They were also attempting to qualify for the U.S. disabled Sailing Championships sailed on Cos Cob Harbor in Connecticut during September.

The inaugural New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup for Corinthian sailors, debuted the week of September 16-19 on Rhode Island Sound utilizing the newly developed Swan 42 fleet, the eighth one-design class created by the NYYC since 1905. This biennial event developed to bring together the most prominent yacht club teams from around the world, allowing each club to demonstrate the skills of its top sailors. 19 teams from 14 countries competed with two of them from America's oldest and revered yacht clubs, the New York Yacht Club and the St Francis Yacht Club. The NYYC with skipper Phil Lotz, kept the cup at home.

The "Rock the Boat Vote" online voting ended October 15th and final voting will take place at the Annual Meeting in League City, Texas by the members present today or tomorrow.

## **Maritime Law ... Boating Accidents**    **By George C. Knies**

**Limitations of Shipowners Liability Act of 1851.** In the event of an accident or loss to a ship, the ship's owners could limit their liability to its residual value plus freight pending, provided they had no knowledge or privities of the negligence or dangerous condition causing the loss.

### **Presumptions**

**Pennsylvania Rule:** Under this rule, if a boat operator violates a safety standard governed by statute, he or she has the burden of demonstrating that the violation could not have caused the accident.

In evaluating the individual circumstances of each case, courts have to consider the relationship between the statutory violation and the manner in which the accident arose.

**Oregon Rule:** States that when a moving vessel collides with a stationary object or vessel, the moving vessel is presumed to be at fault. Maritime law actually uses different words for the act of a vessel hitting another vessel (collision) and a vessel hitting a stationary object such as a bridge (allusion).

### **Apportionment of Liability**

**Comparative Negligence:** This concept makes the parties liable to each other for their respective share of fault. Most states follow this rule.

**Contributory Negligence:** This rule means a claimant may not bring a claim if he or she was any part at fault.

# *IOBG and IOBGA*

## *Clothing and Accessories*

## *Approved Vendors*

**DTE Design This, Inc.**

c/o Carol Wilson or Barbara Browning  
 201 Gateway Drive, Suite F  
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
 Telephone: (410) 420-6880  
 Fax: (410) 420-6880  
 e-mail: barb1dte@aol.com or  
 cwilson751@aol.com  
 www.designthisent.com

**Pierside Promotions**

c/o David Kutz  
 23911 Newell Lane NE  
 Kingston, Washington 98346  
 Telephone: (360) 297-2935  
 Cell: 360-271-1105  
 Fax: 866-239-2070  
 e-mail: PiersidePromos@aol.com  
 www.piersidepromos.com

**Embroidery Factory**

c/o Shirley & Les Housley  
 6000A Egret Court  
 Benicia, California 94510  
 Telephone: (707) 746-7625  
 Fax: (707) 746-7685  
 e-mail:  
 Customerservice@embroideryfactory.com

**Yachta Lettering**

c/o Paul and Lynn Erb  
 13 Dori Lane  
 Barnegat, New Jersey 08005  
 Telephone: (609) 698-6735  
 Fax: M/W/F: (609) 698-6735  
 e-mail: yachtalettering@comcast.net  
 www.companycasuals.com

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



(775) 782-3380  
 (800) 315-7485  
 Fax: (775) 782-4003

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 or black background and the price is \$20.95 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	Unit Price	Total
	IOBG Blazer Emblem				
	Auxiliary Blazer Emblem				

Please Print

I am a paid up member of IOBG District # \_\_\_\_\_ YachtClub \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 IOBGA District # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_

The above will be verified. \_\_\_\_\_

Member will be billed for emblems when shipped. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_



2010 Area Vice Presidents



Appreciation Plaque to Palm Coast YC



Life Boat Association Donation (England)



2010 Executive Committee





Humanitarian Foundation

## *Past President's Award for Outstanding Service*

We who have had the privilege of serving the International Order of the Blue Gavel over the years have all seen the outstanding service of a few particularly noteworthy individuals. It has been our deep pleasure to have served with them, and our concern that there was no vehicle for recognizing their significant contribution to the furthering of the goals of the organization and, indeed, to the Blue Gavel itself.

Therefore, on behalf of all the Past Presidents of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, the Past President sitting on the Executive Committee, presents to the International Order of the Blue Gavel this "Deed of Gift" for an award to be known as the "Past President's Award for Outstanding Service".

## *P*resented by *P*ast *P*resident Richard Janiszewski

To me, our Annual Meeting is very special. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and to look to the future with a full measure of confidence.

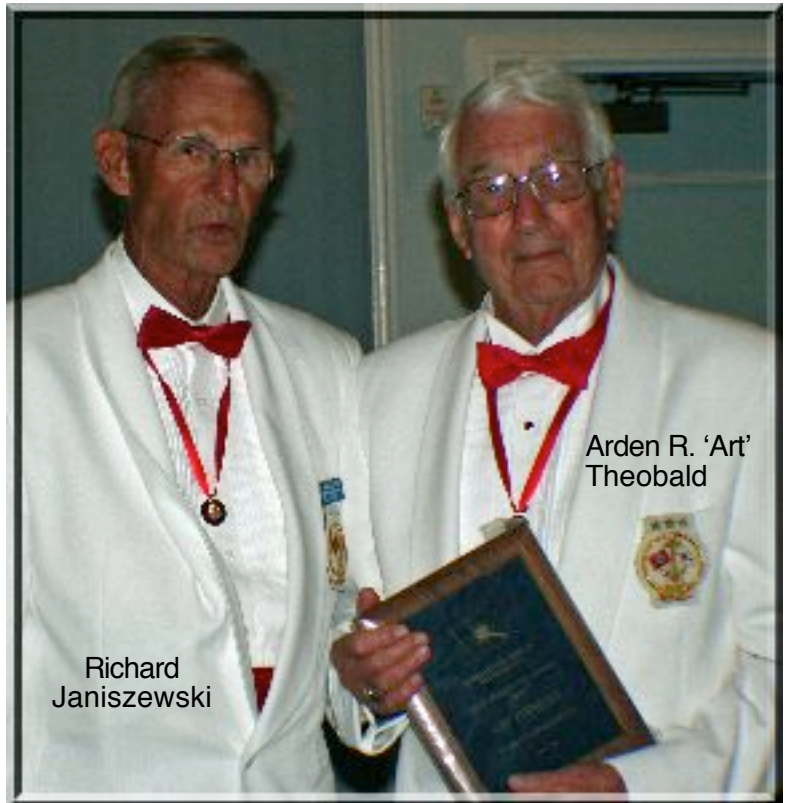
During the past year as Immediate Past President, my responsibilities included being Chairman of the Audit Committee and Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Not exactly a walk in the sun. I was also responsible for the process of identifying and selecting candidates for the Past Presidents Award for outstanding service. A most enjoyable task. This Award is presented on behalf of all Past Presidents in recognition of outstanding service and contributions. All Blue Gavel members are eligible for consideration, as well as, non Blue Gavel individuals who achieve significant accomplishments in yachting and/or the Mission Statement of Blue Gavel.

The Deed of Gift was presented by Past Presidents Ira Nies and Phil Arms in October 1998 and continued every year there after. We thank all Past Presidents for the forethought and initiative. This is truly a wonderful tradition.

