

# THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

Volume 32 No. 3

Hugust/September 2011

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.



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### ELECTED OFFICER

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ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

**ANNUAL MEETING 2011** 

716-838-2016

519-944-1397

925-939-0230

519-944-1397

716-863-6096

386-445-5530

707-422-3510

519-944-1397

888-378-2211

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707-422-3510

716-863-6096

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410-569-6338

888-378-2211

386-445-5530

**AUDIT** 

Marc Connelly

George Knies

Stephen Willing

Marc Connelly

Ray Thompson

Vern Bendsen

Stephen Willing

Marshall Nemov

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**NOMINATING** 

Stephen Willing

Ray Thompson

Vern Bendsen

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Vern Bendsen

Stephen Willing

Chuck Browning

Marshall Nemoy

Ray Thompson

Jerry Rudd

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It is with great sadness that I report that Marc Connelly has resigned as our President Elect for health reasons. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and yours. If there is anything that we can do for you and Kathy, just let us know. We are part of your extended family.

For the remainder of 2011, Steve Willing is President Elect, Chuck Browning is 1st Vice President and Gary Mc Grath is 2nd Vice President.

As most of you know, since day one. I have been stressing the need for all of us to communicate to each other. In my last report, I said that communication was a two way street; one needs to send something, and one to receive something.

To better communicate with our total membership, we started the Lighthouse publication. This publication is sent to all members by email. By opening the Lighthouse, one can find out what is happening throughout the Blue Gavel. The Executive Committee felt that would just about eliminate all the gripes that members have said for years; We never know what is happening within the organization or what the Executive Committee is doing. Guess what?

There is one thing that we, did not foresee in the communication process. During the past several months, we find out, that not all our members want to be communicated to. We have hundreds of members that do not open their email to find out what is happening in and about with our Blue Gavel.

On the positive side of the coin, members have sent in their suggestions for the Policy Manual revision. And, as you have heard in other reports, non-member past commodores have contacted us, asking about the Blue Gavel and how to become members; as well as, the possibility of forming their own Chapter. We are making progress with our communications endeavor.

Because of all of you, our Blue Gavel is changing so we can enter the 21st century and be successful.

Our success is because of these four things.

- 1. We are discovering who we are
- 2. We are finding out what we can do best
- 3. We know the direction where we going
- 4. We do not find fault, we are finding remedies.

Our organization, the Blue Gavel, is coming into the 21st century, inspite of some old fuddies duddies and old problems.

Let me leave you with this thought:

Growing old in mandatory, but growing up is optional. Does that remind you of anybody?

# President Elect Stephen Willing

This has turned out to be a busy spring. We received an inquiry for information about the IOBG from Past Commodores from the Biloxi, Mississippi area. A visit was arranged and 2nd Vice President Chuck Browning and myself accompanied by our wives, headed south. Ocean Springs Yacht Club was founded in 1969, and races primarily catamaran type sailboats due to the shallow water along the gulf coast. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed the club, but not the spirit of its members, who now have a new and better clubhouse. The clubhouse has amazing views of the gulf, the islands, and the Biloxi skyline. We were treated to great southern hospitality at this very friendly club.



On Saturday, May 28th, we met with a group of Past Commodores, and gave them information about the IOBG, the Auxiliary and the Humanitarian Foundation. The group was very enthusiastic, and five P/C's applied for membership along with a chapter application. This is a great start for the IOBG in this area, as there are about ten clubs in the vicinity, and our newest members are eager to spread the word. We arrived home just in time to re-pack and head west to Portland for the regional meeting.

The Portland meeting was held under mostly sunny skies and we were treated to great hospitality. Columbia River Yacht Club hosted the meetings, followed by boat rides on the Columbia River, a great way to pass a couple of hours. Dinner on Friday night was a steak bar-b-que at the Portland Yacht Club. The Royal Rosarian Knighting Ceremony was held in the Rose Garden Amphitheatre and was a beautiful experience. Several Admirals and other dignitaries were knighted, along with a surprise, the University of Oregon mascot, Duck.

Back at home the following weekend, we were at Wyandotte Yacht Club in Wyandotte, Michigan, attending the District 25 Spring Rendezvous and President's Reception. A great time was had by all. As usual, CD the dummy, picked on P/C Ralph Pennybacker to the delight of all, except maybe Ralph! Many thanks to the organizers.

Over the past 6 weeks, Shirley and I visited 5 yacht clubs in 4 states and were warmly received by all. This friendship is the core of the IOBG, and makes membership enormously worthwhile.



With the sudden illness of President Elect Marc Connelly, the plans for the Annual Convention in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, have been accelerated. Our members are now looking forward to showing our guests a great time in 2011. All we need is for you to book early and enjoy the fun.

Just a reminder, the Government of the United States, Department of Homeland Security, requires everyone entering the United States to have suitable identification, such as a passport, NEXUS card, or enhanced driver's licence. Anyone arriving at the border without such identification will be in for a big disappointment

# 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 - or to request a set by mail, please contact:

P/C Marybeth Thayer
IOBG Recording Secretary
444 N. El Camino Real, Sp. 80 Encinitas, CA 92024-1312
760-632-9058 Email: bethtnbillt@sbcglobal.net



### **IOBG 2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

### WINDSOR ONTARIO CANADA

October 12 - 16, 2011

Windsor, is the southernmost city in Canada, lying at almost the same latitude as the northern border of California. We enjoy 4 seasons, with very colourful autumn foliage. Windsor is directly south of Detroit, Michigan, both cities being situated along the banks of the mile wide Detroit River. We are connected by the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel and the Ambassador Bridge. All convention activities will take place in Canada.

### **IOBG 2011 Official Hotel**

The all suite hotel for the convention is the Quality Suites Downtown, 250 Dougall Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N9A 7C6. You may contact them by telephone 519-977-9707, or fax 519-977-6404 or email at qualitysuiteswindsor@gmail.com All hotel reservations must be made by Monday, September 5, 2011 to obtain the group rate. Prices range from \$99.99 to 119.99 + tax per night. Please refer to the "Hotel Information" page for further information.

The Superstar Restaurant is attached to the hotel, and opens early for breakfast. Hotel guests receive 10% off of food purchases. Parking is not included in the room rate. After checking-in at the hotel, you can park in the garage across the street, currently offered at \$10.00 per night. There is a complimentary shuttle service from the hotel to Caesars Windsor Casino on Friday and Saturday.



### **How To Get Here**

Being a border city gives us double the transportation choices and you may arrive in either Windsor or Detroit by planes, trains or automobiles, however the recommended way to arrive, is by plane at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), approximately 20 miles from Windsor. From the airport, there are many choices: Metro Car 800-456-1701; Metro Taxi 734-997-6500; Metroride 800-320-1683; or rental car. For more information, please refer to <a href="https://www.metroairport.com/transportation">www.metroairport.com/transportation</a> To return to Detroit Airport after the convention, Canadian Checker Cab at 866-829-4787, or Gerry's Taxi at 519-966-3800, both offer a flat-rate. Reservations are suggested.

### **Crossing the Border**

You will require a passport, a passport card, an enhanced driver's licence or a NEXUS card to cross the border. Please refer to <a href="https://www.cpb.gov">www.cpb.gov</a> for further information.

### **Schedule of Events**

**Thursday morning**, the IOBG Executive Committee (including International Past Presidents) will have a closed meeting. Thursday afternoon, the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation will meet, and all interested parties are invited to attend. These meetings will take place in the Art Gallery of Windsor, a 3 minute stroll from the hotel. Lunch is on your own. The "Taste Bud Bistro" in the Art Gallery is open for lunch. Thursday evening, you will be bussed to Windsor Yacht Club (dress: yacht club casual, no denim) for a pasta dinner (registration required).

