

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

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.

March / April 2012

IOBG Comes to District 50



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2012 IOBG DIRECTORY

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BOAT U.S. Marshall Nemoy

Joel Kay

Vern Bendsen

Chuck Browning

Bill Thayer

David Kutz

Bill Thayer

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Jim Coburn

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I would like to thank the members and staff of the Ocean Springs Yacht Club for their wonderful hospitality and co-operation in hosting the Winter Regional Meeting. A big thank you to P/C John O'Shaughnessy for his efforts in the planning of the meetings, the hotel, and the dinners at the casino and the Biloxi Yacht Club.

Ev Henry the founder of the IOBG said We must keep the members occupied and then give them appreciation for the tasks well done (People are like money, if you don't put it to work, you lose interest) He also said we must grow, to be static is to be stagnant.

Most clubs and organizations over the past several years have been having difficulty obtaining and retaining members. While there appears to be no magic solution, it also appears the oldest way works best. The more active a District is, the better they perform in growing in spite of all the doom and gloom. I hate to pick on my friends from District 7, but they are always looking for opportunities for their members to get together, having social gatherings and discussing business at the same time. District 7 is growing, and is, or soon will be, the largest District in the IOBG. It was my pleasure to attend District 7's Holiday Party, and everyone I met was excited about their District's future. I should also mention that North Central Vice President Tony Durieux and International Second Vice President Joel Kay are both from District 7. We all must find ways to keep our Districts active, making our meetings interesting with variety and inspiration, to increase our profile in the boating community.

I believe that there are qualified Past Commodores from qualified clubs who have never been asked or encouraged to join our organization. We must organization-wide, reach out to these people and make them welcome and invite them to join. Members who have dropped out must be contacted to let them know they are not forgotten, that we miss their presence, their advice, and the social interaction we had with them when they were around.

Members and non-members alike are invited to visit our website, <u>www.iobg.org</u>. We ask all of our members to open the Lighthouse internet blast sent directly to their e-mail addresses for the most up to date information available from your Organization.



IOBG Spring Regional Meeting

Thursday, June 7 - Sunday, June 10

Portland, Oregon

Hosted by District 5 in conjunction with The Portland Rose Festival

District 5 welcomes you to participate in an IOBG tradition over 40 years in the making—the IOBG Spring Regional Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, in conjunction with the famous Portland Rose Festival. This year we'll also be celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the Royal Rosarians, Portland's official greeters and ambassadors.

Thursday's IOBG business meeting and lunch will be at the historic Portland Yacht Club located on the Columbia River, "Mighty River of the West." On Friday evening attendees will relax at Columbia River Yacht Club, enjoying boat rides, social hour, and dinner.



Amid your yacht club activities you will delight in a festival that is over 100 years old, the Portland Rose Festival, when the city becomes the mythical land of Royal Rosaria. There are events to please everyone from a huge carnival on the waterfront to one of the best rose shows in the country. As is the tradition, IOBG's incoming President will be knighted on Friday by the Queen of Rosaria in Portland's gorgeous Rose Garden overlooking the city. Saturday is a spectacular parade of floats, topped off by the Grand Ball. This year's Rose Festival theme is "Rock 'n Roses" and guarantees a good time for all.

Because of the Centennial Celebration, the Rosarian headquarters hotel has been moved to the beautiful Downtown Hilton Hotel right in the heart of the city. You have the option of signing up for a host of perks and activities you will find on the Rose Festival form that follows. That reservation form is sent to the Rose Festival Association.

You will note that registration for the District 5 coordinated meetings at Columbia River and Portland Yacht Clubs requires a separate form mailed to District 5. We apologize that it takes two forms, one mailed to the Rosarians and the other to District 5, to complete your registration for this meeting, but we know the extra benefits of the Rose Festival package make the extra steps worthwhile.

We look forward to making your visit to Portland productive and truly enjoyable. See you in Portland this June!

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL



Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Spring Regional Meeting - Hosted by District 5

Portland, Oregon

June 6 – 10, 2012

Portland Hilton & Executive Towers 921 SW 6th Avenue Portland, OR 97204 503-226-1611 **NOTE:** IOBG Registration Packets will be at the hotel desk at check in or at Thursday meeting. Please indicate if you are staying at the hotel or not. Hotel: Yes () No () Thursday, June 7, 2012 **Dress of the Day: Summer Uniform** Blue Blazer, White Shirt, Pants, Socks & Shoes, IOBG Tie Transportation on your own. **Portland Yacht Club** 1241 NE Marine Drive Portland, OR 97211 503 285 1922 **IOBG Executive Committee/IOBGA Executive Committee** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **IOBG General Meeting** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM **IOBGA General Meeting** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM __ @ \$18.00 per person Lunch Total \$ 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM IOBG & IOBGA General Meetings (Continued) IOBG Humanitarian Foundation meeting will follow the General Meetings Friday, June 8, 2012 Please refer to Royal Rosarian's Activities Schedule Transportation on your own. **Dress of the Day: Casual Columbia River Yacht Club** 37 N Tomahawk Island Dr., Portland, OR 97217 503 289 6561 4:00 PM – Boat Rides Dinner: _____ at \$35.00 per person Menu Preferred: Chicken ____ Beef____ 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Total \$ TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED: \$ PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "IOBG District 5" SEND THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO: Blue Gavel District 5, 426 N Lotus Isle Dr., Portland, OR 97217 Deadline: May 26, 2012 Ron Timmerman, District Director Email: rontimmerman@msn.com **Event Contacts:** 503-297-1030 Bill McKinney, District 5 President 503-539-8748 Email: billmckinney3@gmail.com District Number_____ Club _____ NAME______SPOUSE/GUEST ADDRESS CITY/ST ZIP CODE ______ PHONE ______ EMAIL _____

Headquarters Hotel



HOSPITALITY WEEKEND EVENT REGISTRATION

THE 2012 ROYAL ROSARIAN ROSE FESTIVAL HOSPITALITY WEEKEND JUNE 7-10 • PORTLAND, OREGON



Thank you for registering for the 2012 Royal Rosarian Rose Festival Hospitality Weekend. Registration is as easy as **1-2-3**. Discount is available through <u>Friday, May 18, 2012</u>. **Please be sure to return this registration form no later than Friday, May 25, 2012.**

FULL REGISTRATION

This option includes the Hospitality Suite on all days, Fun Night - Ridin' in the Wind, The Centennial Grand Floral Ball*, Farewell Breakfast, and transportation to the Knighting Ceremony [Note: The Queens' Garden Party luncheon and Queen's Coronation are not included with full registration].

