



THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

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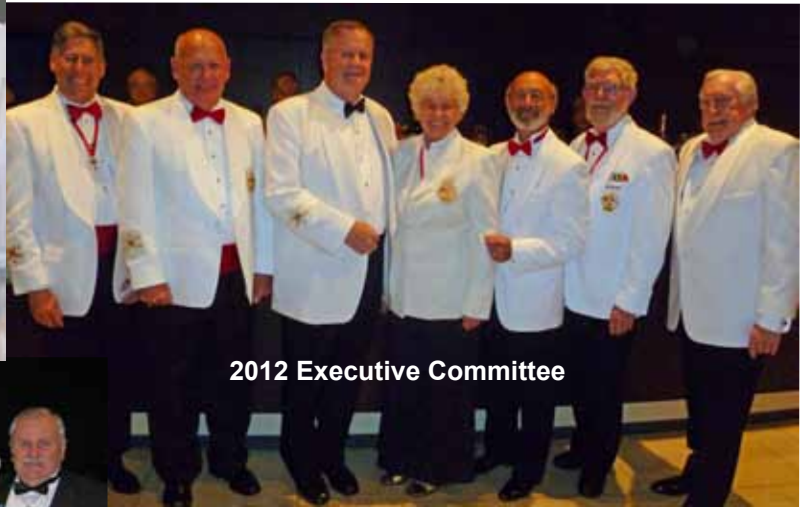
December 2011

Mary Nye Meyers, Editor



President Stephen Willing & Lady Shirley

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.



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2012

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President Stephen Willing

The 2011 Annual Convention in Windsor, Ontario, Canada is over, and from all accounts, it was a success. The meetings were well attended and a wide variety of issues were discussed. The revisions to the Policy and Procedures Manual were voted on by District ballot, and passed.



The issue of most concern this year is membership. While there are many excuses why members do not renew, it was observed that many have never been asked to renew. All members of the IOBG should be looking to their own clubs to make sure that every Past Commodore of good standing, has been asked and indeed encouraged to join. District officers should also make sure that every club that meets the qualifications of IOBG should be introduced to the IOBG, and welcomed on board. The International Order of the Blue Gavel is still the only international organization dedicated to Past Commodores. This fact adds prestige to every club that has members and holds a Chapter.

We encourage Past Commodores to stay involved with your club, and advise your club's officers when asked. Many clubs are showing their appreciation to the Past Commodores by paying their yearly dues. This ensures continued participation, and support from the Past Commodores. In some cases, the P/C's take on the task of fundraising for the club. In doing so, the club's board of directors can focus on other issues of importance to their members. Many clubs also have a swearing in ceremony immediately after their Change of Watch to induct the outgoing Commodore into the IOBG. Instead of presenting the newest PC with a Past Commodores' burgee, give them an IOBG burgee, or both.

The Winter Regional Meeting will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi, on Feb 3 - 4, 2012. We welcome all members to join us and make the trip to meet some great people and see this beautiful coastal community. Information is available on our website www.iobg.org with additional details being added as they become available. I look forward to seeing you there, or later in Portland, Oregon for the Spring Regional Meeting.


Shirley and I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to the boating season that is ahead.

Remember, more members means more fun and more opportunity to meet the greatest people who are "IOBG Past Commodores"



IOBG 2012 Winter Regional Meeting Information



<p>DATE Friday, Feb 3 to Sunday, Feb 5, 2012</p>	<p>TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: IOBG Winter Regional Meeting Friday morning. IOBGA Meeting Friday morning. IOBG Executive Committee Meeting Friday afternoon. IOBGHF Meeting Friday afternoon. Mardi Gras Parade Saturday. Group dinners on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Lunch on Friday. Car-pooling will be used for transportation. DETAILS TO FOLLOW...</p>
<p>REGISTRATION</p>	<p>No pre-payment is required, however please contact IOBG President Steve Willing by January 5th, as we require a head count and car count to finalize preparations for our visit. E-mail stevewilling@bell.net or telephone 519-944-1397.</p>
<p>HOSTING CLUB</p>	<p>Ocean Springs Yacht Club, Ocean Springs, Mississippi</p>  <p>www.osyc.com</p>
<p>OFFICIAL HOTEL www.gulfhillshotel.com For Reservations Call Toll Free 866-875-4211 or Email</p>	 <p>Gulf Hills Hotel & Conference Centre 13701 Paso Road, Ocean Springs, MS 39564</p> <p>This hotel was established in 1927, and was the summer home to Elvis Presley from 1951 - 1957. Every room includes: microwave, refrigerator, coffee service, hair dryer, iron & ironing board, and complimentary continental breakfast every morning. Reservations must be made by January 2, 2012 to receive our IOBG rate of \$89 per night. Be sure to mention International Order of the Blue Gavel to obtain this rate.</p>
<p>AIRPORTS</p>	<p>Gulfport - Biloxi Airport [GPT] is the closest, however New Orleans [MSY] is only 75 miles west, and Mobile, Alabama [MOB] is 50 miles to the east. Rental cars are available at all airports.</p>
<p>AREA INFORMATION</p>	<p>Ocean Springs is located right on the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast. There are over 100 restaurants, 7 casinos and many other attractions in the vicinity, including 26 miles of white sand beaches. There are 7 or 8 other yacht/boat clubs in the vicinity that we hope to visit.</p>
<p>WEATHER</p>	<p>In February, the temperature can range from a low of 45 to a high of 60.</p>
<p>NEW ORLEANS TOURISM & MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST VISITORS</p>	<p>www.neworleansonline.com www.gulfcoast.org</p>
<p>Need more information?</p>	<p>Watch the www.iobg.org website and the "IOBG Lighthouse", our e-mail blast for further details. <i>HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!</i></p>

President - Elect Chuck Browning



I would like to congratulate our new President, Steve Welling, Executive Committee members and all other newly elected officers throughout our organization. As you know we've had several unexpected situations develop in the last few months and I think we handled them quickly and proficiently, now we are ready to move on to a new year.

I wish Vern Bendsen the best of luck in his new position as Past President. Vern has accomplished a lot this past year and being the junior Past President he will still be around to assist and help guide us through 2012.

Communication has been an ongoing problem in many of our Regions and we have made a lot of progress, however, we still have a long way to go. One of our goals is to get each Chapter yacht club receiving our Lighthouse bulletin and IOBG LOG newsletter. This would help keep them informed of what is happening in our organization. We will need some of our Chapter members to assist in getting this organized with the yacht club.

We plan to increase our membership and I think we can start by getting our old members reinstated as active members. Every member in your Chapter should be contacted personally at least three times. This is what it takes to get them to renew their annual dues. Send them a letter, email, and call them but above all, don't give up on them.

I want to challenge each District to go after new members and show the rest of the country that you are the best in recruitment.

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 800-315-7485
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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 # _____ Yacht Club _____ Year _____
 IOBGA District # _____

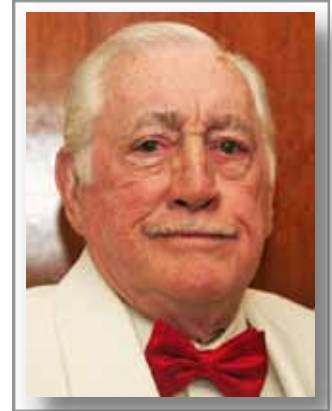
Signature _____ Ship to: _____

The above will be verified. Member will be billed for emblems when shipped. _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Addresses: _____

First Vice President
Gary McGrath



My report will be in two parts, first I will be making a presentation to the IOBG Humanitarian Fund for the New Zealand earthquake assistance and second, I will report on my two Area Vice Presidents.

From the Past Southwest Area VP, (myself)...the Southwest area has had a good year overall. Memberships are up and so is participation. Also, two new Charters were issued this year in Districts 10 and 19 respectively.

From the Northwest Area VP Art Kovarnik...Art has had some health problems but Districts 1 and 5 are doing fine and holding their own and Alternate District 1 Director Mary Nye Meyers will be giving us more on that in her report. Art says that he has not had good response from the Canadian Districts....they just do not like to report on their activities.