**Friday morning**, the IOBG will hold a general discussion/information session (dress: winter uniform), at the Art Gallery of Windsor. It is scheduled for all day, with a break for lunch, which is on your own. The IOBGA Executive Committee (including International Past Presidents) will have a closed meeting in the hotel Friday morning. Friday evening, you will be bussed to Sun Parlour Boat Club (dress: yacht club casual) for cocktails and (heavy) hors d'oeuvres (registration required). This evening will also be an opportunity for all attendees to learn about the IOBGHF, as they will be making a presentation on their goals, etc. Donations may be presented at this time, and the IOBGHF 2012 board members will be sworn in.

Saturday morning, both the IOBG and the IOBGA will hold their Annual General Meetings, (dress: winter uniform) at the Art Gallery of Windsor. These meetings are open to both members and non-members. The IOBG AGM, will be immediately followed by the Fall Regional Meeting. Lunch is on your own.

The President's Ball (dress: black tie) will be held Saturday night, from approximately 6PM - 10 PM, at the Art Gallery of Windsor (registration required).

There will be a Hospitality Suite in the Hotel. The suite number and the hours of operation will be provided in your registration package.



Your registration form and payment must be received by September 5, 2011. We look forward to welcoming you to the Sun Parlour of Canada.

### **Hotel Information**

The official hotel for the IOBG 2011 Annual Convention is:

### **Quality Suites Downtown**

250 Dougall Avenue, Windsor Ontario Canada N9A 7C6

TELEPHONE #: 519-977-9707 FAX #: 519-977-6404

E-MAIL ADDRESS: qualitysuiteswindsor@gmail.com

WEB SITE: www.choicehotels.ca/cn317

All hotel reservations must be made by **Monday, September 5, 2011** to obtain the group rate.

To make your reservation at our group rate, you must contact the hotel directly, at the number above. (Do not use the 1-800 # for Choice Hotel Reservations as they are unable to honour the group rate.) Be sure to mention "International Order of the Blue Gavel" or "IOBG" when reserving your room.

If you are unable to make long distance calls, you may e-mail the hotel at the e-mail address above, giving them your telephone number, and they will call you back to obtain your credit card information.

All of the suites consist of a living room separated from the bedroom by French doors, and a bath. All suites have a coffee maker, free high speed wireless internet, ironing board/iron, a hair dryer, and opening windows. Suites with 2 double/queen beds, may be available upon request.

ROOM TYPE	SINGLE/DOUBLE	EXTRA PERSONS
One king bed [KNS]	\$99.99	0.00
One king and one queen bed [[KQNS]	\$119.99	0.00
One king bed, with refrigerator and microwave [XNSK]	\$109.99	0.00

The Superstar Restaurant is attached to the hotel, and opens early for breakfast. Hotel guests receive 10% off food purchases. Parking is not included in the room rate. After checking-in at the hotel, you can park in the garage across the street, currently offered at \$10.00 per night.

### **IOBG 2011 Annual Convention – Registration Form**

October 12 – 16, 2011

Windsor Ontario Canada

Date/Event		Cost per Person	# of Pe	rsons	7	Γotal	
Thursday, October 13							
Pasta dinner at Windsor Yacht Club		\$20.00	Χ	=	\$		
Including transportation							
Friday, October 14							
Social Evening at Sun Parlour Boat Club			\$10.00	X	=	\$	
Including transportation							
Saturday, October 15							
IOBG President's Ball at Art Gallery of Windsor							
			<b>#</b> 05 00	V		•	
Please circle your dinner entrée choice:		\$ 65.00	Χ	=	\$		
Chicken	Beef	Vegetarian					
				TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED		\$	

Please make cheques payable to "Shirley Willing" and send this entire page and payment to:

"Margaret Zonjic, P.O. Box 353, Windsor, Ontario Canada N9A 6K7

All registrations must be received by Monday, September 5, 2011

Name	District # & Office Held		
Spouse/Guest	Spouse/Guest is a member of	IOBG	IOBGA
Address	City	State/Zip	
Telephone # & Area Code			
E-Mail Address			

Please note that postage to Canada is higher than domestic USA, and delivery takes longer. Please remember to bring your Passport, Passport Card, Enhanced Driver's License or NEXUS Card as you will be crossing an International Border.

# First Vice President Chuck Browning

### The Way We Fly The Flag



Many Yacht Clubs have heard the comments that they are not displaying the American Flag correctly. I am listing all the requirements for displaying the Flag at Yacht Clubs.

### The Code and the Flag

The U.S. Code, Title 4 Chapter 1, Section 7 (f), states that "when flags of States, cities, or locations, of pennant of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter shall always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States shall be hosted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.

The U. S Code, in Section 7 (c), also states that "No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant ma6t be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy. No person shall display the flag of the United Nations or any other national or international flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence or honor to, or in place of, the flag of the United States at any place within the United States or any Territory or possession thereof; Provided, that nothing in this section shall make unlawful the position of superior prominence or honor, and other national flags in positions of equal prominence or honor, with that of the flag of the United States at the headquarters of the United Nations."

It may appear that the Yacht Club is ignoring the law governing proper display of our nation's flag, however, if you read carefully, the U.S. Code does not reference any laws regarding the display of the flag because there are no laws on this subject! The U.S. Code offers only guidelines referencing the display and use of the flag - but read on.

### Sea Tradition Predates the Code

There exist a tradition predating these guidelines. A tradition still followed today by the United States Navy, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Power Squadron, the United States Merchant Marine and many yacht clubs.

The basis for this tradition goes back to the time sailing ships plied the seas. Because of all the sail carried by the rigging of those vessels the flag of a nation could not be clearly viewed if placed at the top of the main mast. Instead, the national flag was displayed on the gaff, which is a spar extending from the mast and used to support the top of the sail. The gaff was used because it came first and the flag was more visible.

Continued...

Over time, this became the place of honor to display a national flag. As the use of sail gave way to mechanical power, the tradition was maintained by displaying the national flag on a gaff-rigged mast when at sea and on a staff on the stern (rear) of a boat or ship in port.

### But We're Not At Sea!

So what about onshore display of the flag. If a facility has a simple flagpole then the guidelines outlined in the U.S. Code above would certainly govern how the flag is to be flown . However, U.S. Navy and Coast Guard shore facilities as well as many yacht clubs use a flagpole which is considered to represent the mast of a vessel. (See the picture above,) That flagpole may also have a gaff (a pole extending, at an angle, from the main mast) in keeping with maritime tradition.

### **But It Looks Wrong!**

What causes concern with some people is that when the U.S. Flag is flown on a gaff, other flags may be physically higher than it. This is proper because no other flag is above the national flag on the same halyard (rope.) On a United States ship at sea you will note that fleet flags, signals flags, officer's flags, even courtesy flags of foreign nations are displayed in the rigging and may be physically higher than the U.S. Flag. In the case of a gaff-rigged flagpole at a shore facility, fleet flags, signal flags, officer's flags and even yacht club burgees (flags) may be physically higher than the U.S. Flag.

1380 Centerville Lane #32 Gardnerville, NV 89410-9715

Email: Comsignia@aol.com www.commodoreinsignia.com

Quantity



(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.

White

Unit Price

Total

Black

	IOBG Blazer Emblem					
	Auxiliary Blazer Emblem					
Ple	ase Print					
I am a paid up member of IOBG District #YachtClub IOBGA District #						
Sig	nature	Ship to:				
The above will be verified.						
Member will be billed for emblems when shipped.						
	Contact	Phone Number:				
	E	mail Addresses:				

# Second Vice President Gary McGrath



I would like to thank the Executive Board for having the confidence in me to move me up to Second VP. I am very appreciative, although it saddens me that for this to happen, we are losing a loyal and valuable IOBG officer due to health reasons.