Couple	\$320 per couplexcouple/s=\$
Couple (after May 18)	\$340 per couplexcouple/s= \$
Single	\$160 per person= \$
Single (after May 18)	\$170 per person= \$

ALA CARTE EVENT REGISTRATION

Individual event tickets can also be purchased.		
Hospitality Suite for 3 Days	\$50 per personx	tickets=\$
Hospitality Suite for 1 Day (Indicate day): Thurs Fri Sat	\$27 per personx	tickets= \$
Queens' Garden Party (Friday)	\$35 per personx	tickets= \$
Fun Night - Ridin' in the Wind (Friday)	\$60 per personx	tickets= \$
Grand Floral Parade / Coronation Preferred Seating (Saturday)**	\$30 per personx	tickets= \$
The Centennial Grand Floral Ball (Saturday)*	\$75 per personx	tickets= \$
Farewell Breakfast (Sunday)	\$27 per personx	tickets= \$

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: US \$	
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*INDICATE MEAL CHOICE FOR THE CENTENNIAL GRAND FLORAL BALL ON THE BACK OF THIS REGISTRATION.

**Grand Floral Parade / Coronation Preferred Seating Tickets are available until May 25, 2012. Parade tickets can be purchased after May 25, 2012 by calling 877.789.7673, subject to availability and handling charges. Tickets for the Grand Floral Parade Preferred Seating / Coronation are non-refundable.

@PAYMENT

□ My check for \$	is enclosed made payable to Royal	Rosarians OR 🗆 Please bill my 🗆 \	/ISA 🛛 Mastercard		
Amount Authorized: \$	Account #:			Expiration:	/
Name:		Spouse/Guest:			
Address:					
City:		State:	Zip:		
Telephone:		il (for confirmation):			
Organization (if any):		Title:			



Please send your Registration to:

ROYAL ROSARIANS 2012 HOSPITALITY 8410 NW COPELAND ST • PORTLAND, OR 97229-6765 Page 8

President - Elect Chuck Browning

We had a great time at Ocean Spring Yacht Club in Biloxi, Mississippi. Their members made us feel like part of the club and If we are lucky, we will get invited back.



I would like to give you a little information about the 2013 Annual Meeting. This year the Annual Meeting will be held in Edgewood, Maryland, October 18-21, 2012. It will be sponsored by the Bush River Yacht Club and assisted by other IOBG Chapters in the area.

President Dennis Taylor and his Officers are putting this together and they guarantee you will have a good time. Having fun is a requirement when you visit the upper Chesapeake Bay and District 27.

The Grand Ball will be held at the Maryland Golf and Country Club where you will see the rolling hills and beautiful countryside of MacPhail road located in **Bel Air, Maryland**. This is one of the oldest and most prestigious Country Clubs in the state.

The hotel is the Comfort Inn and Suites located at 2112 Emmorton Park Road, Edgewood MD 21040, Phone, (410-698-7222).

If you don't attend this Annual meeting you will be missing all the fun and excitement and the hospitality of District 27. We plan to have a lot of local participation and I hope to see you there.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. From Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) go West on I 95 W.
- 2. Merge onto MD 295 N. via Exit 2A toward Baltimore/ I-695.
- 3. Merge onto HORBOR TUNNEL TRWY / 895 N (Portions Toll).
- 4. HARBOR TUNNEL TRWY / I-895 N becomes I-95N.
- 5. Take exit 77A Right onto Rt. 24 toward Edgewood MD Turn right onto Edgewood Road. Turn immediate right onto Emmorton Park Road - Comfort Inn located on right.

Estimated time to Hotel – 36 minutes.

Total distance – 31 miles

Rates: \$94.00 plus tax, single or double occupancy. Choice of king or two double beds per room.









IOBG Annual Meeting

October 18-21, 2012 Edgewood, Maryland

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM



2112 Emmorton Park Road Edgewood, MD 21040

Comfort Inn & Suites 410 698-7222

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. From Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) go West on I 95 W.
- 2. Merge onto MD 295 N. via Exit 2A toward Baltimore/ I-695.
- 3. Merge onto HORBOR TUNNEL TRWY / 895 N (Portions Toll).
- 4. HARBOR TUNNEL TRWY / I-895 N becomes I- 95N.
- 5. Take exit 77A Right onto Rt. 24 toward Edgewood MD Turn right onto Edgewood Road. Turn immediate right onto Emmorton Park Road Comfort Inn located on right.

Estimated time to Hotel – 36 minutes.

Total distance - 31 miles

Rates: \$94.00 plus tax, single or double occupancy. Choice of king or two double beds per room.

PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY FOR RESERVATIONS AT 410-698-7222 OR SEND RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL.

Be sure to ask for International Order of the Blue Gavel SPECIAL rate.

I am attending the International Order of the Blue Gavel Annual Meeting,

October 18 – 21, 2012. Please make reservation for:

NAME		
	Departure DateEmail	
Street Address	s Phone	
City/State/Zip_		
Smoking	_ Non Smoking King Size Bed Two Double Beds	
•	ar reservation, please include a credit card number and all information. The space and rate cannot September 26, 2012 . All cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival.	ot be
	CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:	
Card Number	Expiration Date	
Authorized Signati	ture	



Maryland Golf and Country Club

1335 East MacPhil Road Bel Air, MD 21015



IOBG Annual Ball 2012

The property where Maryland Golf and Country Clubs now calls home was originally owned by Baseball Hall of Famer, Lieutenant Colonel Leland "Larry" Stanford MacPhail, Sr., former head of the Cincinnati Reds, Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees. MacPhail was a man of many achievements throughout his lifetime and was known for being a shrewd businessman. Not only was he the head of these renowned baseball clubs but he also pioneered night baseball in Cincinnati and installed lights at Ebbets Field and Yankee Stadium. His professional achievements also included beginning plane travel for baseball personnel and setting up pension plans for employees and players. In his retirement, he was the President of the National Association of Thoroughbred Breeders, while he raised horses at his farm, Glenangus, in Bel Air - the current home of the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs.

