

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

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August 2012

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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2012

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Meeting



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President Stephen Willing



The Portland Regional Meeting has come and gone, and what a great weekend it was! The IOBG, IOBGHF, IOBGA and E board meetings went very well, and the attendance was high. IOBG membership is up slightly, with clear indication that the

Districts that are the most active have gained the most membership. It bears repeating that the more effort that is given towards District activity, the greater the results. The summer season is now here, it's not too late to have a bar-b-que or some other event to support the organization. Financially, we are on track to be within budget, which is always a good situation for our future. The charge for receiving the LOG newsletter while not ideal was necessary due to the high cost of postage. Some Districts have been making copies for those without computer access. So far, all indications are that this system is working, and at a great savings to the organization.

The Royal Rosarians celebrated 100 years of the service to the City of Portland (the City of Roses) this year. In the last 100 years, 2,300 people from all over the world have been recognized with Honorary Knighthood in the Realm of Rosaria. This year 50 people were knighted to celebrate the centennial, including President-Elect Chuck Browning and myself. Also honoured were Admirals from the United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and the Royal Canadian Navy; the Director General of the Secretariat Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Republic of China, and a 100 year old retired Portland Police Inspector.

During the Royal Rosarian Centennial Ball, attended by over 500 people, the 40+ IOBG & IOBGA members present were asked to stand, and were recognized with a hearty round of applause. The recognition that we received throughout the weekend had to be seen to be believed. Shirley and I were asked several times, where we called home. We were astounded when we answered Windsor, Ontario, and they immediately responded, "you're Steve and Shirley Willing, from the International Order of the Blue Gavel, welcome to Portland". This kind of publicity is beneficial to the reputation of the IOBG, as the only International Past Commodores Organization.



Since the movie "The Bucket List" was released a couple of years ago, most people have been making their own list of places to visit. I would recommend that each IOBG member add the Portland Regional Meeting to your own bucket list. Visits to the Portland Yacht Club, the Columbia River Yacht Club, the Rose Parade, Knighting Ceremony and Ball make this a worthy addition to your list. Speaking of bucket list, why not add the IOBG Annual Meeting in October to your list of things to do. The costs are reasonable and the Maryland area is historic, beautiful, and welcoming. Hope to see you there.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2012 - 2013

The IOBG Nominating Committee has made the following nominations for Officers for the year 2012-2013.

The election shall take place at the Annual Meeting to be held in Edgewood, Maryland on Saturday, October 20, 2012.

The Nominations are:

President	Chuck Browning, District 27 (automatic as per bylaws)
President Elect	Gary McGrath, District 19
First Vice President	Joel Kay, District 7
Second Vice President	Joe Dowdell, District 8
Immediate Past President	Stephen H. Willing, District 25
Treasurer	Marshall Nemoy, District 15
Executive Secretary	Mary Eiffert, District 1
Northeastern Vice President	David Grove, District 27
Northwestern Vice President	Mary Nye Meyers, District 1
North Central Vice President	Tony Durieux, District 7
Southwestern Vice President	Rosalie Davis-Green, District 11
Southeastern Vice President	Lenworth Gordon, District 8
District 50 Director (East of Mississippi River)	Mark Vadaj
District 51 Director (West of Mississippi River)	Walt Kadyk

Respectfully Submitted:

Vern Bendsen, Past President & Chairman
Stephen Willing, President
Ray Thompson, Past President
Eastside Member: Thomas Ellis
Westside Member: James Coburn



*President - Elect
Chuck Browning*



Another impressive job by District 5, Thank you. I really enjoyed myself. The Knighting Ceremony and the Queens Garden Party was a grand affair and very impressive, they made Blue Gavel members feel at home with their hospitality



The weather was a little cool, but I still got a chance to see the beautiful Northwest country. We traveled through Oregon, Washington to British Columbia we especially enjoyed visiting the 2008 Olympic site and traveling by Ferry back South to Vancouver and Victoria. The blue lakes and the snow covered mountains peaks were beautiful.

I am looking forward to our visit to Venice Yacht Club in Florida which is the location for our February meeting. You will see more details in a later issue of the IOBG Lighthouse and LOG newsletter.

Don't forget to join us in Baltimore, MD for our annual IOBG Convention. Everything has been planned; the schedule is out so start putting your trip together and joins us at the beautiful Maryland Golf and Country Club for an evening of fun. You also have been invited to three local yacht clubs. Details are on the web, www.iobg.org and listed in the Lighthouse newsletter. I hope to see you there.





INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

2012 Annual Meeting Time & Events

October 17 – 21, 2012

Wednesday, October 17

Registration –	Hotel	03:00 – 08:00 PM
Hospitality Room	(Hotel Activity Room)	04:00 – 08:00 PM
Dinner		(On your own)

All Meetings – Winter Uniform

Thursday, October 18

Registration -	Hotel	08:00 – 11:00 AM
IOBG Executive Committee	(Hotel Activity Room)	09:00 – 11:30 AM
IOBGA Executive Committee	(Bush River Yacht Club)	09:00 – 11:30 AM
HF Meeting	Bush River Yacht Club	09:00 - 11:30 AM
Bus Trip	Inner Harbor Lunch & Sightseeing	12:00 – 04:00 PM (Y. C. Casual)
Bus Trip	Crescent Yacht Club Cocktails & Dinner	05:00 – 08:00 PM
Hospitality Room	(Hotel Activity Room)	09:00 – 11:30 PM

All Meetings – Winter Uniform

Friday, October 19

Registration -	Hotel	08:00 – 11:00 AM
IOBG Meeting	Hotel Activity Room	09:00 – 11:30 AM
IOBGA Meeting	Bush River Yacht Club	09:00 – 11:30 AM
Ladies Poker Run	City of Bel Air	12:00 – 04:00 PM
Men (Bus trip)	City of Havre De Grace / Otter Point Y C	12:00 – 04:00 PM
Dinner	Bush River Yacht Club	07:00 – 09:00 PM (Y. C. Casual)
Hospitality Room	(Hotel Activity Room)	09:00 – 11:30 PM

All Meetings – Winter Uniform

Saturday, October 20

Registration	Hotel	09:00 – 10:00 AM
IOBG Meeting	Hotel Activity Room	09:00 – 11:45 AM
IOBGA Meeting	Bush River Yacht Club	09:00 – 11:45 AM
Lunch (Box)	Hotel/Bush River YC	12:00 – 01:30 PM
IOBG Meeting <i>Continued</i>		01:30 – 03:00 PM
Hospitality Room	Hotel Activity Room	03:30 – 05:00 PM

Installation Dinner/Dance – Maryland Golf & Country Club 07:00 – 11:30 PM **(Formal)**
(Hors d'oeuvres, Open Bar and Dinner/Dance)

Sunday, October 21 Regional Meeting (if required) 09:00 – 10:00 AM

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.



IOBG Annual Meeting

October 18-21, 2012
Edgewood, Maryland

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM



Comfort Inn & Suites
410 698-7222

2112 Emmorton Park Road
Edgewood, MD 21040

PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY FOR RESERVATIONS AT 410-670-6006.

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

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

To guarantee your reservation, please include a credit card number and all information. The space and rate cannot be guaranteed after **September 26, 2012**. All cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival.



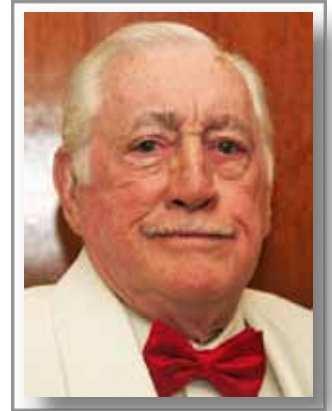
DIRECTIONS:

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 HARBOR 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

First Vice President
Gary McGrath



At the last meeting, as you may recall, I talked about getting new memberships, both individual and Chapters. I also talked about retaining present membership.

I have given much thought to this subject, as I am sure many of you have, and I have come to the conclusion that the best way to retain membership is by strengthening the individual Chapters. How can we do this? Well we can start by having the District Directors go back to their Districts and encourage their Yacht Club Chapters to take a more active role in their Yacht Clubs. For example, have their Chapter put on a yearly function such as a Mother's day brunch, an Easter Breakfast, a barbeque or even conduct Opening Day of Yachting Ceremonies. Maybe even have Chapters host a Blue Blazer dinner at their club and invite neighboring Yacht Clubs and Districts.