Well, we just returned from the Spring Regional in Portland and a great time was had by all who attended. Our meeting was held on Thursday at the Columbia River Yacht Club and after the meeting several of their members provided boats for a two hour river cruise and tour of their boat dock houses (many of which have upstairs and downstairs living areas). The weather co-operated with clear skies and warm weather all day Thursday. The hit of the Knighting Ceremony on Friday was the Oregon Duck mascot who was the last to be Knighted.

The theme for the Thursday meeting was again Communication. It appears that those Districts that have good communication are the most active Districts. Part of our Communication is the LOG and part is the Lighthouse.

The LOG newsletter is quarterly info and the Lighthouse bulletin is immediate or current info. Many of you are not accessing the Lighthouse through your email, so I am asking all of you Area VP's to have your District Directors get with their Chapters to have them put an extra effort on their members to access and read the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is an excellent tool for communication, but it has to be accessed to be effective.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual meeting in October, until then, have a good boating summer.

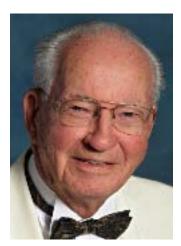
Telephone numbers and addersses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safeguarded and the page clearly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

# Past President Ray Thompson

In 1954/55 the International Order of the Blue Gavel concept and its attending Organization was featured in a Yachting Magazine having worldwide coverage. That article uncovered a whole host of idle Past Commodores who were captivated by the prospects this concept offered. With much enthusiasm, new Chapters and new Districts were approved, both here and abroad.

During the ensuing years, some members from time to time, expressed dissatisfaction with both Organization and policy. Later, certain members complained that the Organization was biased and its policies were unfair and so resigned.



To combat such negative criticism, a ByLaws Committee was established in 2009 and charged with the responsibility of reviewing all ByLaws and procedures and to submit their recommended revisions for membership vote.

All approved revisions were submitted for membership vote in 2010 and were resoundingly approved.

Someone once said "the more things change, the more they stay the same". We now have a Chapter that did not vote, but strongly opposes a number of these recently approved changes.

Certainly this Chapter has a right to a difference of opinion and the right to submitt a written change request, and just as certainly, the ByLaws Committee has a mandate to review any submitted change requests, quickly working toward an equitable and agreeable solution.

Concluding...due to the differences in Chapter makeup, size, location, affluence and activiies, one can easily see the problems created by having to work under a single set of ByLaws. "One Size" does not fit all, easily. However, readily accepting requests for change or revision, then quickly responding to such requests can greatly improve accountability and acceptability.

# IOBG and IOBGA

Clothing and Accessories

Approved Vendors

### **Embroidery Factory**

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

embroideryfactory.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

### 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

# Freasurer Marshall Nemoy



The 2010 year continued the recovery from events that occurred in 2009. One regional meeting was eliminated in 2010 and the same strategy was employed for 2011. Our net income as of April 30, 2011 was \$39,547 which is \$5,072 less than expected. However, during the month of May there was another \$7,040 dues deposited so the variance is most likely a slight timing difference. The financial statements show our dues collections were \$8,083 less than budget and \$8,160 less than last year. Again, a timing difference. Another item to note is in 2010 we did not have a February regional meeting. In 2011 we did have a meeting in February in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Our balance sheet shows our cash on hand of \$122,284 is \$12,049 lower than the same date last year. The February regional meeting this year cost \$7,295 and the timing difference noted above most likely accounts for the remainder of the lower cash amount. The result of this and the lower than expected net income has resulted in a reduction in the members' equity of \$10,675. This year we will not have the August regional meeting. It is anticipated when we next meet in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, our financial picture will compare more favorably with prior year's results.

All the operating areas are operating within their respective budgets. New this year is a short email letter to be published every four to six weeks and contain announcements and useful information about what is happening in IOBG. The email letter, called The Lighthouse, has a fixed cost of \$90 per quarter. The Lighthouse will not replace The Blue Gavel Log. Rather it is anticipated that the three publications, The Log, The Lighthouse and our web site, will work together to provide our members with timely information. See the following article about how it works.

### **How The Lighthouse Works**

The newsletter, The Lighthouse, was conceived as an improvement in communication with members of IOBG, IOBGA and other interested persons. Because the cost is \$360 per year and we can publish as many editions as we want it was readily apparent that members could benefit from brief, to the point articles that are quick to read and informative.

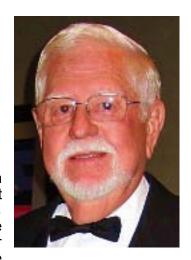
With more and more members opting to have The Blue Gavel Log delivered to them electronically, it was decided to use The Lighthouse as the medium to notify members when the Log was published. After some discussion it was decided to use the Opt Out method of notifying us of your intentions. This meant that members with valid email addresses would be sent The Lighthouse with a link to The Blue Gavel Log. If a member prefers to have a printed copy of the Log mailed to them they must notify the International Operations Center. The IOC prepares the addressing data that is sent to the printer at publication time. Sending your choice to the Log Editor will only delay the process.

The email media company that we use is always concerned about spam. As such, they monitor each issue of The Lighthouse for such actions as clicking on the unsubscribe button or deleting the email without ever opening it. These actions are considered indicators of spam and, if the incidence of occurrence is too high, they can cancel our contract.

# Legal Officer George C. Knies

### Honorary Yacht Club Commodores eligible for IOBG Membership?

Since the introduction of the on-line version of the 'Lighthouse' I have been receiving inquiries regarding my column in the 'Log'. John Nicholson, Past Commodore, The Houston Yacht Club Chairman of the HYC Past Commodores presented a situation that I thought would be an exception to my article in the March/April publication stating: "Since there is no provision in our Bylaws or Policy Manual for such an appointment: Honorary Yacht Club Commodores are not eligible for membership in IOBG."



John wrote: "The Houston Yacht Club does indeed have some Honorary Members such as you enumerate in your article. These memberships are for one-year only but can be renewed for additional one year terms indefinitely at the discretion of the HYC Board of Trustees. As a practical matter, very few such memberships are extended past a few years. As a distinctly different category of full-fledged members, we have Honorary Past Commodores. These individuals are given the title by virtue of their past service to the Club, including, in most cases, many years service on the Board of Trustees. In the 112 year history of our Club there have been fewer than 10 such designations bestowed. We currently have 2 such living members each of whom has held with distinction

leadership positions in NAYRU, USYRU and US Sailing but who have never served as Commodore of the Houston Yacht Club."

My response: "Since your club has distinguished between temporary and 'life/full fledged' Honorary Past Commodores, those 'life/full fledged' commodores who have been given that title by virtue of their past service to the Club, including, in most cases, many years service on the Board of Trustees and other club management offices as well as long standing yachting experiences should qualify them for honorary membership in the IOBG. Please have them submit a detailed CV with their application for consideration by your Chapter

Our pledge emphasizes the responsibility of our members to engage as advisors to their clubs, a service that demands experience in most facets of club management, yachting and associated social activities. I feel that the experience and dedication presented on behalf of the two Honorary Members mentioned above warrant their consideration for IOBG membership.

I recommend that we consider adding a section in our Policy Manual addressing Honorary Membership in IOBG for Yacht Club members who have demonstrated their ability and interest in serving their club in an exceptional manner over an extended period of time. The criteria for such nomination replicating the dedication and services stated above.

### IRS Electronic Notice Form 990-N e-Postcard

Tax-exempt organizations, other than political and foreign organizations not required to file Form 990 (or Form 990EZ), because their gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less must file an annual electronic notice, form 990-N.

The annual electronic notice, Form 990-N is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the organization's tax period. For example, the tax period ends on December 31 the Form 990-N is due May 15.

Failure to file Form 990, Form 990 EZ or the e-Postcard, for three consecutive years will result in the organization's tax-exempt status being revoked as of the filing due date of the third year the return or e-Postcard is due.