The rolling hills and beautiful countryside of MacPhail Road in Bel Air, Maryland was a dream come true for Lt. Col. MacPhail. The beginning of a challenging 18-hole golf course was taking shape. Glenangus Farms lent itself well to establishing a golf course over its many hills and streams. Colonel MacPhail worked very hard to form a private course of championship caliber.

The first nine holes were far ahead of other new courses. It needed little re-grading to set up fairways since the base was the original blue grass turf of the former land. However, the second nine needed more work and it was several months before play could begin.

The first Pro Shop was the former tenant house of the MacPhail property located near the present fourth tee. When the Course was completed Colonel MacPhail sold the layout to a group of representative citizens of Harford County, retaining only a membership for himself. The club, first known as the Maryland Country Club and later The Maryland Golf and Country Club, Inc. remains a private club owned by its stockholder members.

First Vice President Gary McGrath



In talking with my AVP's, I have come to determine that we have two problems that still need to be addressed, **Retention and Recruiting.**

I would like to address Retention first. I have been involved with IOBG since 1986 and retention has always been an up and down problem directly related to the

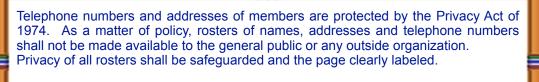
amount of communication which again directly effects the participation at meetings or activities. Now from my own experience I can recall members saying that the reason we did not come to the meeting was that it was the "same old boring business meeting" or that " the meeting was on the other end of the District and too far to travel" or that "the meeting was on a National holiday." All of these reasons are somewhat valid and should be considered when scheduling a District meeting. I know that many of you District Officers hold a calendar scheduling meeting at the first of the year. When doing so, keep these points in mind; 1. Try not to schedule a meeting over 3 day weekends or Holidays, 2. Try to schedule an interesting speaker for the meeting, 3. Try to schedule your meeting in as central a location as possible, 4. Schedule some fun social events or get togethers, in lieu of a business meeting, and 5. Send at least one snail mail at least 30 days prior to meeting following up with either another snail mail or e-mail. Using these five suggestions will help ease your attrition and increase your retention.

Second, I would like to address Recruiting. We have an excellent tool in our Marketing Plan, we just have to be more diligent in all phases of its use. Also, we have to always be looking for new opportunities for Chapters, areas that we don't often think about. There are many large landlocked lakes that have yachts clubs, ie, Lake of the Ozarks, Lake Tahoe, Lake Coeur d'Alene to name a few. Also there are many river yacht clubs that we have yet to contact.

When I was in business, I traveled extensively throughout the eleven western states, as well as, occasional trips to other parts of the country. If I was near a lake or major river, when I went back to the hotel for evening, I would get out the local phone book and look for yachts clubs to visit. You would be amazed at areas you would find yacht or sailing clubs. Lest I forget, we are an International Organization, so when we travel abroad we should have that same sense of urgency in seeking out new yacht clubs and introducing Blue Gavel.

Another thing to keep in mind when recruiting off the beaten path (so to speak) is to try and get at least two or more clubs in the same area so there is intra-club communication and they do not feel isolated. In some areas such as our District 23, it may be difficult to accomplish this task and so we must increase our level of communication so they feel they are involved.

I am aware that retention and recruiting in this economy is difficult, but this is our life blood and I will be reminding you of this throughout the year.



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.

Second Vice President Joel Kay

Nancy and I really enjoyed Ocean Springs. We flew there from our winter refuge in Sarasota, Florida. Being with the IOBG and IOBGA family is always great as there are always new issues to discuss, as well as, meaningful personal experiences.

The meeting covered a variety of important issues. I had the privilege of being introduced at the IOBGA meeting, as the liaison from the Gavel to the Auxiliary by President Ethel Keith. It was a real pleasure to be the guest where everyone in attendance knows me. I pledged the support of my office, and that we will meet when we get back home. The Auxiliary needs the full support from the main body.

Our host for this meeting was John O'Shaughnessy of Ocean Springs YC. He made all of us feel at home via "Southern Hospitality." The Club hosted all the events, but two really stood out. The first was a wonderful buffet dinner at a fantastic casino in Biloxi, which is moments away from Ocean Springs. The second was the family Mardi Gras on Saturday, which was a real blast. Nancy and I were spectators from the porch at the Yacht Club, close enough to view all the colorful floats. We were the lucky recipients of a huge supply of Mardi Gras beads, donated by those who decided to be in the front lines, where children of all ages "roamed."

It was a most enjoyable weekend at a place we would otherwise never have been. My wish is that the Blue Gavel gets many new Chapters from this event.

We will all be in our home bases when this issue goes to print. I will be looking forward to seeing everyone at the June meeting in Portland.

May everyone have a wonderful Easter or Passover holiday and a great, safe summer boating season.





Official Notice of Nominations



Submitted by Past President Vern Bendsen Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of Officers for the following year - 2013 - to the Membership and the Board of Directors for consideration and election.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with our Bylaws, that Members in good standing, wishing to be considered for an elected office, submit their letter of consideration to the Nominating Committee.

The letter may be submitted by email or direct mail. Letters should be sent no later than May 31, 2012 to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, P/P Vern Bendsen, P.O. Box 984, Suisun, CA 94585 OR email at vbendsen@pacbell.net.

The Nominating Committee for 2012 is: P/P Vern Bendsen – Chairman, P/P Ray Thompson, President Steve Willing, Eastside Representative Thomas Ellis and Westside Representative James Coburn.



Treasurer Marshall Nemoy

At the Winter regional meeting held February in Ocean Springs, Mississippi I presented the Treasurer's report for the year ended December 31, 2011. The following is an extract from that report:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The financial statements constitute the annual report of the organization and, accordingly, will be submitted to the Audit committee for review. IOBG is organized into five operating activities. They are: the International Operations Center (IOC), the Executive Committee, the Annual Meeting, Area Vice Presidents and The Blue Gavel Log.

IOBG had a net income for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$10,383 as compared to \$3,763 for 2010, a net change of \$6,620. During 2011 our total revenue was \$71,944 which was \$1,486 less than budgeted and \$1,364 less than the prior year. However, our total expenses for the year were \$11,843 lower than budget and \$7,984 less than the prior year. Most of the savings were due to lower than expected travel expenses related to the Annual Meeting, Executive Committee and Area Vice Presidents.