From my point of view, I see that the Districts that have active participation would appear to have good communication....you would think so, but let me give you a scenario. I don't want to pick on any District so just say District "Y" has 100 members and has an average participation of 25 members at meetings and functions, and this is very common. Our objective should be to get at least 50% of our members at any function or meeting and when we achieve 50%, we should strive for 75%, we can only get that by constantly being in contact with members either by snail mail, e-mail, phone or all three if that's what it takes. And don't forget the Lighthouse Bulletin, that's also "communication" and we need to be computer vigilant so we open and read. Communication is the name of the game, the more communication we have the stronger we will become.

My thanks to all of you who have helped me this last year and let us all have a great 2012.

IOBG and IOBGA

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Embroidery Factory

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6000A Egret Court
Benicia, California 94510

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Second Vice President
Joel Kay



Many thanks to the Executive Board and all others who had the confidence in me to move me from North Central Area VP to Second Vice President in only one year. I am humbled by your confidence. Also, my thoughts and prayers are with Marc Connelly for a speedy and complete recovery.

We are now home from an exciting Annual Meeting in Windsor, Ontario. The event was amazingly terrific, having been arranged and set in a very short time. Those in attendance were treated with warmth and kindness. The whole weekend was filled with fun and camaraderie.

All the necessary subjects were covered; we still need to spend more effort in effective communications and make our actions more transparent. 2011 has also been a good year for adding Chapters and members. Close to home for me, was the ratification of Sandusky Yacht Club's Blue Gavel Chapter moved to District 7 from District 9. This matter was important as nearly all its members live in District 7.

The members not accessing the "Lighthouse" continued to be an issue. Of particular importance is the number of District officers who have failed to open the on-line publication. The District Directors need to continue to put more effort in getting the publication opened and read, as it is an excellent communication tool.

I will be beginning to communicate with the District Directors west of the Mississippi as soon as the effects of my oral surgery heals. I also look forward to seeing everyone at the Winter meeting in Biloxi.



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Larry Draper



The auxiliary unit I belong to was responsible for radio communication during Fleet Week in San Francisco on October 6 - 9th. I was part of the Auxiliary Communication (AUXCOM) center where we kept track of all boats in San Francisco Bay who participated in forming the 15,000 x 3,000 sq. ft. safety zone called "The Box" for the planes flying in the Air Show. We had Fat Albert, the Blue Angels, the Canadian Snow Birds, The Patriots, an F-18, a Harrier, and smaller acrobatic planes.

Our main purpose was to observe the box and keep boaters from entering and crossing while the show was on. When we observed a boater from our position, we then radioed PATCOM, which stands for Patrol Commander to intervene with Coast Guard and Police Boats.

We maintained this radio position for all four days of the event from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. When the air show ended we followed all Auxiliary vessels by radio contact back to their home ports and were secured.

USCGA is now preparing for involvement in the Americas Cup 34 that takes place on San Francisco Bay September 7-22, 2013. There is a full schedule of events on there website which is www.cupinfo.com. All preliminary events are listed as well.



When one follows his 'Rainbow', he never knows where he will end up. Following my 'Rainbow', lead me to Windsor, Canada for the 2011 IOBG Annual Meeting.

Steve and Shirley, with District 25, did an excellent job planning all the events for the Annual Meeting. A big Thank You to the Windsor Yacht Club and the Sun Parlour Boat Club for their dinners and hospitality.

The Windsor Art Gallery was a unique and special place to have the Installation dinner/dance. A good time was had by all.

Congratulation to Steve and the 2012 Executive Committee and all the IOBG Officers. We have a bright future out there. Go For It !

As one is finished with his terms of office, he looks back to see what affect he has made on the organization. As I look back, I see that we have become more member oriented, because we are communicating more with each other on all levels, with more members involved.

In my initial report as the 2nd Vice President, I listed several things that needed to change for the better, and that I will work toward each.

They were:

1. Work to have better and timely communication with our members.
2. Work to have more members involved in the IOBG activities.
3. Negativity is out. Positive thoughts, ideas and events are in.

We now have in place, a system that lets us communicate with the membership in a timely manner. But, we still need to work on our communications because many of our members are still not aware of the communication process.

More members are slowly getting involved with our IOBG activities throughout many of our Districts.

The negativity that existed, and some still exists, has been addressed many times over, by showing a positive solution that that can benefit the organization as a whole.

Many members gave their input to the new Bylaw changes and the updated Policy and Procedures Manual. Members have become involved with their Districts by helping plan positive events and putting forth positive ideas.

As you can see, we have made progress in building a stronger, positive IOBG.

Because of some of the changes that were made, we have lost members. As I see the loss of those members, it was a good thing.

Those members were negative and disgruntle toward the International because the International would not make decisions that benefited them and the bylaw changes were not strict enough.

Had the International made the decisions to appease those members, many Chapters and Districts would not exist today.

Past President Vern Bendsen's article continued...

The changes that were made, were what was best for the IOBG as a whole, not for specific individuals, Chapters or Districts.

We are a stronger IOBG today because we are much more together.

Always remember this:

Our Member is the most important person in the IOBG.

The Member is not an outsider - the Member is the owner of the IOBG.

The Member is not an interruption of our program - the Member is the purpose of it.

The Member does us a favor when he/she calls because we need their input. We, the Officers are not doing him/her a favor when we serve the member.

The Member is not a cold statistic - the Member is a human being with feelings and emotions like our own.

The Member is not someone to argue with, he/she is someone we will listen too.

The Member is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give him/her.

The Member is not dependent on us - we are dependent on him/her.

The Member is the life blood of this organization.

If all of us in Officer positions, take heed of what I have just expounded, we will become an even stronger organization

To all the Members; Thank you for letting me be your 2011 President.

Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert

This past year there were four (4) new Chapters approved. District 26, Huguenot Yacht Club; District 10, Seagate Yacht Club; District 50, Ocean Springs Yacht Club; and District 19, Capitol City Yacht Clubs.

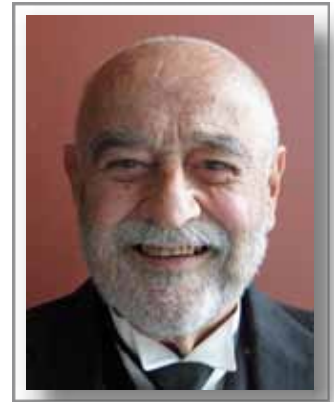
It was great to see a new area get involved in District 50 - the Mississippi gulf coast. I had been in that area many years ago and had hoped that we would see more yacht clubs join Blue Gavel. But you need to follow up...now we have something started, lets keep it going!

Several Chapters in my District 1 found that they did not have a charter displayed in their yacht clubs. Some could not even find their charters. If you find this problem at your yacht club, send me an email and I can re-issue a charter.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as Executive Secretary. I'm looking forward to serving another year.



Legal Officer Herman Meyer



A report from Past Legal Officer George Knies...

It is with heavy heart that after serving seven years I am stepping down as International Legal Officer. It has been an honor to serve with our Presidents, Executive Committee, Districts, Chapters and General Membership. I am fortunate to have worked with so many exceptional people and have thereby been rewarded with lifelong friendships.

During this tenure we up-dated our Bylaws and Policy Manual, incorporated a "Code of Conduct", renewed our U.S. Trademarks--Name and Logo, entered into numerous contracts with suppliers, avoided several potential lawsuits, settled many Chapter and District disputes, prevented illegal use of our trademarks by issuing numerous "Cease and Desist" orders, invoked our "Code of Conduct" Bylaw for the first time... etc.

I have served as an IOBG Officer for more than fourteen years and will continue to do so as Legal Officer for the Humanitarian Foundation and as a District 14 Chapter Officer. Old age has been catching up with me and I am reluctantly scaling back my activities; however, I am involved in planning and executing certain activities associated with America's Cup 34 that will be taking place on San Francisco Bay in 2013.

I am pleased that P/C Herman Meyer, Director, District 19 will be assuming my duties as International Legal Officer. He has been an active member in our association and has the experience and expertise to serve with aplomb and distinction.



Thanks for the Pictures...

Contributing LOG photographers for this issue...

*Mary Nye Meyers
Dawn Shaffer-Nemoy
Marybeth Thayer*





US Sailing Representative *Bill Thayer*



Over 50 members of the US Sailing Team Alpha Graphics, USSTAG, were in Weymouth, UK, competing in Sail for Gold, the 1st of two selection events for the U.S Olympic Team-Sailing in June. The venue is the same one to be used in the 2012 Olympic Games. The second was held in August with 460 sailors from 66 nations competing.