### **Music Police**

One of our Yacht Clubs here in northern California just got zapped by BMI for violating the music copyright laws. When you have live music, whether one or more musicians; require them to produce a license if they are playing music not composed by themselves. Your club being the venue also requires a license. Beware the disgruntled employee or member that wants revenge...all it takes is a phone call to ASCAP, BMI; or IRS if it involves \$\$\$ (unrelated income); or Alcohol, Beverage Control if it involves underage drinking.

Non-Profit Organizations: Private Club (not open to the general public) Country, Yacht, Social, etc. 501.C---s, are not excluded from paying license fees for music performed in their venue...just as 501.C3's also aren't exempt from paying for services like electricity, phone, rent, printing, and coffee supplies. Music is a service, too, like all the other items mentioned above. Venues playing music are subject to a blanket license. Depending on the performing rights organization, the blanket license is usually paid yearly and is based either on the number of seats/members in the venue or gross receipts of the venue. Most non-profits are required to compensate songwriters for public performances of music.

<u>Opinion</u>: Commercial issues- Private Club sale of food and beverages prior to, during and or after performances of music (live or electronic) constitutes commercial use and therefore the venue (Club or Organizer) is not exempt from license fees.

The law continues to require that public performances of copyrighted music by other means such as live music, records, cassette tapes, CD's background music services, video tapes or laser discs require permission obtained either from the copyright owners or from their performing rights licensing organizations. One of the rights the Copyright Law grants the owners of copyrighted musical compositions is the exclusive right to perform those compositions publicly. 17 U.S.C. \_ 106(4). Under that act, to perform a copyright means "to recite, render, play, dance, or act it, either directly or by means of any device or process or, in the case of a motion picture or other audiovisual work, to show its images in any sequence or to make the sounds accompanying it audible." 17 U.S.C. \_ 101.

### **Licensing Organizations**

- 1. Organizations permitted by U.S. copyright law to collect license fees for music performances are: ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers); BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc) and SESAC (Society of European States Authors and Composers). These organizations are enforcing music copyright laws through their "Copyright Police" a.k.a. "Music Police" that which today boast repertoires of 3.5-4 millions songs (98% performed music) and collect over 98% of all the American performing rights royalties. These music-licensing societies are authorized to collect fees on the behalf of their songwriter members and are actively and aggressively competing with one another for members. The "Music Police" have expanded their interests beyond large concerts, commercial bars and clubs. They have notified many Yacht and Country Clubs that they are in violation of the music copyright law.
- 2. They are also very aggressive in the copyright policing/monitoring activity and copyright enforcement procedures. They have been collecting licensing fees for years from bars, hotels, restaurants, jukeboxes, elevators, amusement park, and most all other profit making agencies that use music. They are "deep pocket" organizations with annual combined revenues of three-quarters of a billion dollars and are well prepared to flex their legal muscles.

- a. <u>Penalties:</u> Copyright law violations carry severe penalties, including damages of not less than \$500 nor more than \$100,000 per song as well as court costs and attorney's fees. <u>Copyright infringement is a strict liability tort.</u> Intent is not relevant in assessing liability (Pinkham v. Sara Lee Corp., 983 F.2d 842 (8th Cir.1992) (copyright infringement of book). Anyone who violates the exclusive right of public performance is an infringer of the copyright. 17 U.S.C. \_ 501 (a)
- **b.** <u>How enforced?</u> BMI has sent letters and licensing agreements to 22,000 meeting and convention organizers; ASCAP has sent letters and licensing agreements to 30,000 planners. They monitor compliance through a network of meeting industry contacts. ASCAP for example, maintains a national field staff of 200 to monitor compliance. These "Music Police" are typically music instructors that go to events in their community, write down songs, and turn the song lists in.

### ASCAP, BMI, SESAC CONTACT INFORMATION

ASCAP
One Lincoln Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10023
T (212) 621-6000 \* F (212) 724-9064

BMI 10 Music Square East Nashville TN 37203-9901 T (877) 264-2137 \* F (615) 401-2895

7920 W. Sunset Blvd. Third Floor Los Angles, CA 90046 T (323) 833-1000 F (323) 833- 1049

Thanks for the Pictures...

Contributing LOG

photographers

for this issue...

Mike Billington Bill McKinney Marybeth Thayer



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2011 - 2012

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$ 

The IOBG Nominating Committee has made the following nominations for Officers for the year 2011-2012.

The election shall take place at the Annual Meeting to be held in Windsor, Ontario, Canada on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

### The Nominations are:

President Stephen H. Willing, Dist. 25 (automatic as per bylaws)

(automatic as per bylaws)

President Elect Chuck Browning, Dist. 27

First Vice President Gary McGrath, Dist. 19

Second Vice President Joel Kay, Dist. 7

Immediate Past President Vern Bendsen, Dist. 19

Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, Dist. 15

Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert, Dist. 1

Northeastern Vice President Robert Howe, Dist. 27

Northwestern Vice President Mary Nye Meyers, Dist. 1

North Central Vice President Tony Durieux, Dist. 7

Southwestern Vice President Rosalie Davis-Green, Dist. 11

Southeastern Vice President Joe Dowdell, Dist. 8

District 50 Director Damien Pfleghaar

(East of Mississippi River)

District 51 Director Walt Kadyk (West of Mississippi River)

### Respectfully Submitted:

Ray Thompson, Past President & Chairman Vern Bendsen, President Jerry Rudd, Past President Eastside Member: Thomas Ellis Westside Member: Michael Billington



# US Sailing Representative Report

### by Bill Thayer

US Sailing has selected 12 Powerboat Training Centers to support Drivers Ed for Boaters. This quarter is Gateway Charters and Sailing School, Kemah, Texas, SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx and Willow Bank Yacht Club, Cazenovia, NY.

Stan Honey and Anna Tunnicliffe, the 2010 Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year were feted at a luncheon at the New York Yacht Club in Manhattan, Friday, February 25th.

US Sailing announced the 2011 Sailing Team AlphaGraphics, 40 sailors in all comprising of Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls. The 2011 USSTAG includes at least the top two boats in each class selected for 2012 Olympic and Paralympic sailing competition in Weymouth, England. Twelve are Olympians, 2 are Olympic Medalists, 5 are Paralympians and 3 are Paralympian Medalists, 7 are World Champions and 10 athletes are ranked top 5 in the world by ISAF.

US Sailing partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard as an implementing partner to the U.S. Coast Guard's National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan for 2012-2016.

The US Sailing Yacht Club Summit held on April 2nd and 3rd in Chicago was sold out by March 21st with 365 sailors and 185 clubs and associations. No walk-ins were accepted. The Summit was a thriving success. Twenty-two sessions were presented counting the final thoughts and recap. The first session after Gary Jobson and Ted Turner's opening statements was what else, "Communications". Some sessions may be listened to on e-ussailing 4/6/11 and a really good recap and presentations may be viewed on e-ussailing 4/13/11.

To reach the e-ussailing archives go to: ussailing.org>News and Rescores> Archives General News and Rescores<e-ussailing.

US Sailing has created a new online job bank to help sailing organizations connect with potential employees and vice versa. The new improved Job Bank targets sailing instructors, coaches, program directors, administrators and other industry positions.

St Francis Yacht Club will host the 32nd Presentation of the Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year awards ceremony for 2012.

Hilton Worldwide offers a 15% discount to US Sailing Members at any of the 10 distinct hotel brands within the Hilton Worldwide portfolio.

ISAF confirms events for the 2016 Olympic competition at their mid-year meeting in St Petersburg, Russia with 10 events.

Men's Board and/or Kiteboard
Women's Board and/or Kiteboard
Men's One Person Dinghy - Laser
Women's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial
Men's Second One Person Dinghy - Finn
Men's Skiff - 49er
Women's Skiff - Evaluation
Men's Two Person Dinghy - 470
Women's Two Person Dinghy - 470
Mixed Two Person Multihull - Evaluation



# US Sailing Representative Report

(Continued...)