Our total assets increased by \$7,084 to \$113,317. The deferred income - income for 2012 collected in 2011 - was \$19,390 which is \$4,970 less than last year. Overall our financial position remains strong.

For 2011 the primary reason for the increased profitability is the savings in the area of travel to the Annual Meeting and the Area Vice Presidents. Unfortunately the two activities are the most difficult to predict. Experience has shown that, under certain conditions, the assumptions utilized in the budget preparation have proved very accurate.

For a copy of the treasurer's report, contact the International Operations Center.



US Sailing Representative Bill Thayer



The ISAF U.S. Match Racing Championship, hosted by Balboa Yacht Club was sailed Thursday, Oct 13th to Sunday, Oct 16th off Newport Beach, California. Five of the top six teams from 2010 returned with Skipper and Racing Rules Guru Dave Perry winning his fourth Match Racing Championship.

US Sailing has established a team of subject matter experts who currently or recently have on-water experience in the disciplines of sail, power or paddle watercraft. US Sailing and the Coast Guard Grantee is providing direction to the team with the objective of developing entry-level skill-based National On-Water Instruction Standards for Recreational Boat Operators through an open consensus-based agreement.

The Independent Panel Reports on the 2011 Chicago to Mackinac Yacht Race capsizing, the Youth Sailing 420 Tragedy on the Severn River and the capsizing of Rambler 100 during the 2011 Fast Net Race were published and discussed at the Annual Meeting, 29 October and are on the Web site. Over 200 members attended the Annual Meeting in Annapolis, MD.

From Dec 3rd - 18th, USTAG competed in the ISAF Sailing World Championships with two goals; Qualify the USA for a berth at the 2012 Olympic Games in each of 10 Olympic Classes; and complete selection for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team in the nine fleet racing Olympic Classes.

Over 250 program directors, instructors, volunteers, parents and industry representatives looking to rejuvenate their sailing programs, attended US Sailing's 2012 National Sailing Program Symposium, held in Long Beach, California on January 11th to 14th. There were many on-water events, Basic Sailing, Basic Power Boat and Paddle Board along with new equipment demos hosted by Shore Line Yacht Club of Long Beach.

Etchells Worlds Champion Bill Hardesty, San Diego, California and ISAF Sailing World Champion Anna Tunnicliffe, Plantation, Florida were named 2011 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year. Susan "Charlie" Arms, Director of Sailing for The California Maritime Academy and daughter of the Late Past President Phil Arms, has been named the California Educator of the Year by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.





District 1 is getting ready for their Spring Regional Meeting this April 27-29 being held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. District 1's area encompasses the State of Washington and Alaska but our host club for this Spring meeting, Spokane Yacht Club (Spokane, WA), actually has their yacht club in Idaho. Awhile back, we took this opportunity to welcome the state of Idaho into our District 1 family and hope to one day explore the possibilities of expanding the Blue Gavel organization so as to encompasses even more of the lake and river based yachting community.

Our District experiences the same geographic problems as some of our other Districts in that the travel time and distance can be a hinderance to "getting together" for official meetings or social events. Some of our members travel 7 hours or more to come to the meetings. Yet even with the time and distance factor, we have experienced the highest attendance in recent history. We feel our monthly electronic newsletter and e-Lert system not only keeps our members updated with IOBG events but also provides for us a channel to keep our members alerted and involved in governmental or political activities regarding water or boating issues. "As Blue Gavel members we are unique in that we all have demonstrated a strong commitment to boating and through this leadership have developed a presence in our communities that can provide valuable avenues for communication....both educationally and politically."



On February 25th, I attended the first ever District 5 "Blue Gavel Happy Hour" aka "Blue Blazer Social" held at Tyee Yacht Club in Portland, Oregon. The idea was to bring Blue Gavel members and non-members together to meet and share the IOBG experience. District 5 sent out 150 invitations to area Past Commodores, current Commodores, and vendors that advertise in their professional quality District Membership Roster.

Many attendees were new IOBG members or Past Commodores who had not attended any other Blue Gavel events. They were treated to catered appetizers with a no host bar, a full display of Ships Stores, IOBG & District 5 brochures, and several promotional flyers of upcoming events. I was very impressed by the energetic "marketing strategies" used by my hosts.

District 5 President Bill McKinney said, "I feel this was a very successful event that may become an annual event in the future. A personal thanks goes to our Treasurer Nancy Perry-Dale and Vice President Shirley Ridley who coordinated this event and made all the arrangements that helped make it a positive experience for everyone".

My many thanks to District 5 Director Ron Timmerman and President Bill McKinney for setting aside time for me to visit and share some ideas for promoting IOBG and our Districts.

District 5 Ron Timmerman, District Director District 5 continues to work on raising the profile of Blue Gavel through member communication, District events, and Chapter activities. The most recent issue of the successful quarterly newsletter, Columbia Current, gave members a calendar of events for 2012, a report on the

Windsor Annual Meeting, messages from the new 2012 officers, and a great story on a new Columbia River Yacht Club Chapter activity that we call our Blue Gavel "Touch Down". The 2012 Roster is soon going to press and will be profitable again this year. Regular e-mail communications have proved to be a great way to let members know of upcoming events.

Planning is well underway for the June Regional Meeting to be held in Portland June 7-10 in conjunction with the Portland Rose Festival. This is the Centennial Celebration of the Royal Rosarians, Portland's official hosts and ambassadors, so the headquarters hotel for the festival is moving to the Downtown Hilton Hotel. This new location will give IOBG members who have attended past meetings a fresh venue and easy access to Portland's vibrant downtown. This year's business meeting will be held at Portland Yacht Club and the Friday Happy Hour and Dinner will be at Columbia River Yacht Club and feature boat excursions on the river. Let's hope we have the same great sunny weather we had for last year's boat rides. Make your plans to come to Portland and you'll have a great time, whatever the weather.

"Men's Night" at Columbia River Yacht Club in Portland, Oregon...