The second Junior Olympic Festival was held at the Richmond Yacht Club in Point Richmond, California on June 11th and 12th.

Safety at Sea Seminars for the period were held at Shoreline Yacht Club in Long Beach California and at Strictly Sail Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

The US Sailing Annual Report to Members was published in June.

The US Sailing Roadshow is in full swing for the summer. The Roadshow visits sailing venues, observing sailing programs gives advice and introduces new equipment and spreads the ideas and accomplishments throughout the sailing community. The Roadshow crew continues to explore, promote and celebrate sailing. Roadshow's Will Ricketson and Brooke Thompson have put their reflections and a complete blog in the September 14th Weekly Newsletter. It can be found in the Archives.

In July the USSTAG members are again Weymouth for the International Association of Disabled Sailing World Championship.

USSTAG members participated in USOC Paralympics Military Sports Camp at Sail Newport. 70 injured service men and women from all branches of service learned to sail from the Pros in Sonars, Skud 18 and J22.

US Sailing Board of Directors has approved 12 submissions to the ISAF for changes to the 2013-2016 Racing Rules of Sailing. Three significant changes concern a new Rule 6, Environmental Responsibility.

US Sailing's Annual Meeting was held in Annapolis, Maryland October 27, 28 and 29 had a series of new features on Saturday, 29 Oct:

- * Preparation for Navigating and Off Shore Race Technology for America's Cup.
- * Man Overboard Practice and Strategies.
- * Race Management Secrets and Takeaways from America's Cup 34
- * Independent Panel reports on the Youth sailing 420 accident.
- * 2011 Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac.
- * Rambler 100 incident.

The 2012 National Sailing Programs Symposium will be held at the Hilton Long Beach and Executive Meeting Center, Long Beach, CA. January 11 -14, 2012.



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 Vern Bendsen to

*P*ast *P*resident Jerry Rudd

It is an honor to present this year's Award to Jerry Rudd. It is because of his leadership ability, his time and effort, that the IOBG came through several years of tough times as a more viable and stronger organization.



Right: Mary Nye Meyers, NW Area VP, accepting the Past President's Award for Jerry Rudd.

Below: PP Jerry Rudd recuperating at home with his Past President's Award for Outstanding Service.



Northwestern V.P.
Mary Nye Meyers



Districts
1 & 5
2, 4 & 24
Blue Gavel Canada

In all my years in Blue Gavel I have learned that I should never answer the phone during nomination time, especially when it is P/P Jerry Rudd calling. If he believes you can do the job, he will convince you to run for the office or position. I think he knew that I wanted to do more in IOBG and in the Pacific Northwest. So here I am...NWVP. Thank you Jerry for believing in me and thank you to Districts 1 & 5 for your encouragement.

With the exception of a few District 1 members, we have not had regular communication or interaction with District 2, 4 & 24 - Blue Gavel Canada. They function outside of our Districts and, on occasion, have invited us to some of their events. Their participation in Districts 1 & 5's activities is very limited but with "a little help from my friends" we hope to change that. Past NWVP Mike Parish and Roxanne have volunteered to be our IOBG Northwest Ambassadors to Blue Gavel Canada. I can't think of a more appropriate couple to help spread the word about Blue Gavel.



Districts 1 & 5 were will represented at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Having District 5 Director Ron Timmerman at the meeting gave me a chance to present some ideas that could be implemented in his District to assist in the relaying of information to the membership. Their Columbia Current newsletter and District Roster have served as an excellent mechanism for recruiting and membership retention. District 5 should be very proud that they have doubled their membership in the past year. I plan to meet with the Officers and Board of D5 to further discuss some ideas.

As of the beginning of this year District 1 has gone totally paperless with an electronic version of their Cascade Connection newsletter. We also utilize an email based e-Lert system for delivery of short announcements and reminders. Using the two systems has greatly improved communication and interaction amongst the members, increased the attendance at events and meetings to the highest in recent history, and saved the District a substantial amount of money in printing and postage costs. Using this internet based process also allows us to send dues renewal notices, calendars, updated rosters and invitations to incoming Past Commodores. The possibilities are limitless.

Even though all this technology is available, I still believe that personal contact is essential in developing a strong District and region. I have never been know to be shy or at a loss for words and would love to tell you about our beautiful region and the people who help their Districts thrive.

District 1
Robert K. Weber, District Director

District 1 began the year with the annual Spring Meeting on April 15-17, held at the Hells Canyon Boat Club on the beautiful Snake River in Clarkston, Washington. Over 80 members traveled from both sides of the Cascade Mountains, for this very productive meeting where, amongst other things, we approved an totally electronic newsletter, The Cascade Connection, that is already saving the District money. Paul and Paula Boeckman from the Hells Canyon Boat Club treated our members to a great feast and a tour of the Weldcraft boat manufacturing facility.

On May 7th, fifteen District 1 Officers proudly represented IOBG at the annual and historic Seattle Opening Day Ceremonies and parade. Past Commodores Wayne and Peggy Weber provided their beautiful vessel the Boonedocker, for the second year in a row, for the traditional and historic boat parade.

Our annual picnic in Kingston, Washington was held on July 15-17. We had over 55 members attend coming by boat or RV from all over the State. Kingston Cove Yacht Club hosted the event and treated our members to a wonderful dinner of barbecue ribs and chicken plus an educational and interesting tour of the Naval Undersea Museum.

Concluding the year's events, District 1's Fall Change of Watch meeting was held at the Poulsbo Yacht Club in Poulsbo, Washington on September 23-24th. Over 85 members attended with the new Board for 2012 being voted in. Seven new members were inducted and Phil Osterli, our new incoming President, and his wife Linda did a wonderful job of hosting this most important meeting. Poulsbo Yacht Club provided moorage for several member boats and their members gave many hours to hosting a beautiful meeting setting, a wonderful dinner, and a great dance following the day's events.

In summary, District 1 had a year of great successes and memories for a lifetime. We had more attendees at our events this year than any other year. And we increased our membership. With our newly elected board and our plans for the future, District 1 will continue to thrive and grow.



District 5
Ron Timmerman, District Director

District 5 had a good start in 2011 following a strong membership building year in 2010. We began 2010 with 27 members and finished with 54. Our goal this year is to retain our present members, add new members through strengthening our existing Chapters and bringing in new Chapters. We will continue to grow District 5.

Several new members have been sworn in this year and we have lost a few past members due to moves and health related issues. We are currently at 51. Our strategy for strengthening District 5 is to reach out to those yacht clubs that have not had strong Chapters and to encourage them to create Chapter activities that will help them serve their clubs and recruit their Past Commodores. We will be sharing the best practices of our most active Chapters as examples of how to succeed in building active Chapters. The Columbia Current newsletter and District Roster, produced by VP Bill McKinney, have been effective marketing tools.

Our spring social was held March 9 with the theme Festival Carnavale (Italian Mardi Gras). It was an Italian dinner held at a popular Inn and brew-pub. Extensive decorations set the stage for a great evening.

The first weekend in April was our annual "Cruise & Clean-up" of the waterfront park, Hadley's Landing, on the Willamette River that was adopted by District 5 several years ago. This project is carried out under the auspices of the Oregon State Parks. We cleared away winter's debris, cleaned the docks, trimmed the grass, re-rocked the fire pits and picnic areas, and celebrated the work with social time on our boats at the dock.

District 5 was represented at the Spring Regional meeting in Punta Gorda, Florida in February by my wife Gayle and me, as Alternate Director. Gayle and I, as District Director, attended the Windsor, Ontario, Canada IOBG Annual meeting.



District 5 again enjoyed hosting the IOBG June Regional meeting in Portland in conjunction with the Portland Rose Festival. The meetings were held on Thursday, June 9 at Columbia River YC. Portland YC hosted a casual western BBQ Friday evening. The Rose Festival activities included the Knighting Ceremony on Friday, the Grand Floral Parade Saturday morning, the Grand Ball on Saturday night plus the many other activities in and around Portland. The Rose Festival activities were in conjunction with Portland's Royal Rosarians.