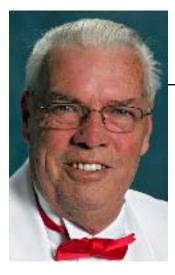
USA Junior Olympic Sailing Festival kicked off on May 21st and 22nd in Flowery Branch, GA at Lake Lamier Sailing Club.

The true spirit of sailing was on display for the third annual Robie Pierce One-Design Regatta on May 20 & 22 and the first ever Robie Pierce Woman's Invitational Regatta on May 19th. There was strong turnout for these two sailing events, which are symbolic for the growth and popularity in disabled sailing in the U.S. The regatta was hosted by the American Yacht Club (Rye N.Y.) and the Larchmount Yacht Club (Larchmount, N.Y.).

The Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation teamed up with US Sailing on "Don't Fry Day". The two organizations launched the Foundation's SUN AWARE a Sea Program which took place on Friday, May 27th, just before the Memorial Day Weekend.







# Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 & 24 Art Kovarnik

Hello to all from the Northwest Area.

District #1 had their Spring meeting hosted by Hells Canyon Boat Club in April with 3 new members being inducted. It was a very good turn out with a lot of members having to travel several hundred miles to get there. This was one of the largest turnouts for a spring meeting I've seen.

District #1 has gone to an electric version of a newsletter looking to save money.

On May 7th District # 1 Officers proudly represented I.O.B. G. in the Seattle Yacht Club's Opening Day boat parade on Lake Union. The IOBG flag was raised at the Seattle Yacht Club along with many others. About 15 members took part in the Boat Parade.

May 14th Des Moines Yacht hosted the Sound Sound Opening Day Ceremony's which was also well attended.

District #1 will be holding their summer picnic in at Kingston Cove Yacht Club in Kingston, Washington on July 15-16 and their Change Watch on September 24th in Poulsbo Washington. Poulsbo Yacht Club will host the Change of Watch weekend. Phil Osterli will be installed as their new President. All are invited.

As for members, District 1 seems to be doing well. No number counts at this time as to increases or decreases. Everything seems to be holding fairly steady.

District #5 - Seems to be on the right track - gaining new members and coming back strong.



# District 5 Ron Timmerman, President

District 5 has 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 quarterly newsletter, produced by VP Bill McKinney has been a very effective marketing tool.

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 and fundraiser.

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 clear away winter's debris, clean the docks, trim the grass, rerock the fire pits and picnic areas, and then celebrate our hard work with social time on our boats at the dock.

District 5 was represented by our President and his wife at the March Regional meeting in Florida and we have three members and spouses planning to attend the annual meeting.

The IOBG June regional meeting in Portland held in conjunction with the Portland Rose Festival was well attended, great fun and the sun was shining. Fifty five members attended the meeting on Thursday, June 9 at Columbia River YC. Following the well organized meeting by President Vern Bendsen, that included an outstanding lunch, boats were lined up to take guests on a cruise of the area. Friday morning over forty blazer-clad members attended the Royal Rosarian's Knighting Ceremony for the traditional knighting of the IOBG incoming President by the Queen of Rosaria (along with 39 other dignitaries). Unfortunately, Marc Connelly was seriously injured before leaving NY and not able to attend the festivities. Rumor has it he is promoting the use of "Sir Marc" in any event. Next year we anticipate a double header. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.



Portland YC hosted a casual Western BBQ Friday evening for about sixty five guests. A warm evening, good friends, good food and very enjoyable.

The Rose Festival's Grand Floral Parade was Saturday morning (mostly sunny). The Royal Rosarian's dinner and Grand Ball was Saturday evening. The Prime Minister gave special recognition to the IOBG members in attendance thanking Blue Gavel for their many years of participation in these events.

The calendar for the balance of the year includes District 5's annual meeting in September, monthly Exec. Committee meetings and social activities combined with membership meetings.

"Retain, recruit, build and have fun!"



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

# Gary McGrath

The Northern and Southern California Opening Day Circuits are winding down, and judging by what I have heard, a great time was had by everyone in attendance. I have to salute the Southern California Clubs on their Opening Day Ceremonies. They are very traditional and regimented in their Ceremonies and that is what yachting is all about.

Once again I start my report with District 10. They inducted thirteen new Commodores into their District. They are held a Dinner Party on May 27th to welcome those new members. They are also did a 5-star Champagne Brunch on June 12th at the Navy Yacht Club, Long Beach. On July 3 they will be doing a Hollywood Bowl Spectacular and on July 9th there will be a Pancake Breakfast for the Long Beach Charity Regatta in which they will present the regatta with a \$1000.00 check from the IOBG Humanitarian Fund. Also, I would like to announce that a new Chapter 'the Sea Gate Yacht Club' is being chartered in their District.

It may interest you to know that I received a copy of a letter sent by Robert T. Becher from Island Green Country Club, Myrtle Beach S.C. to President Vern Bendsen concerning the District 10 Yacht Club Management Seminar. He wished he had this type of information available when he was going through the Chairs. He says and I quote, "This leadership role is too important to be trusted to trial-and-error and on- the job training." The Membership in District 10 has increased this year over last year and maybe their many activities have been the reason for that increase.

The District 21 Board feels that their members are, (as a group) a vast brain trust on all things Yacht Clubs face on a daily basis. But by and large that experience and knowledge are being under-utilized in the Yacht Club community at large. As such, they hope to develop a group of "GO TO" experts in the areas Yacht clubs need. They are planning to increase their presence and support of the member Yacht Clubs through their IOBG member staff Commodores specializing in the following areas: Aid their Charitable causes, By-Laws (review and advise differences), Roberts Rules of Order (procedure and use), ABC law compliance, and General 501(C3/C6/C7) compliance issues.

Their list of activities include a June Burn your own Burger event, a July Pageant of the Masters (live art show), an August Sunset Champaign Cruise and a September Temucula Wine Tour, finishing the year with a November Election Meeting/Lobster Dinner.

District 6 Director does not have a lot to report as he has been ill and recuperating so has not been in touch with his District. He did say that they are in the midst of preparing for the Transpac Race which they are involved in hosting. That race terminates in Hawaii in late July and many of the yacht clubs are involved in different ways.

District 19 update, I have just completed and sent to Marc Connelly a New Chapter Application for Capital City Yacht Club in Sacramento and I am working on Long Beach Single Sailors and Richmond Yacht Club in Berkely as new Chapter.

District 10

Submitted by Jon Fults, 2nd Vice Pres.

Our very active Board of Directors under the very able leadership of LaVon Plumlee tries to hold an activity every month allowing our membership to get to know each other and network regarding Yachting activities.

**Jan. 16:** Brunch and Installation of Officers held at the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club

Feb. 13 Valentine Event held at the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach and hosted by the Navy

Yacht Club Long Beach - Dinner and dancing.

**March 6:** Old Fashioned Wine Tasting held at Cerritos Bahia Yacht Club. This event raised over \$800.

We were able to donate \$1,000 to the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation.

May 27: Welcome party for new IOBG members held at the Huntington Beach Elks Club. This was a

dinner dance.

June 12: Brunch at Navy Yacht Club Long Beach

**July 3:** Outing to the Hollywood Bowl for Fourth of July festivities featuring the Los Angeles

Philharmonic Orchestra.

July 9: Charity Regatta Pancake Breakfast and Swap meet held at the Seal Beach Yacht Club

Aug. 8: BBQ at Cerritos Bahia Yacht Club

Sept: Luau hosted by Navy Yacht Club Long Beach - featuring a whole pig roast with all the

trimmings and live Luau band

Oct.: Burn your own steak held at Seal Beach Yacht Club

Nov. : District 10 Brunch at Long Beach Yacht Club

**Dec. 11** Huntington Harbour Boat Parade held at the home of George Demos

**Dec. 18** Huntington Harbour Christmas Cruise of Lights.

Dec. 31 New Years Eve Dinner and Dancing aboard Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

Our membership has doubled in the last four years and we now have almost 90 members. We are very proud that we print a newsletter every month thus keeping our members informed of our activities. Newsletters are e-mailed to members in PDF format. In addition to our newsletter, District 10 has published a website that is online at <a href="https://www.lobg-District10.org">www.lobg-District10.org</a>

District 10 donated \$100 to the 2011 Panthers at Sea Program in April 2011 and recently received a certificate of appreciation for our donation. This program stimulates the interest of disadvantaged youths in the sport of sailing. Teenagers that have never been aboard a sailboat are welcomed aboard and experience a wonderful day of sailing aboard sailboats provided by local yacht club members.