Our selectee this year is known to most of you sitting in this room tonight. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he served his country during World War II in the United States Navy rising to the rank of Petty Officer. Following the war's end he returned to civilian life, married, raised a family, lived in one area and held one job much longer than is the case today.

With salt air still pretty much in his chemistry, he acquired his first boat, a 21' cabin cruiser and joined a local yacht club. This was in 1964. Never content to be a follower, he held a series of increasingly responsible positions within his yacht club and became its Commodore in 1975, an amazingly short period of time as we all know.

His need to continue to serve and lead found him joining the IOBG while at the same time holding Chapter and District responsibilities. His accomplishments at each level were significant and did not go unnoticed.



In the late 1980's this individual was asked and accepted the position of Area Vice President, a position he held for several years until being nominated to the position of 2nd Vice President on the Blue Gavel Executive Committee in 2002. The rest is history, culminating with his Presidency in 2005.

I served under this individual for many years and saw first hand his commitment, his leadership, his accomplishments, none of which were motivated by personal gain or personal recognition, but instead always driven by his desire to leave the Blue Gavel and his yacht club stronger, more effective and more member friendly than they were when he first joined them.

Even after becoming a Past President, he continued to serve, his yacht club as Secretary, Chairman of the Ships Store, member of the Member Selection Committee, Secretary/Treasurer of the P.C.'s Committee and today as Secretary of District 8.

My friend you have met your goals and have an envious legacy. Over the years you have taught us that service is more than what you do once in a while, or for a year, or for a term of office. No, it is a life long commitment of service, a life long commitment to touch the lives of all those in need.

Please share these feelings with me and pay respect to one among us who has lived the mission statement of our wonderful organization.

Join me in presenting this years Past Presidents' Award for outstanding Service to Arden R. Art Theobald.





# *J. O. B. G. Past Presidents*

*1955 - 2009*

2009	Jerry S. Rudd Totem Yacht Club	1991	Evertt Roberts Columbia River Yacht Club	1969*	Robert McDermaid West Vancouver Yacht Club
2008	Richard Janiszewski Spray Beach Yacht Club	1990*	Thomas R. Elmer Tonawanda Island Launch Club	1968*	Charles McCurdy Des Moines Yacht Club
2007	Carol Promessi Pittsburg Yacht Club	1989*	Norval "Cav" Cavett Hawaii Yacht Club	1967*	Ken Wise Edmonds Yacht Club
2006	Harvey Sussel The Captains Yacht Club North Palm Beach Yacht Club	1988*	George Cooper Lighthouse Point Yacht Club	1966*	Randy Rockhill Rainier Yacht Club
2005	Art Theobald Sandy Beach Yacht Club	1987	Dr. Burton Jay Southwestern Yacht Club	1965*	Sam Crawford Olympic Yacht Club
2004	Larry Foote San Joaquin Yacht Club	1986*	Ernie R. Villaire Wyandotte Yacht Club	1964*	Story Birdseye Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club
2003	Art Garside Elba Mar Boat Club	1985*	Walter Bertram Hayden Island Yacht Club	1963*	Dr. Ed Chase Everett Yacht Club Meydenbauer Bay YC
2002	Marion Hughes Clover Island Yacht Club	1984*	James Topping Naples Sailing Yacht Club	1962*	Leroy Strasser Totem Yacht Club
2001*	Robert Miller San Joaquin Yacht Club	1983*	E. Carl Schiewe Columbia River Yacht Club	1961*	Frank Metz Queen City Yacht Club Totem Yacht Club
2000	Louis A. Key, Jr. Chagrin River Yacht Club	1982*	Belding H. McCurdy Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1960*	H.E. Richmond Seattle Yacht Club
1999*	Frank Valdes Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1981*	Everett E. Weil Portland Yacht Club	1959*	Harold Fowler Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club
1998	Ted Kendrick San Joaquin Yacht Club	1980*	Fred Roth Cleveland Yacht Club	1958*	Richard McCann Queen City Yacht Club
1997*	Phil Arms Navy Yacht Club San Diego	1979*	Willis Angel Bremerton Yacht Club	1957*	Harry Gundlach Bremerton Yacht Club
1996	Ira Nies Columbia River Yacht Club	1978*	Leonard St. Lewi Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1956*	Art Russeh Seattle Yacht Club
1995	Rolf R. Tinge The Captains Yacht Club The Point Yacht Club	1975-77*	Wesley W. Ortner Portland Yacht Club	1955*	Ev G. Henry - Founder of IOBG
1994	Dr. Richard Disraeli Southwestern Yacht Club	1974*	G. Dudley Henderson Salem Yacht Club		Rainier Yacht Club
1993*	Norman Gallagher Chagrin Yacht Club	1972-73*	Raymond Hash Shelton Yacht Club		
1992*	Wesley Holtzhauser Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1971*	Ed Haecker Hayden Island Yacht Club		
		1970*	Bruce Calhoun Elks Yacht Club		





# Northwestern V.P.

Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 & 24

## Art Kovarnik

District 1  
Jim Hinckley, Director

First of all let me say that District 1 immediately bought into the new IOBG marketing plan as presented to the main body by Mark Connelly at the Annual Convention held on Long Beach Island, New Jersey, in October 2007. As

President of District 1 in 2009, and now District Director, I would like to relate what has been accomplished this past year.

During the 2008 Summer Regional Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, District 1 and District 5 decided to hold a joint Spring Meeting in Hood River, Oregon in April 2009. In preparation for this meeting, I personally mailed invitations to 5 yacht clubs on the Columbia River inviting the Commodores, their Bridge of Officers, and their spouses to attend this meeting and learn what IOBG is all about. During the winter months prior to this meeting, David Kutz, our 2nd Vice President, and Mary Nye Meyers, our past District Director, mailed out close to 100 letters to yacht clubs within District 1 inviting them to our Spring Joint Meeting. Two letters were composed: one letter designed for yacht clubs not members of IOBG and the other letter designed for those yacht clubs that actually were members of IOBG, but not necessarily active members of IOBG. Although the letters did not produce immediate results with participants attending the meeting, the joint Spring Meeting was still a huge success with District 5.

At the same time, our 2nd Vice President, (David Kutz) created an "E-let" mailing through a Google account, where upon every member in District 1 can be notified by E-mail of any pending news regarding the District. Some examples are, "Billings due date", meeting reminders, or any other pertinent business that is vital to our members such as RBAW, NBF, or even IOBG on the International level.

District 1 is bordered on the south by District 5, separated by the Columbia River, and bordered on the north by our Canadian friends from Districts 2, 4, and 24. Mike Parish, Past Northwest Vice-President, organized a cruise across the border this past July 8th-11th, by land. Eleven RV's and 1 boat embarked upon our Canadian friends to join in on their Okanogan Invasion. 35 members, spouses, and friends were successfully led into the Canadian wilderness by our very own "Wagon Master" Mike (Ward Bond) Parish. After spending two nights in Wenatchee and Omak, Washington respectively, our great leader finally got our wagons heading north and we crossed into the Canadian wilderness and finally arrived at the Westbank Yacht Club located on the great Lake Okanogan. District 24 was hosting their annual Okanogan Invasion, and we were their guests of honor for three days. To top off the weekend, District 1 picked up a new MAL from District 4, and International picked up a renewal from a member in District 24. As many of you know, Districts 2, 4, and 24 pulled out of IOBG International, however, District 1 has never lost sight of, or abandoned them, and I feel in time, these Districts will come back to IOBG International.