"Touch Down" is the best way to describe what happened on January 5, 2012. Every Thursday night is "Men's Night" at Columbia River Yacht Club in Portland, Oregon. A light hearted meeting is conducted with announcements of current interest, jokes are told and the "Cowbell" is awarded to a member who has demonstrated poor seamanship or someone has told a story of his alleged misgivings. In addition a fantastic dinner is prepared by a different group of members each week. To stimulate Blue Gavel interest and activity in this club P/C of CRYC and District 5 President Bill McKinney gathered together seven Blue Gavel members, who are also members at CRYC, to be the "Blue Gavel Cooks" on the first Thursday of each month. "The idea is to make this Blue Gavel Night" McKinney said. "We had aprons made and we made Blue Gavel Place Mats to go on the tables for dinner. A notice was put in the club's newsletter the month before and a friendly competition was talked up as people wanted to know what was on the menu" he said. Apparently there was some talk that if the cooks were going to be blue gavel guys the food would be soft enough to be gummed or even sucked through a straw.



When the big night ended the first group of Blue Gavel Cooks served 82 club members an eight ounce filet steak, a three ounce filet of pacific salmon, baked seasoned potatoes, green beans with bacon, a salad of mixed greens, walnuts, dried cranberries and feta cheese, hot dinner rolls and for dessert – Dove bars. The event was a resounding success, a "Touch Down" in every way. The food was fabulous the cooks had a great time together, one past Blue Gavel member renewed his membership on the spot and the 2011 Commodore wrote a check to join District 5. How does it get better than that?

Blue Gavel Cooks from left to right: Erik Runyan, Rand Robinson, Ira Nies, Bill McKinney, Ron Curry, Ric Carey and Ev Roberts.

"What a great way to bring Blue Gavel alive in all the clubs. If not a cooking crew maybe a group that serves at a ladies function or a group that is the committee for a club event. I think we're on to something with this and I encourage other Blue Gavel members to work within their clubs to have a Blue Gavel Night" McKinney says.



The regional meeting in Ocean Springs, Mississippi was delightful. Although we had moderate 60 degree, cloudy weather with a few rain showers, bayou country is quite humid. We were there during Mardi Gras season. Ocean Springs held their Mardi Gras parade on Saturday, the only fully sunny day, with various civic groups, businesses and politicians participating. Queue up was on the street in front of Ocean Springs Yacht Club. This was a great place to spectate and catch beads and chatchkees thrown to the crowd. Ocean Springs Yacht Club was completely destroyed by hurricane Katrina. It has been beautifully rebuilt on stilts on the beach of the Biloxi's back bay.

The Southwestern region has the same challenges that are faced throughout the organization: growing membership, retaining members, identifying a niche in the local yachting community for making a positive contribution and then inspiring the members to participate. Each District is tackling these issues in their own way. Some Districts have found an unmet need that our expertise as Past Commodores can fill. I challenge the other Districts to have brainstorming sessions to identify that niche where our special knowledge and skills can help the local yachting community.

I can help by providing encouragement, consultation and guidance, by attending District activities, and by holding a round table discussion to share ideas among Districts. Let us approach the coming months with enthusiasm and professionalism. All members are welcome at the regional meetings. Come to one and enjoy a whole other dimension of IOBG.

District 6 - Hawaii/Guam reports that elections were held. New officers were installed and new members were inducted. The beginning of the year schedule is non-specific. We encourage our members to attend opening day ceremonies/blessing of the fleets of the 3 larger clubs (Hawaii, Kaneohe and Waikiki). In July we have our annual barbeque and plan our fall youth fundraising events.

District 10 - Los Angeles/Long Beach District Director La Von Plumlee, has worked hard for the last several years along with her officers to revitalize the District. She said the key to success for them is regular, consistent positive communication. They started scheduling a few activities throughout the year and now have one activity each month. They have found their members like both boating and non-boating events. Some of their activities are designated as fundraisers for the Humanitarian Foundation.



District 11 Sherry Barone, President District 11 started the New Year with our first event held at Port Royal Yacht Club. Our Chapter's annual wine tasting fundraiser

for the King Harbor Jr. Sailing Scholarship Fund was held on 24 January 2012. We raised \$465.00 and enjoyed many wines and the gracious hospitality of Port Royal Yacht Club. Port Royal Yacht Club Vice Commodore Sheila Anderson, Staff Commodore Shawn Milligan and Linda Wells provided a lovely spread of home cooked appetizers, veggies, and wonderful cheeses to accompany our wines with our wine expert Dana Sealy sharing her knowledge and pairing of wine with food. Twenty-nine of our members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon and evening tasting wines from vineyards around the world.



We are looking forward to a great year and having events throughout our District. Our next event scheduled on 25 March 2012 is our membership appreciation lunch at SCCYC. Also scheduled are 5 windy Q's at DRYC from May through September 2012.

The IOBG district 11 web site has been completed and now hosts our calendar, photos of events and newsletters. Visit us at <u>www.iobg11.org</u>

I attended the winter meeting in Ocean Springs Mississippi on 3-4 February 2012. The trip started with two cancelled flights on ground hog day but on the bright side in Dallas I meet Marshall Nemoy, Mary Nye Meyers, Marybeth and Bill Thayer on our flight to Gulfport. The friendliness of the IOBG Board lead by President Stephen Willing and members was evident throughout the meeting making this trip most enjoyable.



The meeting consisted of review of financials and paid membership statistics.

Executive committee reports, District Directors reports, Humanitarian Foundation report, committee reports and old/new business. The meeting helped expand my knowledge of IOBG. I had a wonderful time meeting and getting to know other IOBG officers/directors.

Ocean Springs Yacht Club and Biloxi Yacht Club's southern hospitality was amazing, as well as, the Mardi Gras spirit which was underway. Getting to know people has enriched me while having a great time. Who knew there are 9 yacht clubs in Mississippi?

Our Officers are dedicated to perform their duties expertly and expeditiously. We look forward to an even more productive 2012, by getting more personally involved with our member clubs.

District 14 Mike Billington, District Director

District 14 is in the planning stages for an active 2012 year. Our number one focus will be on increasing Chapter membership. There are

approximately 60 yacht clubs in our area. The problem we face is that there are a lot of fine boating organizations which we must compete with for membership. We do point out that IOBG is the only organization which the membership is limited to the leadership, Staff Commodores, from other organizations and it is an opportunity for Blue Gavel members to share fellowship with other Staff Commodores. We have determined that phone calls and regular mail to existing Chapter members to determine who they would like to invite to join is the most effective way to reach out to the potential 300 to 400 members in our District.