District 10 is very actively involved in the Long Beach Charity Regatta. The Charity Regatta hosts a race annually which not only creates an interest in racing and sailing for our youths and the local community, but it also supports local disadvantaged youths in need of health care at the Long Beach Children's Clinic. A grant submitted by District 10 was recently approved by the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation, and a check for \$1000 was received by the Charity Regatta. The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation will be listed as a sponsor of the Charity Regatta this year which will be publicized both on T-Shirts and in press releases to the local community.



District 11

Rosalie Davis-Green, Dist. Director

District 11 is alive albeit confronting some challenges.

Our activities are well underway. In March we had a Member Appreciation lunch free to members with paid up dues. Members were treated to a delicious pasta and salad buffet. They were encouraged to come with their dues payment. The Port Royal Chapter hosted the annual wine tasting fundraiser for the Jr. Sailing Scholarship Fund. It was well attended, raised funds, and was great fun, too.

Next are the summer Windy Q's (barbeques) on the patio at Del Rey Yacht Club (June, August and September). Members bring something to barbeque and \$8.00 and the District provides the sides, condiments and an educational program/speaker. These are well attended and are usually held on Monday or Tuesday evening. These also raise funds for the Jr. Sailing Scholarship Fund.

Still to be scheduled are the District business meeting and the Installation of Officers brunch.

Membership numbers are down and renewals are coming in slowly. There are several factors involved. Some formerly active members who consistently renewed but stopped attending District activities due to poor health finally opted not to renew. We discovered that if we give members several pieces of information in a single communication, they only attend to one or two items. Next time, the dues notice will be sent by itself. Follow up letters sent to those who had not renewed resulted in several renewals. There are 16 memberships presently being recorded and processed. The computer savvy members don't get around to writing checks and mailing them. We plan to set up a PayPal account so members can pay by point and click while dues payment is on their mind.

Telephone calls are now in order to members who are recently active and missing from the organization. We need to find out if the dues were inadvertently not paid, if they were dissatisfied and didn't let us know or if there is another reason for non-renewal.

Two years ago we surveyed the membership regarding the type of activities they wanted. We are providing what they requested. Our District encompasses a relatively small geographical area in which there are many yacht clubs competing for our members' attention. We feel we are doing as good job addressing their desire to enjoy the company of their fellow past commodores. We expect to finish the year in good shape.

District 15
Michele Wold, District President

IOBG District 15 is very proud to report that we have 100 plus active members at this time. We are committed to contributing to our community and toward that end, we are in the process of putting together a 10 person team to represent IOBG District 15 next April in a charity event hosted by Coronado Cays, Coronado, and Navy Yacht Club San Diego to benefit The Make A Wish Foundation. Our current goal is to raise \$2,500 for our team's participation in this charity event.

We are also looking forward to a midsummer hamburger barbecue and party for all our members, which will take place on August 21st at the home of Dick and Michele Wold.

As usual, our annual Change of Watch dinner will take place in early October. We are looking forward to welcoming aboard a new Secretary from Southwestern Yacht Club as it is their turn in the rotation. We have someone dynamic in mind for this position and we are confident we will be successful in recruiting her.



# Worth Central V. P.

# Districts 7, 9, 23, 25 Joel Kay

District 7
Matt Schmidt, District Director

The President's Ball was held over the weekend of April 8 - 10 at the DoubleTree Hotel and was an overwhelming success. The District netted approximately \$600 over the cost of the event. The Black Tie Dinner and Entertainment was great, as the food was gourmet and the wonderful music was provided by music students from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatoryof Music.

The Annual Memorial Day event was held at the Cleveland Lake Front on the USS Cod, a WWll decorated submarine. It was a most memorable event sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Boating Association. Participants included clergy, the US Coast Guard, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, members of various yacht clubs and other dignitaries. District 7 President, Tony Durieux, was among the speakers.

On June 1, President Durieux and I travelled to Erie Yacht Club for a lunch meeting with Bud Ross, Pa Vice President, and Commodore of the Erie Yacht Club, Charles Miller. Bud has selected Charles to eventually replace him as District 7 VP. So I swore in Charles as a 2012 member of the Gavel, in order to insure a smooth transition in the position. After lunch, we travelled to Pittsburgh and met with P/C Bob Stanley, who is a District 7 member via the Cleveland Shrine Mariners. Bob has agreed to help create Chapters in the Fox Chapel Yacht Club and Oakmount Yacht Club. He will also be trying to find the membership list of Beaver River Yacht Club, which is in District 7, but not in Pittsburgh.

On June 25, District 7 hosted the annual Cocktail Party at the Huron (Ohio) Boat Basin, sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Boating Association. As usual, it was a great event with plenty of food and drink. The District held a 50/50 raffle and netted the cost of liquor for the event.

District 9
Pat Slee, District Director
Submitted by Joel Kay, NCVP

The District has been actively sponsoring events in order to raise funds for (then) First Vice President Steve Willing for the 2012 IOBG Annual Meeting in Windsor, Ontario.

The District will be the supporting District this year at the annual Put-in-Bay IOBG Cocktail Party, sponsored by the Inter-Lake Yachting Association sail and power weeks. The event was held, Saturday July 30, at the P-I-B Yacht Club.

Districts 9 and 25 share the cost of sponsoring a lane at the Associated Yacht Clubs Bowling and a hole at the Golf Outing.

Congratulations to District 9, 2001 President Fred Schroeder and Lady Charlene elected this year's Commodore of ILYA.

District 23

Bob Sapita, District Director
Submitted by Joel Kay, NCVP

Bob is currently planning several summer events to bring (potential) members together, at least socially. District 23 covers a very broad area north to south along the west coast of Lake Michigan - from the Straits of Mackinac to the Indiana border. It has been a somewhat disjointed group of clubs with only a few Blue Gavel Chapters. It will take a few years of hard work to amalgamate the clubs in the District into the Blue Gavel.

District 25
Russell Skitch, Dist. Director

The Annual District 25 Blue Gavel Rendezvous was held the weekend of June 18th. This year District 25 was paying tribute to the President Sam Bileti. The event was hosted by Wyandotte Yacht Club. The weekend started Friday nite with a meet and greet hosted by the District's Vice Presidents. District 25 club's current flag officers in addition to Past Commodores were all encouraged to attend. Food and entertainment were provided. Attendance was not as many as was hoped but a good time was had by all.

Saturday June 18th, a cocktail reception was held for President Bileti. We were honored to have in attendance International First Vice President Steve Willings and his wife Shirley.



District 25 will be hosting a cocktail reception at this years ILYA Power Boat Regatta at Put-In-Bay, Ohio. Every year the last week of July the clubs from the Great Lakes region gather at the Bay for a week of boating events. District 9, 7 & 25 are all in attendance.



OV.P.

Districts 3, 12, 20, 26, 27

### Robert Howe

No Reports...

# Blue Gavel New Zealand Blue Gavel New Zealand

District 75 - New Zealand Ron Stephenson, President Well 2011has certainly started in spectacular fashion, with the events both here in New Zealand and around the world that has and will affect people's lives for many years to come.

As your president and on behalf of Blue Gavel New Zealand I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the people of Christchurch as a result of the devastating earthquake that took place earlier this year. Our thoughts also go out to the people of Japan.