This past September 18th-20th, District 1 held their Fall Change of Watch in Des Moines, Washington, a suburb of Seattle, and 14 individuals were inducted into District 1. Two individuals were inducted at our Spring meeting, and one joined District 1 from Canada, for a total of 17 new members. On September 30th, 7 members from District 1 attended the Fall Change of Watch for District 5, held in Portland, Oregon, whereupon President Jerry Rudd swore in 5 new members for District 5.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my report, District 1 believes totally in the IOBG Marketing Plan and, after two years, we are beginning to see positive results. I might also add that it takes time and patience, but if you have patience, and a positive attitude, *Good Things* will happen. District 5 and our Canadian friends to the north are testimonials to this, let alone the 17 new inductees who joined District 1 in 2009.

District 5  
Ira Nies, Director

The Officers of District 5 have had two meetings since the fall installation. They have created plans for increasing Chapter memberships, designed a quarterly newsletter, and established a calendar of events for 2010. They have also continued the public relations efforts of the previous year, publishing articles in Freshwater News and yacht club newsletters.

The first District 5 newsletter, designed by Vice President Bill McKinney, will be used as one of the tools for soliciting membership renewals. That issue will be sent to paid members, as well as, those who are eligible who have not yet joined this year. It will be distributed in January and include the calendar for 2010. The Officers are also working with their respective Chapters to increase membership and they plan to meet with other eligible clubs early in 2010.

The spring activities on the calendar at this time include:

March 20 - Dinner and Induction of additional new members and recognition of returning members. The plan is also to invite current Commodores and Vice Commodores to the dinner as a way to introduce them to Blue Gavel so they will sign up when they become eligible. Dinner will be at Columbia River YC

April 9-11 - Joint meeting with District 1 at Clover Island Yacht Club in Kennewick

April 17 - Cruise and Clean-up at Hadley's Landing in conjunction with the Oregon State Marine Parks

June 10-11 - IOBG's Spring Regional Meeting at Portland Yacht Club on Thursday and dinner at Tyee Yacht Club on Friday

District 5 is moving forward with these plans and activities as they work on revising by-laws and procedures. District 1 has been very helpful in providing their documents for reference.





# Southwestern *V.P.*

Districts 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21

## Gary McGrath

Having just assumed the reins of Southwestern Area V.P., I am still getting settled in. I will be in contact with all of the District Directors from last year to get your new District Officer information. I have spoken with several of last years' Directors and most of them report that their Change of Watch is in December and will forward all new rosters at that time. So I would appreciate it if all of you would send those changes ASAP. Thank you in advance.

By the time you read this all the new Officers will be installed so you can all expect a call from me explaining what needs to be done in the way of reports. If you need any information before I can contact you, please call or e-mail me. My contact information is on the IOBG website. Communication is our lifeblood so please feel free to contact me at anytime if you need any information from the IOBG International.

District 6  
Ron Dodini, District Director

2010 officers elected at our annual BBQ meeting, 7 October at Kaneohe Yacht Club and were installed 5 November at Waikiki Yacht Club are:

**District Director**

Ron Dodini (Becky)  
44-128 Keaalau Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
808-235-2470  
huiana@hawaii.rr.com

**Vice President**

Michael Vining (Doreen)  
91-217 Lukini Place  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
(808) 271-5470  
mvsails@hawaii.rr.com

**President**

Stanley W. Radlo  
99-1440 Aiea Heights Dr., #56  
Aiea, HI 96701  
808-488-6056  
radlos001@hawaii.rr.com

**Secretary/Treasurer/Supply Officer**

Donna Salisbury (Ed)  
98-988 Palula Way  
Aiea, HI 96701  
808-485-0002  
donnaned@earthlink.net

Also at our November meeting, we inducted 6 new members: Linda Ladeira, Pacific Yacht Club; Bruce Ladeira, Pacific Yacht Club; Ellis Abram, Makani Kai Yacht Club; Bill Foster, Waikiki Yacht Club; Howie Mednick, Hawaii Yacht Club and Don Brown, Kaneohe Yacht Club.

We currently have 66 total members.

This summer we toured the University of Hawaii's Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology on Kaneohe Bay. We also enjoyed hosting the crew of Artemis from Seattle upon their finish of the Transpacific Yacht Race.

The final activity of 2009 was our annual joint IOBG District Six - Hawaii Commodores Association Christmas Party on 3 December at Hawaii Yacht Club.

Our 2010 board will be meeting shortly to set our calendar for the upcoming year.



District 11

Gary Green, District Director

District 11 comprises multiple Chapters located in Santa Monica Bay, in Los Angeles County, California, and beyond. Our Chapters are located in our two principal recreational harbors, Marina del Rey and King Harbor (Redondo Beach), as well as, on two lakes - Westlake (bordering Ventura County) and Lake Gregory (in San Bernardino County). We have thirteen (13) active Chapters, with a total of 118 paid IOBG members as of the Fall, 2009. Our newest Chapter, Lake Gregory Yacht Club, received its Charter and joined District 11 earlier this year.

We had a full range of activities this year. Our first event, a wine tasting held at Port Royal Yacht Club (in Redondo Beach) in February, raised funds for our Junior Sailing Scholarship program. Using funds raised from our wine tasting, a pancake breakfast for racers in the July 4th Marina del Rey to San Diego Race, and raffles at our regular meetings, District 11 was able to donate partial scholarships to financially disadvantaged youth to attend summer junior sailing programs put on by Del Rey Yacht Club and King Harbor Yacht Club.

In March, we had a Membership Appreciation Brunch at Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club in Marina del Rey. The event was complimentary to all District 11 members who had paid their dues by March. This was District 11's way of thanking our members for re-joining.

We had a full slate of evening barbecue dinners and general meetings throughout the summer. We call these events "Windy Cues" as they are held outdoors. Our Windy Cues feature a social hour, followed by BBQ dinner (cooked by the members themselves; the District provides all the side dishes and the beverages), a brief business meeting with introductions by all, and, usually, a guest speaker. This summer we held three Windy Cue's at Del Rey Yacht Club (in Marina del Rey) and a fourth Windy Cue at our newest Chapter, Lake Gregory Yacht Club.

This summer, we also had a new activity. 40 of our members and their guests chartered a tall ship out of San Pedro, and went on a day sail. Our members and their guests had a great experience, with some of the more adventuresome climbing the rigging as we exchanges cannon salutes with another tall ship.

Our change of watch/installation brunch was December 6th at Del Rey Yacht Club.

District 14

Lenworth Gordon, President

The Officers and members of District 14 completed the year's activities scheduled for year 2009 with great satisfaction. We met in mid September at the Berleley Yacht Club.

Larry Draper commended the efforts to promote District 14 and pledged his support in that regard. He also pointed to the upcoming event on September 26 and encouraged participation while welcoming volunteers to assist him in the food preparation and distribution which he has been in charge for several years.

George Knies gave an overview of IOBG and the Auxillary for the benefit of the new members. He also spoke of new issues from the Internal Revenue and how they will affect the operations of yacht clubs. He also announced the Dragon Boat Races held at Treasure Island Yacht Club.