District 5 has made its annual donation again this year in support of the Sea Scouts and the Columbia River Yachting Association's "Daughters of Neptune" Court.

The balance of the year focused on District 5's Annual meeting held September 28th and planning the 2012 calendar. The Officers elected and appointments made for 2012 are as follows:

- President - Bill McKinney
- Vice President - Shirley Ridley
- Secretary - Nancy Dale
- Treasurer - Steve Adkins
- Trustee - Bill Farr
- Trustee - Eric Runyan
- Immediate Past President & District Director - Ron Timmerman
- Supply Officer - Mike Stainsby



Southwestern V.P.
Rosalie Davis-Green



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

Submitted by
Past SWVP Gary McGrath

I have enjoyed my two years as area Vice President and I want to thank all my District Directors for their support and help.

I congratulate Rosalie on her new position of Southwestern Vice President. I have the utmost confidence in her ability to do the job.

We have chartered two new Chapters this year, the Sea Gate Yacht Club (Huntington Harbor) in District 10 and the Capital City Yacht Club (Sacramento) District 19. All the Districts will be installing their new Officers and Boards soon and we all look forward to having a banner 2012.

District 21 Director Leo Vortouni tells me they are having a rough time securing new members and also keeping Officers but he is determined to install a new Board and create more enthusiasm and energy in 2012. District 6 Director Stanley Radio had been having some medical problems and I have been unable to connect with him since just before the Transpac in July.

As 1st Vice President, I now look forward to working with the Area Vice Presidents and Directors in the Eastern half of the country.

District 10
Jon Fults, District Vice President

Following an incredibly successful first six months which included a fundraiser which raised one thousand dollars for the Humanitarian Foundation, I now report on the last six months activities.

Hollywood Bowl Spectacular: We had a great turnout for our July 3rd trip to the Hollywood Bowl and we celebrated our country's 235th birthday. We enjoyed a fabulous program by the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and special guests, Daryl Hall & John Oats. The fireworks were spectacular. Seats were great and we had a very enjoyable evening. We are looking forward to next year.

Cerritos Bahia Yacht Club BBQ: August 7th, members enjoyed an afternoon of visiting and eating a delicious BBQ dinner. All enjoyed BBQ ribs, chicken, beef brisket, Louisiana sausages, corn bread and three sides plus dessert. Cerritos Bahia Yacht Club is a favorite gathering spot with a nice view of the marina.

Luau at Navy Yacht Club LB on September 10th: Our luau is a not to be missed day. Food is always spectacular - we roast a whole pig, chicken and had plenty of side dishes. Our chef has had several years of experience roasting a whole pig to perfection. Everyone always enjoys the live music of our favorite Hawaiian band, The Sandy Feet. They provide very danceable music.

Long Beach Charity Regatta: For many years we have supported the Charity Regatta. We have held pancake breakfasts, golf tournaments, the Regatta, etc. to raise money for this worthwhile cause. All proceeds go to the Children's Clinic of Long Beach. The big Regatta was scheduled for September 25th.

Long Beach Yacht Club: October 30th we have scheduled a Brunch/meeting at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

Seal Beach Yacht Club: November 12th we have scheduled a "Burn Your Own Steak" at the Seal Beach Yacht Club. SBYC will be on a cruise that weekend which allows us to have a good meeting along with our steak dinner.

Huntington Harbour: We have two events scheduled around the beautifully decorated waterfront community of Huntington Harbour. December 10th we will meet at George Demo's home for dinner and to view the boat parade. On December 18th we have scheduled an evening of hors d'oeuvres followed by a Duffy Cruise of the Harbour to see the beautifully decorated homes.

Huntington Harbour Yacht Club: Our installation of officers will follow brunch at the HHYC. This take place on January 15th.

A number of events have already been scheduled for 2012 as we continue to provide at least one event each month (sometimes 2). We also continue to publish a newsletter very month and publicize our events in a local magazine "Harbor Lights". LaVon Plumlee maintains our web site keeping it current. Combine all of this with an active Board and an active Auxiliary and we continue to grow our membership.

District 14 Lenworth Gordon, District Director

Events in 2011 paled in comparison in 2010, when we were mobilized with excitement to welcome the IOBG Annual Conference to the San Francisco Bay Area. Here Sir Vern Bendsen, President, IOBG, received his papers and the great commission for 2011.

District 14 was represented in Portland, the Knighting took place in the Rose Garden. Although the roses were not their usual abundance, the ceremony was touching, the pageantry and emotions witnessing the parade and finalists honoring the crowning of the Queen of Roses for 2011. The Blue Gavel had an impressive presence.



District 14 was represented at all the conferences in 2011. However, we remained true to the cause of fulfilling the mission of the Blue Gavel. Ten new members signed up in D-14, to make a total of 51 active members.

District 14 supported and participated in all their annual programs for 2011 as in the past. This year, Renee and I were honored as Judges for the South Bay Opening Day Parade. This event was quite colorful this year. Under a cloud covered sky, the ceremonies were warmed with laughter from the comical expressions of the derelicts displays of the parade, as well as, touched by the uniformed procession of the youth contingency.



Our District membership had their fair amount of illnesses this year but I am happy to say we shared a greater degree of miracles as those affected directly as well as indirectly through prayers, well wishes and nurturing, have pulled through some challenging circumstances.



District 15
Eileen Van Winkle, District Director

Staying with tradition District 15 again held our annual Yacht Club Management Seminar. This year Mission Bay Yacht Club provided the beautiful setting for the seminar.

By having it in January, it is well attended by recently installed bridge, board and appointed committee chairs. We were honored this year to have two special guests, Vern Bendsen President of IOBG and his wife, Linda Bendsen, President of RBOC.

Our next event, a joint IOBG/IOBGA was a good ole down home ice cream social hosted by Jim Coburn, past District 15 Director and his lovely wife Karin. By the end of the day, it was unanimous that John Irwin's root beer float was the best concoction of the day. Also a poll was taken for suggestions for future events. Jim and Karin are a driving force for fun successful events in our district. Funds raised at this event went to the Humanitarian Foundation.

As summer wound down on August 21st we were graciously hosted by President Michele Wold and her husband Dick to a fantastic BURGER BASH. Their lovely tropical back yard was the perfect location. Chula Vista Yacht Club Rear Commodore Phil Thuys was our burger chef and Gregg Hansen, Vice Commodore of SDAYC, tended bar serving some killer mojitos. The funds raised from the event went to Recreational Boaters of California.

A planned but last minute cancelled event was to be hosted by the active Santa Margarita Yacht Club chapter. Due to very high surf Oceanside had to close the mouth of the harbor preventing 19 boats from rafting up at SMYC. We are waiting for a rescheduled date for Chef Linda's grilled pizzas.

On Saturday October 1st we held our Installation of Officers and Change of Watch dinner at CVYC. This year was special as for the first time in several years; IOBGA installed their officers at the same event. Happy Hour commenced at 6:30 with the bar full of friends followed by dinner. Past President Linda Whipple dismissed the 2011 officers and Michele Wold installed the 2012 board.

- District Director Eileen Van Winkle
- District President Blanche Gunther
- District Vice President Dave Lancaster
- District Secretary Kathy Smith
- Treasurer Marshall Nemo

Once the boards were installed no time was wasted. IOBG President Blanche Gunther and IOBGA President Karin Coburn set a joint calendar planning dinner for Nov. 3rd at the home of District Director Eileen Van Winkle. Even before the planning session IOBGA has committed a team for the Amazing Race for Children's Wishes, a Make A Wish fundraiser sponsored by Coronado, Navy and Coronado Cays Yacht Clubs. This is a bicycle race where teams go to different stations to complete challenges. It is rumored our Vice President Dave Lancaster and his wife Caroline will participate on a tandem bike.

District 15th is alive and well and plans are shaping up for an extraordinary 2012.



District 16
Marsha Landreth, Alt. Dist. Director

District #16 began 2011 with an excellently attended installation breakfast at Harbour Island Yacht Club. During Opening Day weekend, 10 new members were initiated, eight Past Commodores coming from Pierpoint Yacht Club. The Channel Island Harbor's annual boat parade signaled the start of the second day of the Opening Day festivities. Many visiting Blue Gavel dignitaries boarded the District's entry in the boat parade and happily circled the harbor with mimosas in hand.