In addition to those events, there is another area where Blue Gavel could be of great assistance. Past President Vern Bendsen has suggested a Yacht Club Management Seminar conducted by Blue Gavel. In California, we have two such Seminars. One by District 15 in San Diego, and another by the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association of Northern California. Some of you may have the same thing in your areas. However, not to tread on their programs, but I feel that we (Blue Gavel) could conduct Yacht Club Etiquette Seminars at our clubs or, by invitation, to other clubs who may be interested. I have conducted New Member Orientation at my home yacht club (which covered YC etiquette as well as yacht club rules and procedures). I conducted this class every two months in Dress Uniform of the Season, with all the props (Officers burgees, stars, and shoulder boards) and I also instructed them on Yacht Club tradition. This would be a program that would not conflict with the other Associations programs and would bring Blue Gavel Recognition.

I agree with Vern in that we should create a program (four to six hours in duration) that our P/C's can present to their Yacht Clubs or to other Yacht Clubs as needed. The program would teach Officer recognition, flag recognition and etiquette, and yacht club tradition. Included in that program would be a section on Blue Gavel and how you become a member (by Invitation only).

In closing, I feel that if we can get our Chapters active, it will help increase our District attendance and create more interest in Blue Gavel.



Second Vice President, Joel Kay




The Spring Regional Meeting in Portland is now behind us and a summer of happy and safe boating season is here. The meeting in Portland was most interesting as we covered a variety of subjects, and resolved some important issues. I also came away with a good feeling that the Humanitarian Foundation, under the presidency of Bob Howe, will begin a new, strong and successful program.

As liaison to the Auxiliary, I am a bit concerned about its future, but am hopeful that under President Ethel Keith, it, too, will begin to strengthen.

The most interesting part of the weekend was the Rose Festival. This time, Nancy and I attended nearly all the events. Meeting the interesting people who worked so hard in putting on the event was a highlight. The Saturday night Ball was wonderful and we had a great time. My wish is that more Blue Gavel members come to the Rose Festival weekend and partake of this most festive event. One does not have to like roses or flowers to have a great time as there are so many terrific events from which to choose.

Nancy and I are looking forward to seeing as many members as possible, seeing old friends and meeting new ones in Edgewood, Maryland this October. Tony Durieux and I, along with the Executive Board of District 7 are attempting to get as many members in the District to come to the Annual Meeting. It is less than a day's drive from anywhere in District 7.

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IOBG Blazer emblems are authorized for sale by Commodore Insignia. These emblems have the Blue Gavel Burgee on the left staff and the Commodore's club on the right staff. They are available in a white or black background and the price is \$20.95 each plus shipping and tax.

BLAZER EMBLEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE AUXILIARY

To order: Send this order form with a color sample of club burgee (business card or letterhead - we may have burgee on file) to Commodore Insignia. You can telephone your order using (800)-315-7485 or our Fax: (775) 782-4003.

Quantity	Black	White	Unit Price	Total
IOBG Blazer Emblem				
Auxiliary Blazer Emblem				

Please Print

I am a paid up member of IOBG District # _____ Yacht Club _____ Year _____
 IOBGA District # _____

Signature _____ Ship to: _____

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

Contact Phone Number: _____
 Email Addresses: _____



Treasurer Marshall Nemoy

The financial statements presented at The Regional Meeting in Portland are as of April 30, 2012 and the results of operations for the four months then ended.

2012 appears to be continuing the progress we have made in the last two years. Our net income as of April 30, 2012 is \$42,671, which is \$2,838 better than budgeted and \$3,214 more than was earned by this date last year. Dues collected are \$2,736 more than budgeted and \$2,500 more than last year. Our total expenses to date are \$10.37 more than budgeted but \$455.91 less than last year. In 2012 and 2011 the meeting schedule remained the same with three meetings; February, June and October.

Our Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2012 shows our cash position to be \$134,068, which is \$11,784 higher than last year on the same date. Our total liabilities have been reduced \$1,813 to \$5,553 and the members equity has improved by last years net income plus the current year's net income for a total of \$128,814. In short, at this time, the organization is in a very healthy financial position.