### **Sponsorship**

This year Blue Gavel have sponsored the blinds sailing match racing team to the international regatta in Perth. The extent of our sponsorship was \$2000 and as such we became the only sponsor apart from the Blind Sailing Trust who covered the major cost associated to the team travelling to Perth to compete. It was felt that we needed to be a major sponsor to get value from our sponsorship. Had we become one of many sponsors it was viewed that we would not get the mileage from doing so.

Ralph Roberts & I travelled to Tauranga Yachting and boating club to make the presentation. Ralph was there in his capacity as a trustee of the Blind Sailing Trust. As well as a BG member I would have to say it was truly a fantastic experience to be there and meet these young blind sailors who are representing our country.





Blue Gavel New Zealand Continued...

These young people are so inspirational and they clearly do not see themselves as a being handicapped. When competing, there is no sighted person on board and the marks which they sail around all have an audible sound on them which is their way of identifying where they are. I am told, the team we are sending is world-class so we do look forward to a (hopefully) positive outcome. As a result of our sponsorship the Blue Gavel logo is embroidered into all of the uniforms etc and the press publicity has already started for the benefit of Blue Gavel. Incidentally, this particular exercise has already seen an increase of 3-4 new members.

### International support for Christchurch

We have received correspondence from Blue Gavel US who have expressed concern as to the well-being of the sailing clubs in the earthquake stricken Christchurch area.

They have made a very generous offer of financial assistance to these clubs to help them back on their feet. I am currently in touch with the Commodores of the Christchurch clubs and have requested information as to what their likely requirements would be for assistance beyond their insurance payouts.

Once this information is to hand we will then be in touch with America to advise them of the situation in Christchurch. They in turn will then be able to make an informed decision as to the level of assistance they are capable of giving, which I believe will be distributed via Blue Gavel New Zealand acting in trust for our friends in the US. This is an extremely generous offer and to my mind just endorses the value of this wonderful organisation that we all belong to.

### **Looking Forward**

It is very clear if Blue Gavel is to lift its profile and survive as a respected organization in the sailing community in New Zealand there needs to be a mandate of what we can do as an organization to foster and assist sailing in New Zealand.

To this end, I have had numerous conversations with the working committee and in particular have had considerable time with PC Ralph Roberts who has been of great assistance to me in developing a strategy of assistance in the broader sailing community around New Zealand. Ralph is very well connected and well respected in the yachting fraternity. This, I have found to be extremely invaluable.

The question is: What is a philosophy that Blue Gavel New Zealand would be comfortable with in the process of lifting its profile and membership going forward? One of the strategies we are currently exploring is:

As we have been historically supportive of disabled sailing it is viewed that we should continue in this vein extending to blind sailing as well. By promoting this philosophy it has the propensity to get the attention of clubs around the country to support this philosophy.

The next step is to then have the clubs participating in assisting in raising funds of which Blue Gavel would be the focal point for distribution. If the Blind Sailing sponsorship is anything to go by I believe that with some effort we could make this work. In my view our subscription income is not sufficient to have any meaningful impact to achieve the desired result for BGNZ.

### This Years AGM (General Membership Meeting)

As a result of the devastating earthquake in Christchurch it was considered that given the issues, facing the members in Christchurch it would be unfair to expect them to host the AGM this year. Therefore, the AGM for this year is to be held in Tauranga on the weekend of the 20th of August.



# Southeastern V.SP.

# Districts 8 & 18 Joe Dowdell

(Please note - Tom Sullivan resigned as Southeastern Vice President June 5, 2011 and the Executive Committee appointed Joe Dowdell to fill his unexpired term)

Thank you Tom Sullivan for your work and effort during your tenure as Southeastern Area Vice President. I also owe Tom my personal debt of gratitude, because not only is Tom responsible for bringing me from Chapter secretary and starting me up the chairs of district office in 2009, he often offered much needed guidance and support.

De Ramsay, District 8 President, is recovering from open heart surgery. His doctor has prohibited him for driving for several more weeks, and he will not be able to attend the District 8 Regional meeting at Gulf Harbors Yacht Club in New Port Richey.

At the Regional District 8 meeting at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda, the Bylaws recommendations from the Isles Yacht Club Blue Gavel Chapter were referred to the District 8 executive committee for study and further recommended action at the next District 8 membership meeting. These recommendations were in regard to the definition of a qualified yacht club for a Past Commodore to be invited into the Blue Gavel Organization. One was to add back in the bylaws "No such club is qualified if it has as a requirement for membership in the yacht club, membership in, association with, or participation in an unrelated activity, fraternal organization, or condominium development" (In effect requiring a qualified yacht club to be a "stand alone" club). The other recommendation was to add back in the International Bylaws, the former requirements "The club must have at least seventy five (75) members" and "The club must have a clubhouse or permanent meeting place and an established address."

The recommendations were addressed during the membership meeting at Lighthouse Point Yacht Club on April 16, 2011. There were 116 members represented by the Chapter Presidents present in person or by proxy, which constituted a quorum.

A motion for the membership to vote on the Isles Chapter's By-law committee proposal that the District 8 Bylaws require qualified yacht clubs to be "stand-alone" yacht club was made and seconded. Under discussion, Tom Sullivan stated that the issue should be explained more fully and written out in clear, understandable language. Pat Sheffield, President of North Palm Beach Yacht Club, made a motion to table until the October membership meeting. This motion was seconded by Hal Bishop, President of Lighthouse Point Chapter. Upon roll call vote, the motion to table was carried.

As chairman of the District 8 bylaws committee, I presented the history of the recent IOBG bylaws changes, which District 8 voted to adopt in June, 2010. Isles Chapter bylaws committee asked that IOBG restore the wording of the 2009 bylaws, "The club must have at least seventy five (75) members and The club must have a clubhouse or permanent meeting place and an established address". District 8 was asked to study and make recommendations on that request. Since District 8 already had that requirement in its bylaws, the request was based on a perceived conflict between District 8 and International wording. Opinions from George Knies, Legal Officer of IOBG, and John Shultz, Legal Officer of District 8 state there is no conflict or legal inconsistencies

Pat Sheffield made a motion that District 8 not support the change in the bylaws inasmuch as they had been addressed and approved in their present form just recently. Tom Smith, President of Marathon Chapter, seconded the motion. Under discussion, it was pointed out that all Florida Chapter and 'At Large' membership applications necessarily must come to the District 8 membership committee first. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed, with Ray Starsman, President of The Isles Chapter, cast 19 no votes on behalf of its members.

John Bacon, President of St Augustine Chapter, wrote a letter that was read at the Winter Regional meeting. The letter proposed that all District 8 Yacht Clubs that have a Blue Gavel Chapter extend reciprocity to all Blue Gavel Members and that such reciprocity be a condition of membership. Pat Sheffield made a motion that our policy is to encourage the Chapter's yacht clubs to extend reciprocity, but not require they do so, and that St. Augustine Chapter be sent a letter stating that position. The motion was seconded. Under discussion there was support expressed to poll all the Chapters and get a list of the Yacht Clubs that will grant reciprocity to other Blue Gavel members, but no one favored making reciprocity mandatory. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

District 8
Submitted By: Past SEVP Tom Sullivan

The last District 8 Spring Meeting was held at Lighthouse Point Yacht Club on April 14 - 16 and was a weekend that will be remembered for a long time to come. This was another Blue Gavel Yacht Club where everything was done to perfection.

The Saturday afternoon three-hour boat trip on Vice Commodore John & Angela Hallbauer's 70' plus yacht the "Joie de Vie" up & down the Intercoastal was a treat to behold. My wife Susan and Betty Theobald sat on the fantail, Art Theobald was in the wheelhouse, Bob Shogren & Carol in the parlor along with De Ramsey & Maude & Harvey Sussel & Chuck Ranson were topside

The evening's Commodore's Ball was a real blast with a vocalist & band that kept the crown punishing the parquet.