The June BBQ was hosted by the Ventura Yacht Club. Attendance was high as this is a very popular event. Listening to music and watching the harbor as the steaks sizzled reminded everyone how wonderful it is to live in such an enchanted place.

The Christmas Dinner/Dance will be held by the Channel Islands Yacht Club. If the past Christmas Dinner/Dances are any indication, this year's function should be well attended, with delicious food, plenty of dancing, and a surprise visit from Santa! Admission to the Christmas party is a bag of food and Christmas presents for local needy families.

Last year, District #16 awarded four sailing scholarships. Hope is high to award six, if not more this year. This year has been a good one for District #16 and 2012 should be even better.



District 51
Walt Kadyk, District Director

District 51 still has lost over 50% of our members since last year-2010. I continue to make efforts to keep in touch with the members in the District but I get a 100% "no reply" from those few who are left. Things continue to change in people's lives and that is simply the way it is.

I am still hopeful that we may see some more members come in and perhaps we need to expound on the "honorary" commodore issue to see if we can get some of those folks on board.

I have set out on a new path this year to "recruit" candidates for IOBG membership from fresh water (lakes) yacht clubs that are officially recognized yacht clubs- who may be far from any regular district. I have been addressing this by attending the "opening day" ceremonies and assisting with swearing in of new members, but so far they have been attached to Districts. I will keep at it but there is no rush to join and I tell them they are missing being "invited" to join a stellar organization of outstanding past Commodores.

North Central V.P.
Tony Durieux



Districts
7, 9, 23 & 25

Submitted by
Past NCVP Joel Kay

District 7 had a very successful year.

On June 1, District 7 President Tony Durieux and I traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, and met with P/C Bob Stanley, District 7 member, Al Koran Mariners Yacht Club Chapter, Cleveland, Ohio. Bob said that he is quite familiar with the boating community in and around Pittsburgh and will try to find yacht clubs that District 7 could create new Chapters. Unfortunately, due to changes in his job, he would not be able to involve himself in this endeavor for at least another year. He is looking to find someone to begin the search so that the District could have some success in 2012.

Thanks to the help of the 2011 District Director Matt Schmidt, Sandusky Yacht Club moved to District 7 from District 9 during 2011. Nearly all of the members of SYC live in District 7.

This past September, we visited Louisville, KY, and found out that Huntington Lake Yacht Club has been closed. The property is there but seems derelict.

Pat Slee, District 9 Director, reported that District 9 will support District 25 and incoming President, Steve Willing, financially. District 9 has a good working relationship with District 25 and the other two districts in the NC Area. This includes supporting the annual IOBG Cocktail Party at Put-in-Bay, sponsored by the Inter-Lake Yachting Association. District 25 will also try to get District 7 involved in inter-district programming.

All District 9 Chapters, except Zenobia Mariners, have had a summer season full of activities and programming. Zenobia Mariners is mostly an inactive group.

District 9 publishes its newsletter 3-4 times per year.



District 9
Patrick M. Slee, District Director

My year as Director of District 9 is about to come to a close. It has been an interesting office to hold with a lot of material to read on the internal workings of the International Order of the Blue Gavel. I have tried to write at least a short article about our District for the International LOG to be published in every edition, in addition to the one for our local. I have made sure that our votes (currently 5) for our area based on our number of membership have been counted.

It has always been a pleasure attending an E-Board meetings with the officers that are the representatives at our local District 9. As all of you may know, meetings at your local clubs that you have experienced in the past, usually have a lot of hard decisions to be made, major problem to deal with, and sometimes even negative attitudes. Instead at these meetings we are working on raising money for charities that are close to our members and that they get to choose.

District 9 Continued...

We keep the membership advised of the efforts and activities put on by local boat or yacht clubs and their own internal Blue Gavel organizations. This way many more may take part in these to help make them a success.

Last but not least we are working on fund raising ideas to keep our operational and activity costs on the books in the black, without raising their dues. These are all accomplished with positive attitudes and smiles on our faces during and after all of these meetings.

District 9 members are also part of the Associated Yacht Clubs (AYC) when they have fundraising activities for their officers such as bowling and golf we sponsor a lane or a hole along with District 25 in order to promote our organizations.

I attended our IOBG Commodore's reception that is sponsored by Districts 7, 9, & 25 during Inter-Lake Yachting Association power boat week at Put-In Bay Yacht Club. It was my honor to present their Commodore Fred Schroeder fellow CCYC member and P/C 1993 (Past IOBG District 9 President 2001) a plaque for his accomplishments. I was not able to attend the International Annual Meeting in Windsor because of prior commitments so I have asked Jack White one of our past directors (2009) to act as our alternate District Director in my place.

Once again with District 25 and possibly 7, we will be serving up free pizza at the up-and-coming I-LYA Fall meeting held at the Holiday Inn French Quarters in Perrysburg, Ohio. This will be on Friday night December 2nd and is (Free) for all of I-LYA (142) club members to attend. There will be 50/50 tickets on sale there with the proceeds going to our close friend Steve Willing to help off set some of his on going costs that he experienced. He has attended and supported many of our functions in the past. This exposure also serves as a promotion for awareness of what we do and acts as a new or a renewal membership drive all at the same time. I hope to see many of our members there.

The Fall meeting for District 9 was held at Monroe Boat Club on Sunday October 16, 2011 at 2:00 pm. President Elect Rich Schneeman of that club has suffered a stroke recently and all of us on the E-Board are going to do all we can to support him and one of his life's goals during the next year.

May the up and coming year for all of the IOBG members families be both safe and have many of their great expectations come true.



Harold LeGrand TUTTLE
May 25, 1928 - October 31, 2011

IOBG District 9 Past President

Harold LeGrand Tuttle passed away, peacefully at Lake Park, Sylvania, October 31, 2011, with his family at his side. Harold was born in Crestline, Ohio; graduated from John Marshall High School, Cleveland, OH, and attended The Ohio State University and graduated from the College of Advanced Traffic, Chicago, Illinois.

In Remembrance...

He was a member of St. Matthews Episcopal Church for 55 years. He was a true entrepreneur. He founded Transport Equipment, Transport Leasing and Motor Carrier Service. Harold was a proud 60 year member of The Free Masons. As a Shriner he belonged to the following units: The Highlanders, The Roadrunners, The Hillbillies, and The Campers.

He was also active in The Fraternal Order of Elks and Eagles. He was Past Commodore of The Toledo Sailing Club, Past President for District 9 International Order of Blue Gavel, Past President of Sylvania Athletic Boosters, and involved with many trucking industry organizations.

Of particular pride in recent years was his participation in local parades with his restored 1947 KB7 International Truck. He truly enjoyed life, his grandchildren and great-grand children as well as all those who came in touch with him.

District 23
Submitted by Joel Kay

District 23 President Bob Sapita was unable to attend this meeting. During this past year, the District formally approved its bylaws. This is important, as the district had no formal set of rules/regulations to govern the organization. International IOBG approved the new Bylaws during 2011. The District published its first newsletter in early 2011. Since the membership of the District is so widely scattered, the newsletter was established in order to invite members to participate in social and organizational activities within the District. The newsletter is also the means to inform members to pay their annual dues. Unfortunately, there are only 21 members in this District, which comprises the west coast of Lake Michigan, north to south, a very long shoreline.

Worse still, only two of the 21 members have renewed their membership for 2011. Accordingly, it is recommended that the International handle membership dues beginning in 2012. I talked to President Bob Sapita about my attending a District board meeting during 2011, but there was none to attend. I also talked about meeting with him and creating a meeting with some of the Chapters around Saugatuck, where he lives and boats. I recommended this be a part of the agenda of the next NC Area Vice President.

In a letter to De Ramsey, cc to me dated September 19, 2011, Bob Sapita resigned his presidency of District 23. The letter has been submitted to the Secretary for inclusion to the minutes of this meeting.



Northeastern V.P.
David Grove



Districts
3, 12, 20,
26 & 27

Submitted by
Past NEVP Bob Howe

The northeastern region of the IOBG (Districts 3,12,20,22,26,27) moved through the boating season without much involvement from myself. As we all know, Past 1st Vice President was unable to attend the meeting in June because of illness. From the reports I have received he is doing much better and hopes to get back together with his friends as soon as possible. In my own case, I suffered a personal tragedy and I am still feeling the results. However that does not mean things were not getting done.