District 14 Continued...

We are also planning a management seminar in the near future. The Bay Area will be the sight of the America's Cup races in 2013. The seminar's main topic will discuss how to be involved and help with this great racing event. We will also discuss other matters of club management.

We are planning a District meeting whose purpose will be to allow the members of the District to socialize with each other and have a good time. We believe if we can demonstrate how enjoyable meeting with fellow staff Commodores is it will lead to greater membership.

As we have done in the past we will assist the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association in its annual Wheel Chair Regatta. This great event gives veterans from local veteran's homes a chance for a boat ride on the Bay along with a great lunch. The veterans greatly appreciate this chance to enjoy the Bay. District 14 provides volunteers to help with every aspect of the event. More than half the skippers for the Wheel Chair Regatta are IOBG members.

The planning committee for these great events includes Director and President Mike Billington, Vice President Susan Jacquelin, Secretary George Knies, Treasurer Rich Ahlf, Supply Officer Lynette Breed, Web Master Russ Breed, Vern Bendsen and Gary McGrath.

SW Area Vice President Report Continued...

District 15 - California San Diego area has an active schedule for the first few months of 2012. District Director Eileen Van Winkle is particularly proud of the annual yacht club officers club management seminar which kicked off the January schedule. I attended as a guest this year. It is a very professional polished seminar which covers topic such as the legal obligations of officers and directors, alcohol beverage control rules, and financial responsibilities of club officers. The great thing about the seminar is that it fills a knowledge gap, IOBG is seen as doing something constructive in the yachting community. It plants positive thoughts in the officers' mind about IOBG. Concurrently IOBGA provides a seminar for officers and director's spouses on what is expected of them.

District 16 - California Channel Islands Director Nancy Rowe reports District 16 is off to a slow start. We like so many Districts are scrambling to stay alive as we seek to recruit and retain established members. Many of our former members have moved away and others have become unable to participate. We are steadfastly moving ahead and will have an activity plan in place by the end of February. We look forward to the opening day ceremonies in our harbor as all 6 Chapters participate.

District 19 - California Delta District - Past Director Herman Meyer reports District 19 has several activities planned with the first being the induction of new Past Commodores into IOBG at Pittsburgh Yacht Club. A short meeting will be held followed by the induction. We will then feast on finger foods and welcome the new members to the "Best IOBG District" in California.

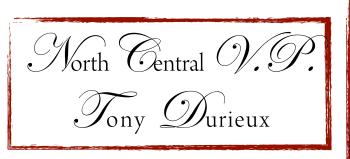
District 21 - California Orange Coast - Leo Vortuni the longtime Director hopes to have greater member involvement this year.







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As the newly elected North Central Vice President, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Joel Kay, the recently elected Second Vice President of the International Order of The Blue Gavel.

My primary goal as North Central VP will be to be available to all the members of Districts 7, 9, 23 & 25 and hope to attend when possible, the events of those Districts. Please feel free to call on me. I'm honored to represent you and I believe my sole purpose is to be of service to you on behalf of the IOBG. I can be reached by e-mail, snail mail, cell or home phone. They are: e-mail: agent@alink.com, cell: 740-334-7669, home phone: 740-323-1804 and my home address is: 524 Deer Trail Drive, Thornville, OH 43076.



Submitted by Tony Durieux, District Director The District 7 Auxiliary held a well attended fashion show in September for the benefit of the Humanitarian Fund. A special thanks goes out to Hildegard Gebhardt and her committee for putting this event together. It was held at Bratenahl Place thanks to Past District 7 President Neil

VanUum and Past District 7 Auxiliary President Sue VanUum. In addition, for those of us who have a sweet tooth, our thanks goes out Jerri Key, 1997 Past International Auxiliary President, for providing all the desserts.

District 7 and the Auxiliary held a District Christmas party at Bretenaul Place in December hosted by Neil VanUum and wife Sue. We thank President Mark Vadaj and Auxiliary President Robin Vadaj for putting it all together on short notice. The Christmas party was a great success. In fact, it was so successful that it's believed they have created an annual event.

District 7 will hold its annual Blue Blazer event in March. The e-board invites all current Commodores and Vice Commodores from the District. This gives the current Commodore a chance to learn about what the Blue Gavel has to offer and why they should consider being a part of this highly respected organization. They get a chance to talk to other Past Commodores, who are members, and experience the closeness that develops among Past Commodores. This event has been very successful and is very well attended. The District has been sponsoring the Blue Blazer for so many years that the get together has taken on a life of its own. New District 7 Commodores have heard about the Blue Blazer Social and look forward to attending the event.

At the Districts January 2012 E-Board meeting, it was announced that the Auxiliary will hold their April Spring Brunch aboard the Nautica Queen Party Boat. The party will be open to all District 7 members.

District 7 will again be part of the Greater Cleveland Boating Association (GCBA) military salute aboard the USS COD, a World War Two Submarine moored in the Cleveland Ohio harbor. District 7 is invited every year to appear as a unit and District 7's President is always asked to speak, on behalf of the Blue Gavel, about Memorial Day and its meaning. The whole event is very emotional and once you have attended the ceremony, you will look forward to attending next year.

District 9 Becky Vincent, District Director District 9 along with District 7 and 25 worked together to provide pizza at the December 2, 2011, I-LYA meeting held in Perrysburg, Ohio. A 50/50 raffle provided funds to help offset costs for Steve Willing's year as IOBG President.

Raffle tickets for a TV will be sold this winter with funds raised being used for our humanitarian projects. We use our money for projects such as Michigan Special Olympics, also to support disabled children for riding horses at Vail Meadows and to provide assistance for children to attend the North Cape Sailing School.

District 9 will combine its annual pig roast and spring meeting again in May 2012. All Past Commodores are encourage to actively take part by donating items to our annual raffle, and then of course have the fun of bidding on the items of their choice.

Many of our individual Chapters have been very active and hopefully that will mean more participation in Chapter activities.

District 23 Robert Sapita, President

The past year was a combination of successes or 'firsts' for the District and a significant disappointment. The good news first: The District now has its own formally approved ByLaws. Prior to this year the District never had a formal set of ByLaws to govern its selection of officers, report on its activities and finances, and structure its meetings, etc. Using the ByLaws from other Districts as a reference, a unique set of ByLaws for District 23 was drafted and approved by International during the past year.