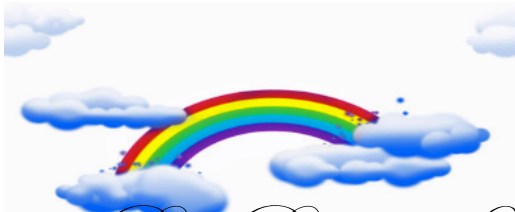
All operating areas within the organization appear to be functioning within normal limits of the budget and year-to-year comparisons except for *The Blue Gavel Log*. The newsletter is \$1,251 lower than budget and \$2,734 less than last year. The budget variance is due to a change in the publishing schedule that resulted from the change in the meeting schedules. This year *The Blue Gavel Log* was published in May. However, the budget was constructed with an expected publishing date in April. Accordingly printing and postage appear way under budget and the comparison to last year - which was published in April - is misleading.

The Lighthouse continues to be accepted by the membership. The cost is \$90 per quarter to send out a brief newsletter and *The Blue Gavel Log* when it is published. Because of the acceptance by the membership and in an effort to not raise dues, the Board of Directors voted last October to have a \$10 subscription charge for those members who wanted a printed copy of *The Blue Gavel Log*. To date we have received such subscriptions from 26 members. That constitutes 1.53% of the paid members to date. Before we all celebrate, it has become apparent that many members do not know they will not receive a printed copy of the Log unless they pay the subscription fee.

The membership statistics presented at the Portland Regional Meeting were prepared on May 31, 2012 and shows we had 1,703 paid members as of that date. That is 12 more than the same date in 2011. Compared to last year the variances from year to year are not as dramatic as they were last year but are still noteworthy.

We are going to run out of the paper membership cards after this membership year, which ends on September 30, 2012. We have been investigating a plastic membership card for the 2013 year. The cost per card has come down to an estimated \$.48 per card but it will require a special printer that will cost \$1,400. The information was presented to the Executive Committee and members at the Portland Regional Meeting. We will continue to investigate alternatives. Watch the Lighthouse for updates on this project.





Past President Vern Bendson



When you follow your RAINBOW, you usually end up in places and doing things you never thought of. By doing that, time goes too fast when you are busy, doing stuff you like. Where did the time go? It seems that it was only a few months ago, I was sitting in the audience at our Blue Gavel Regional and Annual meetings. Then I was elected to be your 2nd Vice President. Now, it is five years later.

In my first report to you as 2nd Vice President, I explained why my theme is, "Follow Your Rainbow". A rainbow is a band of colors due to the reflection and refraction of its light. That describes our IOBG very well.

We - the IOBG - are a group of recreational boaters who band together in their yacht clubs. Through our yacht clubs, we reflect the boating image to the society we live in.

We refract the conditions of the boating community; meaning we change directions to do what is best for our boaters in the ever changing National, State and Local political scene.

Today, I can say that the IOBG has done just that. We have a better communication system to keep our members up to date with the ever changing Federal, State and Local rules and regulations that affect the recreational boater.

And we are better at sharing information with each other on what we are doing within our yacht clubs and communities.

Positive changes have been made within our organization, such as:

- * Using our web site to publish the LOG
- * Started the Lighthouse publication to communicate with the membership on an as needed basis
- * Revised our Bylaws
- * Revised our Policy and Procedures Manual



This is my last report to you as a member of the Executive Committee. It has been an interesting time, frustrating at times, but a very satisfying and positive experience with much FUN included.

Above all, I want to thank each and every one of you for the privilege and the honor for letting me go up the International line to be your President, and for your friendship throughout the years.

Thank You, to one and all.





US Sailing Representative

Bill Thayer



US Sailing's Olympic Committee selects six to 2012 U.S. Paralympics Team. Jen French and JP Creignou, Mark LeBlanc and Paul Callahan, Tom Brown and Bradley Johnson were selected to the 2012 U.S Paralympics Team-Sailing.

What's new in the 2012 ISAF Offshore Special Regulations. US Sailing prescribes that the requirement for a highly visible colored material or patch on 50% of the storm Gib in all ISAF OSR is only a recommendation in the U.S until January, 2014 then the requirement of new storm sails shall apply. This requirement grandfathers all storm sails made before January 2014.

Gill Offshore Protection Designed for Women by Women. Gill has launched the Women's OSI Suit, which consists of a jacket and trousers specifically for women, built for the worst conditions imaginable.

Two Raileys; Two Medals? Paige and Zack Railey will be gunning for gold in two different classes at the same games. That's new.

Sperry Top Sider was named title sponsor of the United States Sailing Team in the Olympic Year effective immediately through December 31, 2016, which will be through the 2016 games in Rio.