District 3: I tried several times using all the methods I am aware of to make contact with them, especially in light of the fact that early in the year it was expected to host this meeting, all to no avail. Just recently however, I received an email from Marshall Nemoy, International Treasurer, forwarding a message from the District 3 Treasurer asking if the Humanitarian Foundation might match a donation that was made to a program in their area. I (as the HF President) responded to Marshall and to the District 3 Treasurer, asking that they contact me and discuss the details. To date I have heard nothing further.

District 20 and 22: Having been totally unable to contact anyone in these Districts, I have nothing to report.

District 26. The Harlem Yacht Club sponsored the 2nd annual "Veterans Appreciation Day" in September hosted by the Harlem, Locust Point and the Huguenot Yacht Clubs. The day began with a light breakfast at the Harlem YC, then a cruise down the East River leading to New York City. This event is the Districts "Give Back" to the military men and women who are trying to keep our nation safe.

District 27. The District has been silently active. The current District Director started out the year "attending most of if not all, of the Chapter or YC "openings" and plans to attend as many of the YC's events in the District as possible. The District is planning a fundraising pig roast in the near future, providing funds for future events.

I, P/C Robert Howe have offered to resign as Northeastern VP in order to devote more time to the IOBG HF. I tried to make a difference, but I have found that now I must focus more on what I might actually accomplish. I would love to continue but the position needs a more "Hands On" person.



District 3
Lewis Smith, District Director

District 3 regrettably cancelled plans for the International meeting due to the unexpected illness of President-elect Marc Connelly. Marc and his family felt that his full efforts should go into getting better. We thank everyone who had worked so hard in preparing for the event. Our prayers continue to go out to Marc and his family.

The District's Summer Sail party was held at the LaSalle Yacht Club and was well attended. Paul Schneeberger, and his wife Susan, were chairmen of the picnic and barbecue. To everyone's delight and surprise, Marc and Kathy Connelly attended. Marc 's attitude is strong and he said his prognosis is better.

Plans for the general meeting and election in October and our holiday party in December are under way.

District 12
Vincent J. Core, District Director

On Friday, September 16th the Past Commodores of Long Beach Island, International Order of the Blue Gavel District 12, held its annual meeting and reception. District 12 consists of the 5 yacht clubs located on Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Namely, Barnegat Light YC, Surf City YC, Brant Beach YC, Spray Beach YC and Little Egg Harbor YC.

Many thanks go out to the members of the Surf City YC for hosting this year's cocktail reception meeting. Special thanks to PC Susan Warren and her husband PC Rich Warren and the many SCYC members for organizing the excellent reception. I also want to thank all those who took time out of their busy schedules to attend. This was the third year in which we had our meeting as a part of an evening cocktail reception rather than a Sunday luncheon.

Back in 2007, District 12 made a decision to support the local high school sailing team by sponsoring a fundraiser and donating the proceeds to the Friends of Southern Sailing, a 501 3c foundation which supports the unfunded high school sailing program. In addition, District 12 submitted a successful grant application to the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation for additional financial support.

On August 11th District 12 sponsored its fourth very successful fundraiser for the Friends of Southern Sailing. Thanks to the support from the five yacht clubs that make up District 12 we were successful in raising \$2,135.00. A special thanks to the members of Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club for hosting this year's event.

Over the past three years, the Past Commodores of LBI (IOBG District 12) have raised \$12,500.00 for the Friends of Southern Sailing, which includes a grant from the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation of \$3,500.00. This remarkable achievement has been accomplished with great support from everyone.

I'm also very pleased to report that membership for 2012 has increased from 34 to 38.

Our Annual Meeting concluded with PC Dick Janiszewski inducting our 5 new incoming Past Commodores.

Next year's Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Brant Beach YC.

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.

Southeastern V.P.
Joe Dowdell



Districts
8 & 18

I attended the District 8 Summer Regional Meeting at Gulf Harbors Yacht Club July 15 and 16. The business meeting was chaired by President Elect Frank Hutchinson, due to the severe illness of President De Ramsey.

Executive Meeting Highlights:

1. Action on a proposal that District 8 consider having an electronic newsletter, which would be current and inexpensive, to supplement the publication of the Gulfstream newsletter was deferred to the November meeting.
2. The executive committee also postponed to the Fall meeting, any further discussion of the proposed Bylaw change first raised at the Winter meeting at Isles Yacht Club, and tabled at the Spring Membership meeting at Lighthouse Point. What was sought was a District 8 bylaws change to prohibit a qualifying yacht club from requiring membership in, association with, or participation in an unrelated activity, fraternal organization, or condominium development. The change had been requested and further study had been ordered in February, 2011.
3. President Elect Frank Hutchinson questioned if District 8 really needs to schedule four meetings a year. He will bring that subject up again at the November meeting.

In September, I received an email inquiry through our District 8 website from a Commodore of a Florida Gulf Coast Yacht Club stating his interest in joining Blue Gavel at the expiration of his term. He stated he believed his club was a qualified yacht club according to our bylaws. I thought I had the makings of a new Chapter application on my hands, but it turned out after inquiring with Mary Eiffert, Executive Secretary, that actually, the club already had a charter issued in December, 1993. It turns out that District 8 has some dormant Blue Gavel Chapter Charters that were issued in the past that I was completely unaware of. Mary told me that since I inquired, she was going to bring a list of all the outstanding District 8 Charters that have become dormant to this meeting. I will then follow-up with some of the Past Commodores in those clubs with information about the history of Blue Gavel within their club, and inform them that the IOBG has been making changes internally, and is moving into a new era.

With regard to District 18, the officers have been working to bring back Chattanooga Yacht Club Chapter that had dropped out, and to recruit Past Commodores in Nashville Yacht Club and Lake Guntersville Yacht Club in Alabama as a new Chapter. Many of the Chattanooga Yacht Club members and Lake Guntersville Y.C. members came to the Fort Loudon Y.C. for a July 24th weekend. There were many Past Commodores from both clubs in the group, and President Barbrow was hopeful he would get some applications from their P/C's. It turns out some of Chattanooga Past Commodores come to Florida every year and the question of whether they would be allowed into Florida Yacht Clubs as Blue Gavel members. President Barbrow responded that his Blue Gavel membership card was instantly honored in a very beautiful club in Bimini, in the Bahamas. In fact, reciprocity is available with any yacht club in Florida through their registration in American Registry of Yacht Clubs. The Chattanooga P/C's will make a decision by the end of the year. Lake Guntersville P/C's are going to wait to see what their friends in the Chattanooga Yacht Club are going to do.

SEVP Report Continued...

President-Elect Chuck Browning moved to the Myrtle Beach area and has sent emails to several South Carolina yacht clubs and sailing clubs in the area. The hope is to arrange a regional meeting here. One of the Clubs, The Western Carolina Sailing Club, sent their check to District 18 Treasurer, Randal Blaylock, to pay dues for three Past Commodores for 2011

Since June, I have traveled to Royal Palm Yacht Club, Isles Yacht Club, Gulf Harbors Yacht Club, Lauderdale Yacht Club and Coral Reef Yacht Club. I plan to visit Bradenton Yacht Club in November, and also attend Palm Coast Yacht Club for the District 8 annual meeting November 19.

While I was over in Fort Myers in July, I went to visit De Ramsey who was recuperating in a rehabilitation center there. Unfortunately, De has never regained his full physical ability and he had to resign as District 8 President and Alternate Director July 31. De and Maude celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on August 26. They were overwhelmed with the number of congratulatory cards they received from all their friends in Blue Gavel. I saw them again in September, at their new "digs" at a very nice assisted living facility on Cape Coral. They are doing fine, and plan to attend the annual meeting at Palm Coast Y. C. Lenworth and Renee Gordon have offered to take them. De was the dock master at Mackinac Island for seventeen years and is a PC of Mackinac Island Yacht Club. He was honored with a lifetime club membership in 2010. Many people don't know he appeared in three scenes of the famous cult classic movie, "*Somewhere in Time*", with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour,

District 8
Joe Dowdell, District Director

District 8 as of August 1, 2011, had 220 members. 4 more members paid dues after August 1st, so the total now is 224 members, which exceeds last years total of 217, for a net gain of 7 members. District 8 has 20 current paid members in the IOBG

Auxiliary. This amounts to a net gain over 2010 of 5 Auxiliary members. They have Chapters in, or are associated with, Palm Coast Yacht Club, Marathon Yacht Club, Halifax River Yacht Club and Royal Palm Yacht Club.