Manny Myer, PICYA Staff Commodore, announced that they are expecting over 600 veterans for the Wheelchair Regatta. Richard Ahlf, D-14 Treasurer reminded us of the crab feed fundraiser for 2009 and PICYA Youth Regattas.

Joan Marsh-Clune, D-19 President introduced other D-19 members in attendance and shared information of their activities for retaining members such as their Wine Tasting events and visits to interesting places.

Dawn Chelsea, Petaluma Yacht Club, shared about the Women's Training Seminars on Sailing.

## The Wheelchair Regatta

It was a beautiful morning in late September when the caravan of busses, vans and even limosines arrived at the Encinal Yacht Club in the Alameda Island to be greeted by Margot Brown. The event is the Wheelchair Regatta which Margot is the founder and administrator for the past eleven years. Encinal Yacht Club is facilitator. They are assisted by all the member Clubs of PICYA. This year the event has been adopted as a California foundation and project of the PICYA.



As these veterans and their care givers, family and freinds file in for the coveted excursion, they are entertained to the sounds of sea chanties by club volunteer musicians from various yacht clubs. The multitude of volunteers made up of Oakland Fire Fighters, Sea Cadets, U.S. Coast Guard personel and



yacht club members as ground crew, take their positions, and the parade to the docks and then onto the awaiting armada of vessels volunteered by their skippers will accept the precious cargo for a day's outing on the San Francisco Bay.



After a wonderful experience for all the veterans on the water, they returned to a splended BBQ feast prepared by volunteers. Several organizations and individuals contributed financially and with products to feed the more than 750 veterans who came out for this remarkable gift of time and resource.

Encinel's lawn and decks were filled to capacity with a large spill over into the upstairs bar and dining room. The big band sounds of all time classics by club members and friends were followed by the Coast Guard Military Band. A truly special day. Of special note is that more than 70% of the vessels volunteered were skippered by members of the **International Order of the Blue Gavel.**



## District 15

Jim Coburn, Dist. Director

I am pleased to serve as the 2010 District 15 Director with District President Eileen Van Winkle, Vice President Michele Rountree Wold, Secretary Blanche Gunther, Treasurer Marshall Nimoy, and Newsletter Editor Jeanne Irwin. I couldn't ask for a better team. I would also like to thank Linda Loftis for her service a District Director for the last two years. What a great job!

We have a very exciting year planned starting with the Yacht Club Officer's Management Seminar in January. We have a whole list of other events planned, with this year's focus on providing fun events for our members, not just on fundraising. Our members have worked long and hard for their respective clubs, making many sacrifices to get to IOBG. I would like to see our District used as a "forum for fun" as payment for their service.

Let all work together to make 2010 a memorable year!

District 16  
Clark Owens, Dist. Director

Day, we once again joined the annual boat parade with many of our Blue Gavel members. It is always an impressive parade as all four yacht clubs in the harbor join in. The weather was perfect and the seas were calm as we traveled the length of our harbor.

In July we had a BBQ at the beautiful Ventura Yacht Club. Attendance was high, with reports given by some members of SCYA. This is a very popular event, as everyone contributes something, and the festive mood is not soon forgotten. We remember why we live in this area as we listen to music and watch the harbor as delicious food is cooking.

Our next event will be on December 8 at Channel Islands Yacht Club. We are hoping for a good turnout, and will enjoy a lovely evening with a great meal, and maybe a surprise visit from Santa! As we have done in the past, we will be collecting both food and gifts for local needy families. These things are in more demand than ever this year, and we have many organizations making requests already.

At the end of the year we are also deciding on where to place our scholarship monies. Last year we awarded two sailing scholarships to our Boys and Girls Club in Oxnard. They had a very successful year, and were awarded the "Outstanding New Program" by the US Sailing Council, which is part of the US Sailing Association. We were very proud of them and monitored their progress. It was heartwarming also to see how much they appreciated our support and how proud they were to have it.

As we read, some chapters are having a hard time recruiting new members, we also share those

District 19  
Submitted by Larry Draper & Deanna Tomei

### *Greetings from Lyttelton, New Zealand*

Larry Draper and Deanna Tomei (District 19) send greetings from Lyttelton, New Zealand. We are cruising from Auckland New Zealand to Sydney, Australia.

The ship made a stop at Christchurch and Larry was able to make a connection in town to meet with an IOBG member of the Naval Point Club, Lyttelton, New Zealand. John Dove, holding a blue gavel burgee met Larry at the information center in town. They then drove to the city of Christchurch.

A tour of Christchurch's beautiful buildings, churches, universities, government buildings followed. (Larry has lots of pictures). John and Larry lunched at a deli and got well acquainted. Larry was then hosted to tea at the home of Commodore Keith Wardell and his wife Patsy. This was a very warm and friendly visit. Unfortunately



Deanna was under the weather and had to stay aboard ship that day. She made up for it by having a massage at the spa!

Here are photos of Larry exchanging burgees with Commodore Wardell and a group photo of those attending tea.



In the group photo are front row: Patsy Wardell, Annette Hobby, District Director, Larry Draper, District 19 & John Dove. Middle Row: Dennis Pashley, Keith Wardell and Raines Bloxham.

Back row: Barry Bowater and Wayne Nolan.



# North Central V.P.

Districts 7, 9, 23, 25

## Tom Lyon

First and foremost I want to thank all for allowing me to serve as your North Central Vice President. I am honored to be part of this great team. I realize that to follow in the foot steps of Francis D Ramsey and Debbie Banks-Skellenger as past North Central Vice Presidents, I have a lot of work to do.

Attending the Annual meeting in Orlando far exceeded my expectations. I can see a change for the good of the Organization already in place. It was truly a joy attending the work shops and meetings with one common goal apparent, the betterment of the Organization. I look forward to the coming year, working together as one team. May all of you have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

District 9  
Jack White, Alt. Dist. Director

District 9 held it's annual meeting at COOLEY CANAL Yacht Club on November 1, 2009. The 2010 calendar of events was set. The annual Attendance Award was presented to PERRYSBURG Boat Club. The membership has set a goal to bring back those members who did not renew their membership in the past few years. This will be accomplished with the help of the historical member list recently received from Marshall Nemoy, International Treasurer.

District 9 has committed to continue its humanitarian fundraising for Wertz Warriors (Special Olympics) and Vail Meadows - horseback riding for the handicap, along with scholarships to NORTH CAPE Yacht Club summer sailing program. The annual Pig Roast will be held at OTTAWA RIVER Yacht Club on May 2, 2010 which is co-chaired by Pat Slee (President D9) and Rich Schneeman (Area Vice President. D9).

District 9 and District 7 joined to put on a Pizza table at the recent annual meeting of I - LYA (Interlake Yachting Association'), which was a big success.

We are developing a member's assistance program to underwrite the annual dues to Blue Gavel for those members who fell on hard economic times. Past President Arnie Hansen, JOLLY ROGER Sailing Club will develop the guidelines for this program.



District 23  
Bob Sapita, President

### District 23 Adds New Chapter

Bayshore Yacht Club of Holland, MI was accepted as an IOBG Chapter at the October Annual Meeting. The charter along with an IOBG Burgee was presented to P/C Chris Cronin and Vice Commodore Rod Leonard during the club's seasonal Christmas party. The atmosphere was full of excitement and seasonal joy.