Another 'first' for the District was the publication of a newsletter early in 2011. The membership of District 23 is widely scattered and that makes rendezvous difficult to organize and instilling a spirit-de-corps, comradeship, enthusiasm, and devotion for the IOBG somewhat challenging. The newsletter was an attempt to enhance communications and invite participation in social and organizational activities within District 23. The newsletter was also the sole means of alerting the membership of the requirement to pay their 2011 IOBG and District dues.

The disappointment: Notwithstanding the direct mailing of the newsletter and follow-up emails regarding the 2011 dues to the 21 members of record, only two members renewed their memberships for 2011. The root cause for the decrease in renewals is uncertain and hopefully 2011 was just an anomaly and that the membership and participation in District 23 will rebound in the future. One recommendation is to resume having the IOBG executive office invoice the membership for the annual dues.

District 25 Sam Bileti, District Director District 25 is continuing its efforts to improve communications between its members, officers and other Districts. We are also contacting other boat clubs in our area who do not have any active members in Blue Gavel.

Our last e-board meeting was 11/21/2011. Communicating with other Districts was discussed and we are working towards setting up a function with other Districts, especially District 9.

Our Treasurer Jack Berry composed a letter and sent it with renewal invoices to current members and also those former members who did not renew last year. Hopefully we will bring some of them back to the Blue Gavel.

Lastly, District 25 is having a raffle of a very nice BBQ grill in April 2012 as a fundraiser to help offset the cost of the 2011 convention in honor of Steve Willing.



I was asked to try to fill the shoes of the Past Vice President of the Northeast Region, Mr. Robert (Bob) Howe when he stepped up to assume the Presidency of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation at the end of 2011. I have not been able to visit the districts of my area of responsibility because as partner of Saxons Diamond Centers of Bel Air and Aberdeen Maryland for over 20 years, this responsibility fell upon me just as our most important selling season of November and December came upon me.

I have contacted each of the District Directors in my area to introduce myself by email and requested their early spring member meeting schedules when I will make every effort to attend. Until then I have received several email reports which are as follows:

District 3 enjoyed the passing of 2011 with a delightful holiday party at the Buffalo Launch Club. An evening of dining and dancing was capped off with the awarding of our prestigious Boater of the Year award and a special award to P/C Marc Connelly for his years of

dedication and service to the IOBG. Thanks to P/C Paul Schneeberger and his wife Susan for hosting the event.

Once again District 3 chose the Excalibur Foundation as the principal recipient of our annual charitable donation. Excalibur provides waterfront access to handicapped and disabled individuals. In 2011 many of our returning veterans were among their passengers.

Plans are underway for 2012. We wish a successful new year to our local officers and the new International officers.

District 12 consists of 5 Yacht Clubs located on a barrier island, Long Beach Island along the New Jersey coast. Located approximately 40 miles north of Atlantic City, New Jersey. This island is fundamentally a summer resort island for summer residents with primary residences in the warmer states of Florida, California, Arizona etc; where there is little to no fall and winter activity.

They have however adopted a local high school sailing team and sponsor fundraisers in support of this team, with significant donations going to the Friends of Southern Sailing, which is a 501 3c foundation. This little organization of five yacht clubs has over the past three years raised \$12,500.00 for the Friends of Southern Sailing with a grant from the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation included...Wow!!! If five clubs can do this much, just think what 500 clubs could do if they set their mind to it.

District 27 is the home of President-Elect Chuck Browning and we have been planning for the Membership Meeting and Ball for him. We have contracted the Maryland Golf and Country Club as the location for this event on October 20, 2012. A great band has also been engaged. Convenient hotel arrangements have been made and we are working out the lesser details of transportation and dinners, nearby Yacht Club visits and some fun for all who attend. The task master for this has been the incredible result of District 27 President Dennis Taylor.

The District has appointed a few new officers who I would like to thank for stepping up to assume these new responsibilities:

The new District Director is Roger Bowser of Aberdeen, Maryland and his first mate Donna.

President Elect is Randy Garrett of Edgewood, Maryland and his first mate Vickie.

Vice President is Vince Schittino of Abingdon, Maryland and his first mate Lisa.

Supply Officer is Rolfe Garrett of Forest Hill, Maryland and his first mate Robin.

My sincere thank to each of you for the efforts that I know you will be putting into your new positions.



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 P	rint					
I am a pa	id up member of IOBG Dist IOBGA Dist			Club	Year _	
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Joutheastern V.C Dowdell







I attended the District 8 Annual Membership Meeting at Palm Coast Yacht Club November 19, 2011. Three International Past Presidents were in attendance at this meeting: Ray Thompson, Harvey Sussel and Art Theobald. Past President of District 8 De Ramsay was also present. There were 110 members of District 8 present in person or by proxy. Each member of District 8 can vote at the membership meetings and the President of each Chapter casts one vote for each member in the Chapter. A roll call of Chapters present resulted in 110 members voting at the meeting.

Officers elected for the administrative year 2012 were:

President – Frank Hutchinson – Palm Coast Yacht Club President Elect – George Eichman – Isles Yacht Club First Vice President – Bert Gartenhaus – Lighthouse Point Yacht Club Second Vice President – Chuck Ranson - Vero Beach Yacht Club Treasurer – Bob Pease – Royal Palm Yacht Club Secretary – Art Theobald - Royal Palm Yacht Club District Director – Lenworth Gordon - Member At Large



As Area Vice President I conducted the Swearing-In Ceremony with the newly elected officers taking the oath of office immediately after their election.

Some items of business to be noted are as follows:

It was voted to hold only three meetings in 2012 – one on the Florida East Coast, one in the South, and one on the West Coast. The West Coast Meeting will be the Change of Watch and will be held at Isles Yacht Club on October 6.

It was also decided to distribute the District 8 Newsletter, The Gulfstream, via email, thus saving substantially on the printing and mailing expense.

Following the meeting, there was a cruise for the attendees on the Intercoastal Waterway hosted by P/C Cliff Lewis and his wife, Rosemary, aboard their beautiful yacht. The weekend's festivities concluded with a wonderful dinner and dance at Palm Coast Yacht Club.