A highlight of that evening was the "Salute to Veterans" where those of us who were Veterans were asked to step forward & be honored to join in singing our National Anthem.

The rest of the evening just seemed to roll along with everyone in high gear.

Congratulations to Chapter President Hal Bishop & his wife Ila & PC Don Willis & his wife Effie who along with all club members made this an evening to remember. Bravo Zulo Lighthouse Point!

District 18

To get up to speed regarding District 18, I asked for and received copies from the files of former Area Vice President Tom Sullivan, and Past International President, Ray Thompson. Ray was also the Area Vice President preceding Tom in that office. I also talked to Past International President Harvey Sussel, who served as Southeastern Area Vice President in 2002 and gained additional insight.

In summary, District 18 at one time had 202 members in Blue Gavel. But officer's resignations or deaths dealt crippling blows, and the District 18 bank balance and membership billing responsibility was transferred to the Operations Center in San Diego. In November, 2009 interim officers were appointed and in March, 2010, the Treasurer asked for the return of some funds which were needed to form an operations base and to get the District revitalized. Accordingly, \$1500 was sent to the Treasurer March 22, 2010.

There is nothing in writing as to what happened next, because several communications were by telephone and no memos of these calls were made, or kept. Apparently there may have been a misunderstanding regarding the allocation of funds and future plans, because none of the money has been spent. President Mike Barbrow reported he repeatedly asked for a list of District 18 members with no luck. I immediately sent him the list I had obtained from the IOC, and it was just what he needed. He now reports that they have been working to bring back a Chapter that had dropped out, and to recruit a new Chapter. As this report was being prepared, I learned President Barbrow was in the Hilton Head area visiting clubs there and a progress report will be forthcoming.

I respectfully request that any Past Commodores from Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Alabama that have any questions or comments to please contact me.



## **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 contibutor 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.



### New Zealand IOBG Members Earthquake Support Fund

The International Order of the Blue has decided to assist IOBG New Zealand District 75 during their time of need. Many of their members had their homes damaged and many of their Yacht Clubs were damaged or destroyed and will have to re-locate.

They have suffered through 3 large earthquakes and over 6,000 aftershocks to date.

We have been advised of their damages and are asking all IOBG members to assist them in their time of need. Please consider a one-time donation so that we can assist our fellow NZ IOBG Chapters and Yacht Clubs.

The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation, a 501 c 3 Organization, incorporated in the State of California. You can write a check to the IOBG - Humanitarian Foundation and put in the memo field NZ Support Efforts.



Pleasant Point Yacht Club (New Zealand)

Direct all questions to 1st Vice President Chuck Browning: 443-309-6674 OR captainchuckb@aol.com.

Please send donation to:

PC Robert Howe, President Humanitarian Foundation 12413 Shelter Lane Bowie, MD 20715

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# International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



I would like to thank all of the IOBGA Members for the support and encouragement they have given me as I embark on my new position as President. I would especially like to thank Gerva Hughes, Shirley Willing and Jerry Key for their invaluable encouragement and support. I'm asking for your counsel and continued presence as I take on the job as President in October.

I had the opportunity to visit Portland, Oregon in June of this year. I wish to thank the Portland Yatch Club for such great hospitality as we enjoyed a beautiful weekend: the boat ride, cooking our own dinner meat on a long grill, dropping our meat on the ground! LOL!, and the great conversation while cooking... everything was special and very enjoyable!

As was expected, the Royal Rosarian Festival in June 2011 was fabulous! We look forward to their 100th Year Anniversary in 2012. Congratulations to you!!!

IOBGA Members...let us come up with some new ideas to move forward and make positive changes in our organization for the upcoming year. I urge you to communicate with each other in your district and to share your ideas. My thanks to our outgoing President, Lucy Anthony, as she has done a great job and served well. I look forward to her guidance and assistance during my 2012 reign.

This year our theme will be "Run Longer, Run Stronger!" How we maintain our bodies, affects are mental performance. Here's a simple exercise that anyone can implement in their busy day that will enhance the blood flow to the brain - stretching! Let's start stretching in 2012. Did you know stretching increases blood flow to your muscles and helps you to feel more alert? As President Elect, let's stretch physically, mentally and become more active, bring new ideas to the table, invite more members to participate, refocus, and refresh our minds, start new programs, make new commitments, and initiate new activities.

It takes a strong Board to make a strong team. IOBGA needs you to step up to the plate! Would you like to become involved with a strong team? Then join us! We need each of you to move forward in a positive direction. Lets Run Longer, and Run Stronger! We will feel and be more alert this coming year. I'm looking forward to serving you!

Nancy Kay
North Central Director

District 7 Auxiliary will host a fashion show on September 11 featuring men's and women's fashions. Casual clothes will predominatei. All the clothes will be from Vita's Boutique. The models will be IOBG and Auxiliary members, as well as, other members of the boating community. Wines and gourmet appetizers will be served.

This will be a fundraising event, the proceeds, of which will benefit the Humanitarian Foundation. For questions and/or tickets, contact Hildegard Gephardt at 440-740-0139.

District 9 IOBGA President Judy Peterson reports that at the pig roast sponsored by District 9 IOBG, the Auxiliary raffled off several baskets, held a silent auction and had a 50/50 resulting in raising \$1,400.00 which sent four youths to attend sail camp for two weeks in LaSalle, Michigan. This is an annual event.

They are also planning a luncheon for their members at The Mariner's School in Toledo, which teaches young people the skills needed to work on ships on the Great Lakes.

### District 15 Nina Hall, President

### IOBGA's Ice Cream Social is a Scrumptious Success!

IOBGA District 15 held its first activity of the year, an Ice Cream Social, on June 4, 2011. The idea was the brainchild of Vice President Karin Coburn. Karin and her husband Jim opened their home to IOBGA, IOBG and various San Diego area yacht club members. Their service as gracious hosts contributed in large measure to a successful event for over 30 attendees.

The wonderful food and ice cream was accompanied by a ballot for everyone present to vote on their preference for attending future events and some charities to send donations to at the end of the year. The events included wine tasting/lunch, a train trip to San Juan Capistrano, and others dreamed up at an IOBGA board meeting. People even had the option to write in their choices for activities and charities, which some took the liberty to do. The winning activity, by one vote, was...wine tasting/lunch! The winning charity, for which donations in the amount of \$160 were collected that day, was the Humanitarian Fund.



# District 26 Submitted by Chris Swett, Secretary

In June last year the IOBGA once again took over the serving duties at the Rib Dinner that our Blue Gavel guys cook up each year at the Mt. Sinai Yacht Club.

In September, the IOBG sponsored the First Annual Veterans Appreciation Day. Area veterans were treated to a boat ride on our MSYC members' boats and then attended a dedication service followed by a luncheon. IOBGA ladies helped serve these deserving veterans.

In November the IOBGA hosted our second annual trip into NYC. The event included a continental breakfast at the club, a boxed lunch on the bus, orchestra seats for the Broadway show "Promises, Promises," and a full dinner served at the club. This fundraiser allowed us to sponsor a scholarship contest open to all MSYC members, their kids and grandkids.

We also held our annual Food Drive at our November Annual Meeting. Club members brought canned goods and non-perishable paper products to the meeting and received a raffle ticket for each item donated. The IOBGA ladies put together a "basket of goodies" that was raffled off at the end of the meeting. The donated items were shared between four of our neighborhood church food pantries.

Our Scholarship Contest was posted during the beginning of this year. After reviewing all of the worthy essays, two \$500 scholarships were awarded to grandkids of our yacht club members.

In April we held a Spring Luncheon and Chinese Auction. This first-time event, with 71 in attendance, was a great success enabling us to donate profits to five local church pantries, a women's shelter, and our children's playground.

We are now planning our next trip into NYC and we will start collecting old eyeglasses for the Lion's Club.



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Return Service Requested