The Bayshore Yacht Club has a long and rich tradition in the Holland area. It was originally incorporated in 1955 as the Bay Haven Yacht Club and has grown and prospered as a family oriented active club. The club is a member of the Lake Michigan Sail Racing Assoc, Yachting Clubs of America, and the Lake Michigan Yachting Association.



The club's burgee has the Big Dipper and North Star on a blue field. Their website states: "When leaving the club after sunset, members could see the dark sky and Big Dipper which would be in full view as you looked north. Bayshore Yacht Club's burgee is dark blue with 8 white stars, seven of which are the constellation Ursa Major (the Great Bear, or the Big Dipper) and the eighth being the North Star, stands alone. The blue background represents the sky, the sea and mountain lakes." Welcome aboard, Bayshore!!!



We now have three Chapters within a 15 mile radius of Holland with strong prospects for adding several other clubs.

Many people in the local area continue to comment on our past IOBG Summer Meeting. Everyone is extremely appreciative of the complimentary remarks about the Saugatuck/Douglas area published in the September issue of the Blue Gavel LOG. We received a very heart-felt thank you from the local Historical Society for our generous donation for using the Old School House as our meeting venue.

For any club considering hosting a meeting, I say go for it! The rewards and pleasures far out weigh the small amount of effort expended.

People in the attached photos are: (Left to Right)

P/C Christopher Cronin, Vice Commodore Rod Leonard, & P/C Bob Sapita - Dist. 23 Pres.



**IOBGA  
Lula Dancers  
at the  
Friday Evening  
Makahiki Luau  
Dinner Show  
at  
SeaWorld-Orlando**



# Northeastern V.P.

Districts 3, 12, 20, 26, 27

## Chuck Browning

The Northeastern Region has settled down, and some Districts are getting stronger. We in the Northeastern Region would like to congratulate President Ray Thompson and First Lady Dorothy; we wish you the best of luck throughout the year.

The Annual IOBG International Meeting was a big success this year in Orlando Florida. The Northeastern Region was well represented by: P/C Lewis Smith Director District 3, P/C Ernie Odierna Director District 26, P/C Robert Howe Director District 27 and myself VP Northeastern Region.



This is truly an International group of individuals  
Left to right: Chuck Browning Vice President Northeast Region, Ray Thompson President of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, Steve Willing International 2nd Vice President, Tony Rozzell Vice President District 70 (England), Bob Howe Director District 27



Princess Louren Rieron (Granddaughter of P/C Chuck and Barbara Browning), was crowned Princess of the Bush River Yacht Club on 11/20/2009 to serve for the year 2010.

**District 27 has volunteered to host the IOBG Summer Meeting on August 20 thru 22, 2010. I am sure that everyone will have a great time.**

District 3

A lot has been going on. Niagara Sailing Club hosted a very successful week of junior sailing. Buffalo Yacht Club hosted a J-22 National Regatta with Lake Erie providing spirited sailing. Youngstown Yacht Club again hosted the famous Levels Regatta. Buffalo Launch Club hosted a general membership summer party

District 12

Annual meeting held on September 18th at the Little Harbor Yacht Club on Long Beach Island.

District 20

We do have some unrest in District 20, they seem worried about what is happening in District 8 and it looks like they will wait and observe what is going on. They don't have a lot happening in district 20 this year.

District 26

The Huntington Yacht Club together with the International Order of Blue Gavel, District 26 held our first Annual Veterans Appreciation Day on September 13, 2009 to honor all those who serve or have served in the armed forces.

This being our first time with this event, we were not sure what to expect. We didn't have a rain date and had no idea exactly how many guests would come, but we lucked out and the sun was shining, the temperature just right and the winds cooperative. Thanks to all the efforts of PC Marty Egeland, PC John Scannello, who coordinated the Veterans at the VAMC in Northport, and PC Eliot Levine, this day turned out spectacular. There were over 90 veterans and guests participating and enjoying a day on the water with 40 club members and crew on 19 of our clubs boats. Many thanks to Mary Egeland, Lois Levine and Judy Stoler for the registration and coordinating of the Veterans and guests to the Members boats.

The event was co-sponsored by The Huntington Yacht Club, The JV Kelly Group, Inc., The Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce and the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

The dock staff did a wonderful job of docking all our boats, the office staff worked hard on getting all our information out to our members and the restaurant staff did a stupendous job of preparing and serving both a continental breakfast and a buffet lunch to the Veterans.

Many of the Vets stated that this was one of their best days in their lives. All in all HYC members and staff made us proud to be members. Senator Carl Marcellino did a wonderful job reciting a poem for the Unknown Soldier, Councilwoman Susan Berland once again regaled us with one of her famous jokes, Marty Egeland with one of his famous speeches and Joe Shapiro with a lovely tribute to the MIA-POW's and his contributions of the flags of all the branches of the armed services.

Participating members included Mary & Marty Egeland, Lois & Eliot Levine, Karne & Dan Kalina, Karen & Mark Pease, Ellen & Rob Heller, Sherie & Erwin Coyner, Henrietta & John Scannello, Chris & Bob Schubert, Joe & Libby Shapiro Marianne & Craig Millnamow, Judy & Morris Stoler, Debbie & Stan Sommers, Kathy & Jim Rendall, Judi & Lenny Mestrandrea, Cynthia & Bob Hoey, Maria & Vince Archdeacon, Claire & Hank Krussman, Theresa & Steve Taranovich and Peter & Stacey Knutson.

Our captains had such a wonderful day that many of them have already signed up for next year. Sometimes we are very lucky and get to share our good fortune with others.

Thanks to all our Veterans for their part in keeping us safe.

An e-mail that was sent to one of our HYC Members from one of the Veterans that attended.

Hi Rob:

Once again I would like to thank you and all of the members of the Huntington Yacht Club. To everyone who made this day so wonderful I will always be grateful.

On Monday morning at the V.A. in east Northport, I had the honor to tell the rest of our veterans of the days activities. To be recognized and be so honored in and of itself would have made the day special. All of the Veterans that I have since talked with all came with the same reaction. Rather than thank us, we want to make sure that everyone involved knows how much the entire day meant to us.

On a personal note, you gave Ginny and myself a day of wonderful memories. Each time I see a wave in our national flag or feel a gentle breeze against my face, I will think of you. May you always have fair winds to sail by.

GOD BLESS YOU!!

District 27

Conducted their quarterly meeting at the Eastern Yacht Club, where they nominated their District Officers for 2010.