There is a possible new chapter in the works in District 8 and Past President Art Theobald and District 8 President Elect George Eichman have been very active in developing this interest. They recently visited with some of the Past Commodores in this club and made a presentation that was very well received. Hopefully this will result in a new Chapter application in the near future.

SEVP Report Continued...

I have been following the reports of the Government Affairs Committee of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs very closely. Some of the hot topics being followed are the effects of E15 ethanol on Marine Engines, the possibility of

interference with GPS signals by the network proposed by LightSquared, the problems with implementing the Coast Guard's new radio communications network, Rescue 21, and the proposed Florida Fish and Wildlife pilot program to regulate anchoring and mooring in State waters. Anyone interested in more details on any of these reports may contact me, and I will either answer their questions or provide copies of the reports themselves. In regard to the latter program, I attended a meeting of the Monroe County Florida Marine and Port Advisory Committee to consider recommendations for the enactment of a pilot ordinance for Florida Keys waters. In my opinion, should such an ordinance be enacted in the Keys, it would only regulate vessels that remained at anchor more than 30 days in a regulated harbor, after which time the vessel would have to provide evidence of seaworthiness and holding tank pump out.

District 8 Lenworth Gordon, District Director It is my honor to report to you as Director of District 8 this year... after an introduction at Palm Coast Yacht Club by Joe Dowdell, our Southeastern Vice President, I was well

received and voted in by the District 8 Board. I was sworn in at the District 8 Annual Meeting in November 2011. Here the District President presents a thank you plaque to Palm Coast Yacht Club.



The new officers for 2012 were also sworn in after which we went about the business revisiting issues surrounding the rebuilding of the membership base for District 8. We made efforts to streamline our communications. We are receiving support for updating the website and will gradually transition our newsletter "The Gulf Stream" to electronic media.

Renee Gordon, IOBGA International & IOBG Humanitarian Foundation Treasurer, and I made a presentation from the IOBGHF, which was well received, and a commitment was made by Frank D. Hutchinson, IOBG District 8 President, to forward a contribution to the foundation.

I had an opportunity to visit the "Florida Council of Yacht Clubs" meeting at Bradenton Yacht club in November 2011. I found here that there are members of IOBG in leadership positions and that there is an undercurrent to reestablish IOBG among all Florida clubs and we see a bright future to reenlist most, if not all of those IOBG Chapters we lost.

In December we visited the Marathon Yacht Club for one of the IOBG sponsored events. Past President Vern Bendson and his First Lady Linda Bendson were honored guests. This event was a remarkable presentation and could be a flagship event for IOBG internationally; "Lighting of the Fleet" in December.





Marathon Yacht Club kicks off the Winter Holiday Season with the formal "Lowering of the Flag Ceremony" followed by cannon shots to end the ceremony and to signal the lighting of the fleet. These vessels dockside showed off their seasonal decorations with background of music and a judging where the winners were rewarded with prizes during dinner at the club. The mermaid shown, was the



winner for 2011. This is also a "Blue Gavel" fundraiser. I will have to solicit this program for the IOBG Foundation this year.

We have an itinerary for visiting as many clubs as our time and resources will allow us and are committed to supporting IOBG International Southeast Vice President Joe Dowdell in any way we can. I would also like to thank him publicly for his kind introduction and mentorship.

I explained the recent history and current plans for District 18 at the Annual Convention in Windsor, Ontario Canada in November last year. District 18 at one time had over 200 members, and its leadership persuaded the Southeast Area Vice Presidents to not get too involved in

their activities. When in 2007 the District Director passed away suddenly, and the Treasurer resigned, the void in leadership resulted in the District 18 treasury being sent to the International Operations Center until such time as elections could be held and the newly elected officers could start the rebuilding process.

I have corresponded with Buzz Bisanz and talked to Mike Barbrow and Randy Blaylock and confirmed they are willing to stand as officers for election by ballot of the District 18 membership this year. Dues notices were sent out by the IOC in January, and an election is planned as soon as the names and current addresses of the members paying dues this year have been ascertained. The IOC has offered to print the mailing labels.

Clothing and Accessories		Approved Vendors
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International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President Ethel Keith

Greetings from your President!

Oh! The southern hospitality on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is indescribable! We were all very comfortable in Biloxi and the friendliness is something we are all talking about. "Y'all come back" is something we look forward to.

The hotel with its deluxe rooms and the continental breakfast served daily was something each of us enjoyed. An outline of services and amenities was provided for each of us.

The many restaurants with all of their great southern dishes: gumbo, crayfish (or as the locals call it Crawfish), and other sumptuous foods that some of us had not experienced before, were available in abundance. What a treat!

Our meeting went well on Friday and on Saturday we spent the day enjoying the Mardi Gras with its beautiful floats, musical bands, and oh the beautiful beads of all shapes and all sizes and so many different colors!

The newly rebuilt yatch club in Biloxi, (which replaces the one destroyed by Hurricane Katrina), is simply beautiful! Its very friendly members greeted us warmly when we arrived for a dinner of either steak, fish, chicken or shrimp. It was hard to choose, but I'll rate the dinner an A+.

Sorry some of you missed out, but we look forward to seeing you in Portland, Oregon June 6 - 9, 2012. The Rosarians are celebrating 100 years of activities in June. Let's all join in on the fun. Remember "Run Longer, Run Stronger" on increasing your membership. See you in June!

District 15 Karin Coburn, President Thank you to all who volunteered in 2011 and I hope you will do so again in 2012.

I am very fortunate to serve with Vice President Gary Smith and Treasurer Dawn Nemoy, two very talented and bright people. With their help, we will have an

exceptional 2012 year. Somehow last year I found myself as Vice President and this year as President - Karin Coburn (Oceanside YC), all because I wanted a name tag (right Dawn?).

Recently the IOBG and the Auxiliary held a joint meeting to begin planning our combined events for 2012. The Auxiliary had the Spouses Seminar on January 21 at Mission Bay YC and is planning a combined event by IOBG and Auxiliary "Leap into IOBG" get-together at Gary and Kathy Smith's home on March 11th to welcome newcomers to the IOBG and Auxiliary. Other items in the works are: a Summer Party, a San Juan Capistrano train trip, a wine tasting & lunch and the last event of 2012, the installation dinner.

We will be meeting again soon to complete the 2012 calendar of events.

Maintain those friendships you've made and make new friends as well. I would encourage all those eligible to become IOBGA members.

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