US Sailing is conducting an independent study of the tragic grounding of the Sydney 37, "Low Speed Chase" during the 2012 Full Crew Farallones Race April 14th. Latitude 38 had a great article by one of the survivors, Brian Chong, that corrected many early myths.

ISAF confirms final events and equipment selections for the 2016 Olympics in Rio. They confirmed that Kiteboarding will replace Windsurfing for men's and women's board events and confirmed the equipment that will be used for Women's Skiff and Mixed MultiHull events.

US Sailing will conduct an independent study into the tragedy on the Newport to Ensanada race concerning the Hunter 376, "Agean". Many rumors were published, but their SPOT Track showed that the "Agean" remained on the same SE course at a speed of 6 knots from 10:15 PM April 27 until 1:30 AM the next morning when she apparently hit the North Coronado Island.

Our Photographers...

Mike Billington

Bill McKinney



Marybeth Thayer



Thank You for sharing your pictures with us. You help make IOBG memories.

District 75 - New Zealand comes to San Diego

Tuesday, June 26, District 15 hosted District 75 (New Zealand) Director Keith Wardell and his wife Patsy to a "Mix and Meet" Dinner party at Southwestern Yacht Club in San Diego. Twenty-two District 15 members were in attendance including International Officers Marshall Nemoy, SWVP Rosalie Davis-Green and Marybeth and Bill Thayer.



A few months ago when Marybeth learned that Keith and Patsy were coming to the U.S. she began working with Keith (actually Patsy) on how we could get together. They scheduled a few days in San Diego after their Florida visit and it all came together. A lot of good conversation, a little wine and some good food were had by all.



Keith addressed the group on the recovery in Christchurch from the earthquake and thanked them all for the IOBGHF Grant to help restore their sailing programs. Keith showed a map of their area in Christchurch which is a protected bay much like Mission Bay and with a lot of the same type of sailing programs. Marshall took them out to Mission Bay Yacht Club on Thursday to show them around.

Needless to say we all invited to South Island New Zealand and to stay in their home, but not all at once.



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

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

Northwestern V.P.
Mary Nye Meyers



Districts

1 & 5
2, 4 & 24
Blue Gavel Canada



The annual Summer Picnic held in Anacortes, Washington was well attended by 35 members of District 1. Those in attendance were treated to a warm welcome by the Port of Anacortes Town Crier and cannon salute. This was followed by a terrific TGIF and BBQ hosted by the Anacortes Yacht Club. Attendees enjoyed the Farmer's Market, the City of Anacortes, Music on the Pier and a social hour on the docks. They then adjourned to their favorite restaurants for dinner and more entertainment.

A short business meeting updated attendees on upcoming events, including the Annual Fall Meeting & Change of Watch to be held at the Tacoma Outboard Association on September 21-23, 2012.

District 1 has continued their commitment to going "paperless" with voting to have the District membership book created and distributed "electronically". As always, telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected and exclusive distribution will be to authorized District 1 members only.



Despite our wide geographical distribution of Chapters across the entire state of Washington, our meetings are still at the highest level in recent history averaging between 65-85 members. Through the work of the current and upcoming Board, we are hoping to increase those numbers to an all time high.

My thanks to District 1 President Phil Osterli and District 1 Director David Kutz for their input and dedication.

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 successful quarterly newsletter, Columbia Current, continues to be an excellent marketing tool and provides members with an up to date calendar of events, reports on the regional and annual meetings, such as Windsor, Ontario, messages from the Officers, and a great story on a new Columbia River Yacht Club Chapter activity, The Blue Gavel Cooks, complete with custom aprons and a cooking gig the first Thursday of every month for Men's Night. The 2012 Roster has recently rolled off the press in high quality form and will be profitable again this year. Additionally, we have made contributions in support of the IOBGHF, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Sea Scouts and CRYA's Daughters of Neptune. We celebrate our members, presently at 50, and the fine team on the board of District 5.

Blue Gavel Is Called Into Service

On April 21st District 5 of the International Order of the Blue Gavel was called upon by the Oregon State Parks Department to assist in the installation of a new fourteen foot section of the gangway at Hadley Landing in the Multnomah Channel. For the past several years District 5 has participated in the "Adopt a Park" program for the Oregon State Parks Dept. by having a Clean-Up Cruise to Hadley Landing to do just that. Each year the group does repairs to the docks and picnic area as well as a thorough cleaning of the area including cutting weeds, grass and berry bushes. The parks department provided hand tools, wheel barrows and gravel that the group will spread throughout the picnic area and on the adjoining trails.