They also conducted the following presentations:



President PC George Anderson presented Eastern Yacht Club with their IOBG Charter



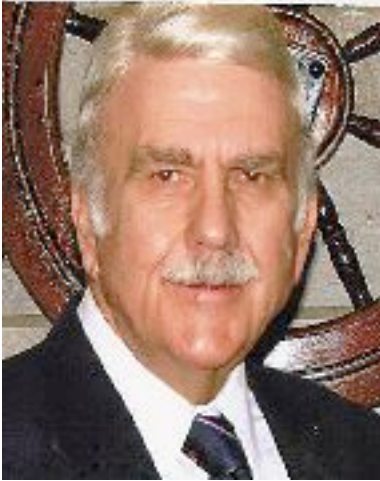
President PC George Anderson presents PC Robert Howe with a Check for \$1,000 in support of the Veterans on the Bay Foundation

On October 13, 2009, District 27 held their Annual Meeting at the Otter Point Yacht Club where they seated their newly elected Officers:

- |                     |                       |   |                        |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| District Director - | P/C Robert Howe       | - | Us Sailing Association |
| President -         | P/C Jack Fitzgerald   | - | Bush River Yacht Club  |
| President Elect -   | P/C Carol Hogan       | - | Bush River Yacht Club  |
| Vice President -    | P/C Robert Tuck       | - | Charlestown Yacht Club |
| Secretary -         | P/C Dennis Taylor     | - | Wellwood Yacht Club    |
| Treasurer -         | P/C Frank Abbott      | - | Bush River Yacht Club  |
| Supply Officer -    | P/C Donald Letourneau | - | Bush River Yacht Club  |







# Southeastern V.P.

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## Districts 8 & 18 Tom Sullivan

I think most IOBG members are aware that D-8 was in a state of flux over the past two years and the D-8 leadership resigned to form a new group. This new group also placed obstacles in D-8's way, such as:

- A. Not releasing the District 8 Treasury and placing conditions on their releasing these funds.
- B. Not knowing where the District 8 supplies are (\$1,000 +)
- C. Using the District 8 monies for publicizing their new organization and its aims while still members of the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

In this connection, it was discovered that the D-8 leadership also billed the following expenses to the D-8 IOBG Treasury:

- 1. Old Website - Over \$1200 to previous web master who covered primarily this "new group's" activities.
- 2. Motel - Cabot Lodge, Gainesville, FL - December 13, 2008 - \$160.50 for a closed meeting of the "new group".
- 3. Their "resignation expenses" (stamps & mailing) - \$200.00
- 4. March 2008 - \$264.00 for their "new logo pins".
- 5. March 18, 2008 - \$521.00 - ordered from Prestige - "new logo" flags and burgees to be sold.
- 6. October 1, 2008 - \$670.00 for "new logo" uniform supplies to be sold at D-8 Annual Meeting.
- 7. \$271 for their Newsletter layout

It is fair to say with strong & devoted leadership D-8 stayed the course and the new group (in my estimation) is floundering. They have one-hour meetings with little participation and support.

This new group caused a lot of confusion and their web site shows yacht clubs that are not affiliated with them being touted for their facilities, locations, etc. This is to make it look like these clubs are part of their new group - which they are not...very misleading.

This group is also trying to gain support in the Michigan/Ohio area to make their group look "International"

All their "complaints" with the IOBG have been answered by the International through the recent mail-in ballots. Once again, it should be noted, only the past, resigned, D8 leadership were the ones who were complaining with very few of the rank and file of D8 agreeing with them.

With all this being said, the IOBG, D8 has close to 300 members - the new group has 90 members (including Associate Members i.e. Vice Commodores, Rear Commodores, and Spouses, etc.) It also should be noted, this new group has almost entirely the yacht club Chapters from the resigning officers as their members. There are about 75 former members "on the fence" with some starting to come back into the IOBG.

As I said before, District 8 is "Up and Running".

District 8  
Lee Clifford, Director

Our District 8 IOBG Annual Meeting was held on October 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm in Orlando, Florida, at the Renaissance Hotel at Sea World. The attendance was larger than normal as there were many IOBG members from around the country who were there for the International activities and meeting the following morning. We were happy to meet and greet so many officers of the International IOBG.

Of special significance to District 8 was that our own Ray Thompson was elected as International President. Ray and several other officers gave short speeches.

The D8 elected officers all gave their annual reports, as did the appointed officers. Also, the reports of our Area Vice President Tom Sullivan and Gulf Stream Editor and Past International President Harvey Sussel were given and well received.

New officers were nominated and elected as follows:

District Director:	Lee Clifford
President:	Joe Dowell
President Elect:	De Ramsey
Vice President:	Frank Hutchinson
Treasurer:	Bob Pease
Secretary:	Art Theobold
Legal Officer:	John Schultz
Supply Officer:	Bob Shogren
Newsletter Editor :	Harvey Sussel

Our next District 8 meeting is scheduled for Vero Beach, Florida. District 8 is alive and well. We are a proud bunch of fellows.



District 18

I am proud to announce that District 18 has finally been reorganized with a leadership team in place. The Officers are:

District President:	Mike Barbrow	Fort Loudoun YC	(Tennessee)
Vice President:	Buzz Bisanz	Allatoona YC	(Georgia)
Sec/Treas:	Randy Blalock	Fort Loudoun YC	(Tennessee)

Kudos to Western Carolina SC for their humanitarian and fund raising efforts.

P/C Mel Sinclair reports that Western Carolina will be rigging their sailboats for the upcoming Annual Hospice Regatta where an excess of \$100,00 is raised each year. This annual event is always well attended and enjoyed by many.

I'm happy to profile P/C John McAlister, who aside from being an active and loyal Blue Gavel member, finds time to serve as President of his Optimist Club and also serves on Charleston's Ocean Racing Association which is 70 years old. Congratulations John!



# IOBG Humanitarian Foundation

IOBG Humanitarian Foundations, Inc.

## PATRON OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM

IOBGHF launched a program to provide special recognition to contributors who donate \$100 or more. Each contributor will be awarded a distinctive "action for life" pin which signifies their status as a patron of the foundation.

"The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation provides the boating community 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."

This is the Mission Statement of the Humanitarian Foundation.

*P*resident Jim Hinckley

At the annual meeting held in Seattle, Washington in October 2008, Carol Garside gave a seminar on what IOBGHF does and explained the application and IRS requirements. She also went into detail on various ways to fund the Foundation. These ways included: 1) private donations; 2) District donations and contributions; 3) Memorial giving; 4) charitable giving within the work place; (i.e. payroll deduction or perhaps payroll matching funds by the employer); 5) property and personal property bequests and 6) retired persons doing a 401K gifting, whereby the individual requests that the 15% withholding not be held out, but rather the individual donate the 15% to the Foundation and write off the donation. All the above information was disseminated to the members of IOBG by a comprehensive article in the LOG immediately following the Annual Convention last year.

At the recent Annual Convention, held in Orlando, Florida in October 2009, it became very apparent that members of IOBG do not understand what the purpose of the Humanitarian Foundation is about, therefore, fundraising projects by Districts are either a low priority or do not exist at all. Yet it was stated that on a couple of occasions, there were Districts that raised \$200,000 and \$300,000 respectively for their own Humanitarian and Goodwill projects. This news came as a shock and a surprise to members of the Humanitarian Board. It became apparent that a change was needed.

The members of the Board took to heart the message received from IOBG and decided to change courses and head in a new direction. While fundraisers still remain a high priority, marketing will be our immediate goal; it was decided to produce a CD explaining the purpose of the Humanitarian Foundation and show a visualization of projects that have been recipients of Humanitarian Grants. We feel that this will also be a great tool in recruiting new IOBG members.