The District 8 director's quarterly reports that were due for the quarters ending Dec. 31, 2010, April 30, June 30 and September 30 2011 were filed, and the responsibilities of the director to visit or contact at least 3 prospective Chapters, 3 current Chapters, and 3 weaker Chapters each quarter were met.

Clubs visited were Halifax River, Naples Sailing and Yacht, Lauderdale, Eau Gallie, Moorings, Royal Palm and Coral Reef. Each visit usually entails 2 cocktail parties and 2 dinners, as well as other social get-togethers and functions. Past Commodores contacted, including former Blue Gavel members, were from Smyrna Yacht Club, Captiva Yacht Club, Pensacola Yacht Club, Bradenton Yacht Club, Sarasota Yacht Club, Tampa Yacht Club, Lake Beresford, Coral Ridge, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, and Charlotte Harbor Yacht Clubs. If there was one recurring theme I heard when discussing Blue Gavel at these meetings and contacts, it would be the complaint about travel expenses for the executive committee. This is not going to go away, in my opinion.

There were three District regional meetings held during the past year, hosted by the Chapters in Isles Yacht Club, Lighthouse Point and Gulf Harbors. The fourth and final meeting will be the annual membership meeting at Palm Coast Yacht Club. The Isles Yacht Club meeting was the winter meeting for the International Executive Committee also, and the District members attended the International meetings, and then the International meeting attendees came to the District meeting. Isles Yacht Club hospitality was wonderful, and the Isles Yacht Club Chapter and the event Chairman, Charles Martoglio received deserving accolades.

The following District 8 meeting was a membership meeting at Lighthouse Point Yacht Club April 16, 2011 There were 116 members represented. Following the business meeting, Vice Commodore John & Angela Hallbauer welcomed the visiting guests aboard their beautiful luxury Yacht "Joie de Vie" for a 3 hour cruise on the Inter-coastal Waterway. This was a very special treat for our members and their spouses.

That evening a formal dinner-dance was on the agenda. It started with delicious passed hors d'oeuvres, and then the Past Commodores of the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club were introduced individually as they were escorted into the dining room, in a moving ceremony that honored their service to their club. Then all IOBG members and Officers were recognized individually as honored guests. After a bountiful dinner, an orchestra provided the music for dancing.

The summer meeting was at Gulf Harbors Yacht Club on July 15 and 16th. Gulf Harbors Yacht Club is a Located in New Port Richey on the Gulf Coast. It is the home club of Past Southeastern Vice President John Button and Past District 8 President Joe King. The Blue Gavel Chapter and the friendly members of Gulf Harbors made all visiting Blue Gavel members; their spouses and guests feel most welcome throughout this great fun weekend. Anyone that didn't come to this regional meeting missed a great time.

After the business meeting and luncheon, our group was transported to Tarpon Springs and a tour of the waterfront "Sponge Dock" market.

Saturday night was a fabulous seafood buffet and dinner dance. It was very obvious that the club's members knew how to party! They all dressed up in their Tacky Tourist Costumes, and the assembled group was a hilarious sight. Visiting guests quickly got involved acting like tourists and dressing the part. A band of talented musicians kept lively members and guests on the dance floor throughout the evening. The antics from the parade of contestants vying to win the prize for the best tacky tourist costume was entertainment enough, but there was also a floor show by a staffer who was wonderful with his spot-on impressions of Frank Sinatra singing all his old favorites, Just ask Art and Betty Theobald how they enjoyed the show! Thanks to John Button for arranging the meeting, and to Chapter President Les Jockers, and Chapter members Anthony Mijka, Pierce Pratt, Jim Shuman and Joe King for going all out to ensure we all had fun.

At the annual membership meeting at Palm Coast Yacht Club, the members will elect the offices for the upcoming year. Also on the agenda will be proposals to reduce the number of regional meetings and to supplement the quarterly newsletter, The Gulfstream, with an electronic version distributed via email.

: PC JOHN T. STRINGER, JR. (District 8)
: June 23, 1918 - August 17, 2011

Submitted by:
Past SEVP Tom Sullivan

: PC John Stringer passed away at age 93 on Wednesday, August 17, 2011.

: Born in 1918 John served in the US Navy for 32 years, retiring as Director of Medical Photography & Director
: of Naval School of Medical Photography. He was well known for his 52 Autopsy Photos taken of JFK and
: had many NAVY ADMIRALS & MARINE CORPS.GENERALS as close friends.

: John's military exposure began when his father a Navy Physician, took him along on his many assignments.
: "Military is in the family" with one of his sons a Naval Academy Graduate becoming a Navy Captain &
: Destroyer Skipper. John also has a granddaughter serving as an Army Major & Helicopter Pilot in
: Afghanistan. John's wife is Patricia G. Taylor, whom he married in 1994.

: On the civilian side of things, John has another son, John III & daughter who is named after her deceased
: mother Janet Mary.

: A Memorial Service for PC John Stringer was held at Vero Beach Yacht Club on Saturday August 20th with
: over 125 attending; including 18 family members. PC Sumner Lapp & PC Chuck Ranson conducted the
: day's event. An open Bar & Buffet was enjoyed by all.

: PC Stringer was also well known in IOBG circles, becoming a member in 1985 & served as Vero Beach
: Chapter President 14 times & also served Vero Beach Yacht Club in many capacities over the years. His
: other accomplishments (of which there are many) included his being Commissioner of Parks, Planning, &
: Zoning for the City of Vero Beach.

: We wish John fairwinds & flowing seas.

District 18
Joe Dowdell, Interim Dist. Director

District 18 covers the States of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Combined membership is down to approximately 20 members. As of now, officers are interim appointees. Until an organizational election can be held, the treasury is being held in an escrow account and administered by the Operations Center. The large geographic area is a problem when attempting to hold a District Membership meeting. I am therefore trying to encourage having officer elections by a mailed ballot to all members. District President Barbrow agrees, and plans to have a ballot ready to mail very soon.

My impression is that this large District seems better suited to be divided into smaller geographic Districts. A problem with this idea is the perceived difficulty in getting volunteers for office in each District. Also my impression is that the inland lakes clubs, generally speaking, are power boaters, whereas the Atlantic Coast Clubs are mostly sailing oriented. Should not those clubs with like-minded interests be in their own District? Makes sense to me!

The Chattanooga Yacht Club members and Lake Guntersville Y.C. members came to the Fort Loudon Y.C. for a July 24th weekend. Many Past Commodores are in this assembled group.

Twice a year the three clubs get together for three days of intense fun. They have done this for the last 35 years. The first get together is on Memorial Day weekend. The second time is on the next to last weekend in July. The fun starts on Friday at noon and ends with a sendoff breakfast on Sunday.

Next year, Chattanooga Yacht Club will host the other two clubs on Memorial Day weekend. District 18 President Mike Barbrow has invited me to come next year. I hope to attend, perhaps with another officer or two.

District 50
Submitted by Past Dist. Director Joel Kay
&
District Director Damian Pflgebraar

I received a telephone call from then President Elect Marc Connelly, in May 2011, regarding communication to him from a P/C in Mississippi whose club received funds from IOBG for help in rebuilding after hurricane Katrina. Marc asked me to contact this person in accordance with my responsibility as District 50 Director.

I had two most interesting and informative discussions with P/C John O'Shaughnessy of Ocean Springs Yacht Club, a small club on the Gulf in Ocean Springs, MS. These discussions resulted in a subsequent visit there by then 1st VP Steve Willing and 2nd VP Chuck Browning, with P/C John O'Shaughnessy and other P/C's of nearby yacht clubs. The goal is to make a new District along that part of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River delta.

District 50 consists of Chapters and members east of the Mississippi River that do not have enough Chapters to form a District. Members that relocate from their home District may remain a member of that District or become a member of District 50 (east of the Mississippi) or District 51 (west of the Mississippi).