This year the long awaited section of gangway was ready to be put into place and Blue Gavel members were eager to help with this public service project. Fifteen members signed up for the event and with ample man power the gangway went into position in no time. 2012 marks the sixth year Blue Gavel members have performed this public service clean-up of Hadley's Landing in conjunction with Oregon State Parks. Participants can bring their boats and make a fun weekend out of the Clean-Up. All summer hundreds of boaters enjoy the amenities of this dock and picnic area and our sign hangs proudly proclaiming Blue Gavel's efforts with Oregon State Parks.

The February Social at Kennedy School Restaurant & Brewery included happy hour, a short business meeting, and a sumptuous Italian dinner with the theme "Rockin' Roses," the theme of this year's Portland Rose Festival. The meeting covered plans for District 5's hosting of the IOBG Regional Meeting that has been held every June for over 40 years in conjunction with the Rose Festival.

A Casual D-5 Happy Hour was held in April at Tyee Yacht Club for all current members and Past Commodores who haven't yet joined and current Commodores who will be eligible when their terms expire. It was a sunny afternoon and everyone enjoyed the newly completed bar at Tyee and Gina's Catering gourmet snacks. Mary Nye Meyers, NW International IOBG Vice President, came down from the Puget Sound area to meet members and prospective members.

The Leukemia Cup Regatta and Power Boat Scavenger Hunt were held June 9 on the Columbia River. The Leukemia Cup is part of a national fundraiser to support blood cancer research. Portland YC and Rose City YC are co-hosted and the organizing committee includes D-5 Supply Officer Mike Stainsby (co-Chair), his wife Mary and Gayle Timmerman. They are working with the local Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to make the event a success and ensure it becomes an annual part of the Columbia River boating calendar. It is open to all boaters, power and sail. District 5 is also a contributing and participating sponsor.

The Spring Regional Meeting was held in Portland Thursday June 7 with activities through Saturday June 9 in conjunction with the Portland Rose Festival. This year we celebrated the Centennial Anniversary of the Royal Rosarians. Thursday lunch and meetings were held at the Portland Yacht Club. Friday morning was the Knighting Ceremony where our IOBG incoming President is traditionally knighted by the Queen of Rosario. On Friday afternoon attendees enjoyed Columbia River Yacht Club's hospitality with boat rides, a social hour and a dinner. Saturday is the Rose Parade with special IOBG seating in the coliseum where the parade starts. The event was capped off by the Grand Ball at the Hilton Hotel on Saturday night.

IOBG 2012 Annual Meeting: Bill McKinney, District 5 President, his wife Margo and my wife Gayle and I look forward to attending the annual meeting at Edgewood, Maryland, on Chesapeake Bay, October 18 - 21, 2012..

Southwestern V.P.

Rosalie Davis-Green



Districts

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

Districts in the Southwest Region run the gamut from thriving to barely alive.

District 16 Director Nancy Rowe inducted several past commodores in to IOBG at the Opening days in Channel Islands Harbor. She invited me to attend and participate with her in the inductions. It was delightful to meet new people. Channel Islands has a boat parade on the Sunday morning of Opening Day weekend. Many organizations participate including Blue Gavel. Unfortunately extreme high winds caused the harbor patrol to cancel the parade for safety. Although we were disappointed no one disagreed with the decision. District 16 is considering various local charity projects to support. We appointed an advisory board which has helped generate new ideas for activities and has infused new enthusiasm into the District. We are going in a good direction.

District 21 is moving forward slowly. They have 51 members and are in the process of planning activities.

District 51 Director Walt Kadyk reports last year there were 5 members. He doesn't know if there are any members this year. He does not get any feedback from his communications to members. Walt reports he will continue to attend opening day ceremonies on behalf of Blue Gavel and make sure the word is getting out.

I have attended numerous opening day ceremonies throughout southern California choosing the ones the District Directors requested I attend, as well as, others I previously had not attended. In the next few months I will arrange to visit the northern California Districts. I encourage the Districts, provide consultation when asked and keep planting suggestions hoping some will germinate.



District 6
Bruce Ladeira, President

IOBG District 6 supported a Wounded Warrior "On the Water Day" at Hickam AFB Harbor in Hawaii on 26 April 2012.