We also have Tri-Folds available for mailings explaining the purpose of the Foundation. It is hopeful that the CD will be available for viewing at the Spring Regional Meeting held in Portland in June 2010. If any of you have pictures (.jpg) with captions of Humanitarian Projects, please email them to: Ambassador Michael Meyers at [apus4deckus@hotmail.com](mailto:apus4deckus@hotmail.com) or [fire\\_n\\_ice104@hotmail.com](mailto:fire_n_ice104@hotmail.com) OR mail them to P.O. Box 44130, Tacoma, Washington, 98448. All entries need to be submitted by April 1, 2010.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any member or ambassador of IOBGHF. Jim Hinckley, President IOBGHF

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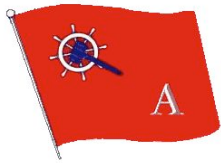
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# International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary

*P*ast *P*resident Audrey Hall

By the time you read this 2010 will have arrived.

We have a new Board for you to meet and hopefully you will be able to attend some of the many activities planned for the year and greet them in person. If not, they are just an email or phone call away. Our website at [www.iobga.org](http://www.iobga.org) has mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses listed.

I hope you will keep in contact with us. We are here to help you if there is something we can do for you and we are also here if you need to chat with a fellow Auxiliary member.

During this year I hope to be able to see the many friends I made during 2009 and I am looking forward to adding many new friends to my address book.

Thanks for all your support.



Vice President/SE Regional Director  
Susan Barrett Sullivan, 1st Vice President

The Annual Meeting in Orlando went very well. Our new IOBG President Ray Thompson is to be congratulated along with his wife Dorothy (an IOBG Auxiliary Member) who handled her health issues well and gave Ray the support that only a wife could give. They were both class acts.

The Blue Gavel Hospitality Group from Palm Coast Yacht Club made everyone feel welcome & their Chairman PC Cliff Lewis seemed to be all over making "it all happen" smoothly. The MC for the Ball was another Palm Coast Yacht Club Blue Gavel Member, PC Frank Hutchinson, who kept the evening as planned. It was great to see the interaction of the Blue Gavel Chapter and the Auxiliary Members.

The IOBG Auxiliary has a new President, Lucy Anthony and Past President Audrey Hall deserves our thanks for her leadership & hard work. Well done Audrey.

I am looking forward to District 8's January 22 - 23, 2010 Meeting at Vero Beach YC and the Auxilliary's "Meet & Greet". All are invited.



District 15  
Judy Longfellow, President

Greetings from IOBGA District 15! We had a good and productive summer.

Our big project was our Phantom Cruise to raise money for the San Diego Veterans Sport Clinic. We raised almost \$1000 and are very excited about our success. We plan to have another Phantom fundraiser next year for the same cause. We felt that since almost all of our members are veterans or are married to one, that it would be something that we would all be proud to participate in.

Our next event is our annual combined IOBG/IOBGA Management Seminar which is coming up on the 23rd of January and will be hosted by Mission Bay Yacht Club. It is a Roundtable Discussion for the benefit of invited spouses/significant others of the current officers of District 15's yacht clubs. We hope to have an IOBGA member from each yacht club to act as a presenter to discuss the role and responsibilities for the spouse, as well as, customs and traditions distinct to their club. We always try to include protocol and etiquette and any traditions, customs and ethics of the yachting community.

We will be having our New Member Luncheon at Mission Bay Yacht Club on February 27th at which time we will have the installation of our new officers for IOBGA. I can't say enough about my wonderful board this year. They did anything I asked of them and supported me in so many ways. I don't know what I would have done without them. They were absolutely the best!

Our new officers for 2010 will be: President, Denise Marino from Mission Bay Yacht Club; Vice President, Nina Hall from Venture Yacht Club; Secretary, Bill Thayer from Santa Margarita Yacht Club; and Treasurer, Dawn Nemoj from Mission Bay Yacht Club. I know these officers will continue to do a fantastic job for IOBGA and its mission.

Until next time, I wish you "Fair Winds and Following Seas".

District 26  
Submitted by Chris Swett



The IOBGA conducted their third annual food drive at the November General Meeting of the Mt. Sinai Yacht Club. Members who attended arrived carrying bags of non-perishable food items. A raffle ticket was given for each item donated. Raffle tickets were also sold for the "Wine and Goodies Basket." As a result, eight boxes of food and \$80 was distributed to local food pantries.

The IOBGA also conducted a fundraiser bus trip to New York City to see "South Pacific" at Lincoln Center. Coffee and Danish pastries were available at the club before all 50 participants boarded the bus. On the bus everyone was given a lunch box and beverages were served. After the ride back, a full dinner was served to the group. Approximately \$1400 was raised for scholarships to be offered this fall.



The IOBGA ladies are in the process of planning their annual spring fashion show and luncheon.

A container was put in the club's lobby to collect used printer cartridges to support a local charity called "Jacob's Light".

*International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary*

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While providing guidance, support and camaraderie, the mission of the International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary is to promote local districts worldwide and raise funds for the Humanitarian Foundation and other charities.



Visit our web site at [www.iobga.org](http://www.iobga.org) to see all that is happening with the IOBGA

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## *J. O. B. G. A. Past Presidents*

1991 Rose Prell	2001 Carol Foote
1992 Mary Gallagher	2002 Shirley Willing
1993 Mary Gallagher	2003 Carol Garside
1994 Pat Cleland*	2004 Carol Garside
1995 Pat Cleland*	2005 Hope McLeod
1996 Leona Nies	2006 Jackie Evans-Rudd
1997 Jerry Key	2007 Patricia Graven
1998 Judy Miller	2008 Pat Janiszewski
1999 Willa Wade*	2009 Audrey Hall
2000 Gerva Hughes	



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**England** Sue Young  
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Submitted by David Kutz, IOBG Delegate & NBF Secretary

The Fall meeting of the National Boating Federation (NBF) was held on October 9, 2009, at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas.

Founded in 1966, NBF is composed of a large nationwide alliance of recreational boating organizations and members. These people represent all aspects of recreational boating activities. NBF represents no commercial interests and speaks for 2 million boaters nationwide. The National Boating Federation has 23 Boating Organization Regular Members, which includes both IOBG International and IOBG District 1.

Individual IOBG Districts are invited and encouraged to become regular members of NBF. Membership gives your District voting rights plus lets the District weigh in on important issues and positions in the National boating scene. The District can send a delegate to our meetings so you can stay updated. Our District, District 1 is a member and spends a good deal of time getting boating news to our District members at our meetings and in the newsletter. We think it keeps our District on top of boating events and gives us the opportunity to continue our contributions to boating.

In addition to the regular members, NBF membership is comprised of several hundred individual members, 70 yacht clubs, and 30 industry associate members. Distribution of NBF's newsletter "The Lookout" serves to keep recreational boaters and industry leaders apprised of current events effecting boating on the national level.

NBF is an all volunteer watchdog and educational organization that works on national boating issues in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with USCG, NOAA, Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, Wallop-Breaux Trust Funds (our fuel taxes), FCC (Marine Radio) and the Halls of Congress.

**Your Officers serving on the NBF Executive Committee consist of the following boaters:**

President -Thomas M. Dogan-Lake Michigan Yachting Association  
Vice President-Fred W. Poppe-Chicago Yachting Association  
Legislative Director-Earl M. Waesche-Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association  
Secretary-David J. Kutz-Recreational Boating Association of Washington & IOBG  
Treasurer-Everette L. Tucker, Jr.-Coast Guard Auxiliary Association

Executive Committee:

Jimmie Homberg-Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts of America  
John Onacilla, Jr.-Greater Cleveland Boating Association  
James Muldoon-United States Sailing Association  
Robert Williams-Pennsylvania Boating Association  
Joe Orth, Potomac River Yacht Club Assn.