Damian Pflgebraar, District Director, is the only officer in District 50 and serves as a contact person and liaison to the International. If he can be of assistance or answer any questions, his contact information is located in the Log or on the website.

District 50 and 51 members will receive their membership renewal notices directly from the International office.



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. Please help us as you consider your tax strategy for this year.

"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.



President Robert Howe

The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation (IOBG HF) is the charitable organization formed alongside the IOBG to support the boating community and make real differences in others' lives. Those actions are governed by the mandate of the US Government IRS 501 (c) (3) laws. More importantly, contributors to this foundation enjoy the tax deductions on their returns as is allowed by law.

The IOBG HF is reviewing the existing bylaws to reflect the growing demands of the organization and to remain relevant in this atmosphere of changing cultures within and around the boating community. Also, we want to ascertain our position in the World as a truly international organization. A new brochure has been developed to outline our philosophy and our criteria for funding. Also, a PowerPoint presentation with similar information was developed and was presented for critique at the 2011 Annual IOBG Convention in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Both of these will be rolled out soon and distributed to all Regional VP, District Directors, and District Presidents.

New Zealand has been a special focus in light of the devastating circumstances following the many earthquakes and aftershocks suffered there recently. There are many yacht clubs and their programs benefiting the youth, handicapped as well as the Blind Sailing program making a profound impact on their community. Members of New Zealand clubs in the affected areas have been in contact with the IOBG in the US sharing information on the damages and needs perceived to regain some restructuring of these community service programs affected. A flyer has been distributed by PC Robert Howe, President of the Humanitarian Foundation soliciting support for New Zealand.

During the Annual Conference in Canada, an appeal was made to support New Zealand. This notion was approved for the Humanitarian Foundation to formally commit to this cause. The IOBG HF then committed funds towards supporting the restructuring of those programs affected in New Zealand. Many positive responses including significant checks from clubs as well as individuals were received to benefit those affected. These will be forwarded as soon as possible along with our well wishes.

The Foundation also approved funds to support the efforts for Huntington Beach Sailing to support grants/scholarships to be awarded to economically disadvantaged children from the surrounding communities and to the children of the Military Families stationed in the local area. These funds will also be distributed as soon as possible.

Earlier in 2011 we made grants to several other Local Area Projects from the Southwestern Region.

To make these and future grants possible I am including a short list of donors by regions as of this article: 1) The New Zealand project - \$1270 with the most significant coming from our past President Vern Bendson. The SMYC contributed another \$120, with many individuals making contributions ranging from \$25 to \$100 dollars; 2) Members of the IOBG Aux have contributed almost \$1700 in 2011 including District 7 - Aux \$800+ and District 19 - Aux \$800; 3) The Northwestern Region donated almost \$700, with District 1 sending in almost \$500 and District 5 another 200; 4) The Southwestern Region donated almost \$3000, with District 10 sending in \$1000, District 15 \$160, District 19 adding another \$1670; and the North Central Region – District 7 adding \$50 to our funds. The most generous IOBG individual members donation to date have been John and Lucy Anthony. Much more is needed and it is not too late for your consideration in 2011.







There has been a goal established for each IOBG Region to raise at least \$1500 between now and our next annual meeting in October 2012. Anyone reading this should get involved. If you have not been contacted by someone from your region, you can still send the IOBG HF a check and it will be counted in the Region of origin or as stated. Chapter amounts will be recorded in future Logs and publications. Every donor will receive a letter of "Thank You" from the HF as soon as possible after receiving your generous contribution.

There are several other requests for funding currently under consideration for the Humanitarian Foundation to grant in the 2012 season. They are all worthwhile programs providing significant service to the communities they serve and we would like to fund as many as possible. We can only do so to a meaningful extent if you continue to give to the Foundation even more than you have in the past.

Thank you from all of us here at the Foundation. May your boating continue to bring you to new shores of happiness and good memories.



2012
AUXILIARY
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

	<p style="text-align: center;">President</p>	<p>Ethel Keith - Dist. 7 1135 Brandon Road Cleveland Heights, OH 44112 Home: 216-371-4933 Email: mrsethel.keith@gmail.com</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">President-Elect</p>	<p>Renee Gordon - Dist. 8 P.O. Box 578 Palmetto, FL 34220 Home: 510-717-8236 Email: memoriesbynae1@aol.com</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Vice President</p>	<p>Deanna Tomei - Dist. 19 753 Chestnut Ave. San Bruno, CA 94066 Home: 650-871-0802 Email: dhtomei7057@att.net</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p>	<p>Renee Gordon - Dist. 8 P.O. Box 578 Palmetto, FL 34220 Home: 510-717-8236 Email: memoriesbynae1@aol.com</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Immediate Past President</p>	<p>Lucille Anthony - Dist. 19 171 Bel Air Circle Fairfield, CA 97533 Home: 707-399-8283 Email: JoJotolly1@comcast.net</p>



International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President Ethel Keith

As President of the IOBGA, I would like to thank all of you, and especially Past Presidents Jerry Key, Gerva Hughes, and Shirley Willing for their loyal support. I will continue looking for your invaluable support for the coming year to implement our theme for 2012: "Run Longer and Run Stronger." Our goal is to increase membership and support the Humanitarian Foundation.

Thanks to the Willings for such a great, hospitable reception when I visited Windsor, Canada. Great friendships were established and ideas were shared. Hats off also for all the hard work you put in to pull off such a wonderful event on such short notice. The weekend was spectacular and everyone had a marvelous time. Thanks to you and your committee for a job well done. My compliments to the Windsor Yacht Club for the delicious pasta dinner and the Sun Parlour Boat Club for those delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. The congenial and friendly atmosphere was wonderful! Thanks to all of you, and hats off to those who attended from District 7 for the exceptional turn-out!

As your new President, I am looking forward to meeting and greeting many more of you at our next gathering in Biloxi, Mississippi on February 3-4, 2012. It is through these meetings and socialization that indelible fond memories are formed and lasting relationships come about.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the slate of new incoming Officers for 2012:

President Ethel Keith
President-Elect Renee Gordon
Vice President: Deanna Tomei
Secretary: Nancy Kay
Treasurer: Renee Gordon
Immediate Past President: Lucille Anthony



The slate of Officers is an interesting blend of qualified individuals who have decided to give their talent and experience to lead us through 2012. Talent and experience like this will give us an exciting "Run Longer, Run Stronger" 2012 year.



I would like to introduce the Auxiliary Board for 2012:

District 15
Karin Coburn, President

Karin Coburn - President
Gary Smith - Vice President
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Dawn Shaffer

As you can see, we are still looking for someone to fill the Secretary position. This is going to be an exciting and dynamic year, so if you would like to be a part of this, please let us know.

The Boards of IOBG District 15 and IOBG Auxiliary District 15 held a joint meeting to plan the calendar for 2012. Our goal this year is to pool our resources to hold joint events and provide a calendar of events that you will not want to miss. We anticipate finishing the year's calendar next month, so stay tuned.

As the New Year starts, IOBG Dist. 15 will hold their annual Yacht Club Management Seminar. It will be held in January 2012 at Mission Bay Yacht Club and the IOBG District 15 Auxiliary will hold a concurrent seminar for spouses. This is free and has proven to be very popular. This popular seminar provides valuable information for new officers and their spouses including protocol and customs needed to be an officer of a yacht club, so reserve the date.

Some events being considered are a Leap Year Social and new member's get-together, a fashion show, a wine and cheese tasting, and several other programs to tempt you.

This is a new year and a new board, so come visit and take a look, I know you will like what you see.

District 26
Chris Swett, Secretary

Once again President Dottie Mahon has been busy arranging our annual trip into New York City for November. The event includes a continental breakfast at the Mt. Sinai Yacht Club, a boxed lunch on the bus, orchestra seats for the Broadway show "Anything Goes" and a full dinner served at the club. This trip is a fundraiser that will allow us to offer a scholarship next year for one of our club's kids heading off to college.

The IOBGA Food Drive will again be held at our November Annual Meeting. Club members bringing canned goods and non-perishable paper products will receive a raffle ticket for each item donated. The IOBGA ladies are putting together a "basket of cheer" that will be raffled at the end of the meeting. The donated items and monies collected will be shared between five of our neighborhood church food pantries.



2012 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
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Return Service Requested