**NATIONAL REPORT - October 9, 2009**

**By Earl Waesche, NBF Legislative Director**

**Ethanol Legislation Introduced in Senate:** On Monday, 14 Sept, legislation was introduced in the Senate, **S. 1666**, The Mid-Level Ethanol Blends Act of 2009, to protect marine engines from the problems caused by ethanol blends in gasoline. Under the Clean Air Act the sale of mid-level ethanol is prohibited, but the ethanol industry has petitioned the EPA for a waiver to enable them to sell E15 gasoline. S. 1666 will require the EPA's Science Advisory Board study the compatibility of such fuels with current engines. According to *Trade Only*, the study would also include comprehensive analysis of available independent scientific evidence on the compatibility of mid-level ethanol fuels with the emission requirements of the Clean Air Act and the operability of engines.



## **NATIONAL REPORT - Continued...**

In addition, the ethanol industry is attempting to amend the Interior Department's annual appropriations bill currently moving through the Senate to either authorize mid-level ethanol legislatively or potentially deny funding to the EPA if it does not grant the waiver request for E15. NBF has joined our coalition partners in a letter to the Senate opposing any such amendment to the Interior Department's appropriations bill.

**Interagency Arctic Awareness Trip:** Members of the Oceans Policy Task Force traveled to Alaska and the Arctic in August to observe ongoing activities and meet with community leaders and industry representatives. The increasingly accessible Arctic has significant environmental, economic and security impacts and the data collected will aid the formulation of the new Oceans Policy. The visit was facilitated by the U.S. Coast Guard and consisted of: Adm. Thad Allen, Commandant, USCG; Secretary of the Department of the Interior; NOAA Administrator; Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change.

**Wallop/Breaux Reauthorization (W/B):** In spite of significant effort by the newly formed Angling and Boating Alliance, the reauthorization of the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (W/B) will not be accomplished this year. In past reauthorizations this has been attached to the Highway bill and approved. However, this year the Highway bill will not be reauthorized but will be funded at its current levels through a Continuing Resolution. We will attempt to get the bill passed next year given the many items of interest to the boating public.

**Boating Fatalities Increase:** The Coast Guard issued a press release indicating there were 709 fatalities, 3,331 injuries and about \$54M in property damage in 2008. Contributing factors given were operator inattention, careless or reckless operation, no proper lookout, operator inexperience and passenger or skier behavior. Alcohol consumption was also cited as a contributing factor in 17% of the deaths.

**RTCM Petition for Digital Message Service on VHF:** The Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM) has petitioned the FCC to provide a digital small message service on certain VHF channels. The petition cites greater efficiency and timeliness of digital communications on VHF radios, which would not interfere with voice communications. It is not clear why we would need digital "texting" on our VHF radios, so further investigation may be required to determine if we should support it.

**OIG Report on Small Vessel Security Plan:** The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released a report on the DHS plan to address the perceived threat from small vessels to maritime security. The report indicated that, while some progress has been made, the plan lacks effective guidance and effective programs to address threats posed by small vessels. Further the report found that the strategy does not fully address the roles and responsibilities of state and local officials, performance measures, associated costs, accountability and oversight frameworks.

**Ocean Policy Task Force - Interim Report:** The Council on Environmental Quality has published an interim report on the recommendations of the Ocean Policy Task Force. While preliminary, the language thus far indicates a far more restricted use of our waterways. For example, the statement from the report "To implement ecosystem based coastal and marine spatial management" may indicate recommendations for tighter control of various designated spaces among our waterways.

**National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition - Legislative Prospects:** The Wisconsin legislature has scheduled hearings on a bill on child PFD wear for those 12 and under. Virginia has drafted a bill for PFD wear for those 12 and under and Maryland is considering one for under 13. Hawaii is considering a bill requiring Mandatory Boating Education (MBE) for all boaters. Maine has a bill to "study MBE" and Massachusetts has a MBE "carry over" bill.

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**WEBSITE:** The NBF Website is alive and well and continuing to be improved. Marlene Barrington and Mary Nye Meyers, both District #1 IOBG members, share our web master chores. Please visit the website often to see what's happening in the NBF on issues of national boating significance.



**NBF Officers continue to attend the following National meetings of boating significance and continue to report back to us on the issues:**

1. National Boating Safety Advisory Committee
2. European Boating Association
3. National Harbor Safety Conference
4. International Boating & Water Safety Summit
5. National Association of Boating Law Administrators (from the States)
6. National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition - monthly meetings in WA, DC.
7. U.S. Power Squadron, AGM National Meeting.
8. USCG Aux. National annual Conference
9. Western States Boating Law Administrators
10. American Boating Congress
11. Plus VARIOUS Washington D.C. Meetings during the year

**OTHER NEWS OF BOATING SIGNIFICANCE REPORTED FROM NASBLA**

NASBLA reports they recently signed an MOU with Transport Canada to work closer on boating safety certification measures with the idea of bringing U.S. & Canadian certification requirements closer together. NASBLA has also reported the new Army Corps mandate for PFD wear on their own Corps lakes is reported to have a 70% success (wear) rate.

Paddle sports is growing fast. NASBA will be monitoring Internet boater education courses for effectiveness.

NASBLA is working on a federal legislative proposal for an additional \$70 million of homeland security money for boating safety.

**NBF MEMBER ASSOCIATION ISSUES:**

**Pacific Inter Club Yachting Association (CA):** Margot Brown reported that Alameda county is reducing bridge tenders and personnel on the Oakland Alameda Estuary bridges, which would result in the closure of bridge openings during certain periods of the day and night. This is a serious safety issue because it would prohibit emergency service vessels from reaching critical waterfront marinas and commercial activities on the Alameda/Oakland waterfront during long periods of each day and night.

NBF will send a letter of concern to Alameda County about the issue and ask them to reconsider.

**Recreational Boating Association of Washington:** David Kutz recapped the proposed NOAA restriction to boaters on the west side of San Juan Island in Washington State due to Orca whale protection efforts and reported on the recent meetings in Washington about the issue. Most concerned boating organizations and even conservation groups are against the proposal and have protested. The restriction would apply during the summer season and would affect all forms of watercraft, even kayaks and canoes. The only exceptions would be residents accessing their homes, government vessels, and tribal vessels engaged in fishing. Protesters have claimed the proposal is not based on science or reality, and existing laws are sufficient if they would enforce them properly.

NBF will prepare a letter of concern to submit to NOAA as per their request for comments by Oct. 27. The letter will express boaters' concerns to NOAA and speak against the proposal.

**Lake Michigan Yachting Association:** President Tom Dogan reported on a new regulation that requires a towing firm to tow boats across a 1 mile submerged electrical fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary Canal. The tow costs \$600 per boat, which is considered extreme and to be holding boaters hostage. Boaters affected are called Carp Captives. Everybody agrees that the fish barrier is necessary to keep out the dreadful Carp from reaching and causing environmental havoc in the Great Lakes, but a solution is needed to mitigate the monetary damage levied on boaters who need to transit the area to get out of the Great Lakes and down to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

**The next meeting (Spring Meeting) of the National Boating Federation will in Daytona Beach, Florida on March 27 & 28, 2010. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in the same location and dates.**

## 2010 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
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