Each month, Hickam Harbor and volunteers from various organizations host soldiers from the Army Warrior Transition Battalion stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Participating soldiers have either physical, emotional – post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or a combination of these wounds and are nearing the point of being able to transition back into the active force or back out into the civilian community. Providing them with an opportunity to experience many of the unique activities particular to the environment of Hawaii is both physically challenging and provides them with ideal therapy with their emotional transition back into the larger Army and society. In addition to 18 soldiers from the Wounded Warrior Battalion, 4 family members and 2 therapists were able to attend this event.

District 6 Report Continued...

This month IOBG District 6 members came together and sponsored one of these events. Our volunteer staff prepared and positioned equipment near the water and prepared sailboats, organized participants to participate in paddle boarding, Kayaking and motor boats with towable / inflatable rafts. IOBG members helped to ensure that all soldiers had proper safety gear, were briefed on the equipment, worked with sailing instructors and motor craft staff and watched over the soldiers during the water events. All of the Wounded Warriors were encouraged to participate in the various events as you could see some hesitation by a few, however with gentle coaching and encouragement in coordination with the units therapists that had accompanied them, all were soon actively "On the water".



The day's events culminated with IOBG members providing ice cold water and numerous soft drinks /Gatorade and contributing to a luncheon. This provided a unique opportunity to chat with the soldiers and share stories from the activities and life in general – a critical part of their rehabilitation. IOBG members then helped with cleaned up and stored all of the boats and equipment. A long but truly rewarding day!

District 10 LaVon Plumlee, District Director

Our District 10 IOBG 2012 Bridge continues on a steady and energetic course that has been enjoyed by all our members. We presently have 84 members, including seven newly inducted Past Commodores. It was our pleasure to induct these Past Commodores during Opening Day ceremonies at the local yacht clubs.

District 10 is a very active district and 2012 is proceeding in the same upward direction. Activities are hosted monthly at member yacht clubs and popular recreational venues of interest to our members. In addition to our usual functions, we have launched an exciting guest speakers program for the enjoyment of our members at upcoming luncheons, a cruise-out, a visit to Palm Springs, and a tour of the Sea Launch platform in San Pedro.

IOBG Auxiliary: Our newly elected District 10 Auxiliary President, Sally Cohen, is actively encouraging member spouses to join the Auxiliary and participate in ensuring that our events are both memorable and successful. We will be hosting a wine tasting function this summer with all the proceeds donated to the Humanitarian Foundation. District 10 was successful in obtaining Humanitarian Foundation grants for both the Charity Regatta and Huntington Harbour Youth Sailing Foundation last year. We have been challenged by the Humanitarian Foundation to contribute \$1500 this year, and we aim to make this happen.

Communication is vital to our continued success. Our monthly newsletter is enjoyed by our members thanks to the efforts of our newsletter editor, Jon Fults. We have launched a web site and communicate with our members via email.

Membership cards: Our District 10 Board has submitted information concerning upgrading our IOBG membership cards to plastic cards. The information included sources for equipment and costs of implementing. We hope this information is helpful, and we will be available for assistance.

District 11 Sherry Barone, President

A membership appreciation lunch was held on 11 March 2012 at South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club to thank our members for joining IOBG. A nice afternoon with deli, salad and dessert welcomed a rainy afternoon and an enjoyable get together.

Our next event was our first of 5 Windy Q held on 7 May 2012 at Del Rey Yacht Club. This event is where members bring something to BBQ and we provide the fixings including salads, fruit, and drinks. Speaker Bruce Kessler spoke about Fubar "a Fleet Underway to Baja Rally," began in 2007 as a rally allowing boaters in Southern California to enjoy a cruise with fellow powerboat owners along Baja California's coast, finishing in La Paz, Mexico. So far, host clubs have included Del Rey Yacht Club in 2007, San Diego Yacht Club in 2009 and this year's host, Long Beach Yacht Club. Our second Windy Q was held on 12 June 2012 with speaker Cleve Hardaker from Recreational Boaters of California. He spoke about RBOC and its Legislative advocacy efforts at the State Capitol. Cleve's talk was very informative about RBOC's continued efforts on behalf of all boaters. IOBG Sailing in Sundowner Series was held on 15 June 2012 followed by a BBQ.

District 11 Report Continued...

A donation of \$1000 was made to the Santa Monica sailing Foundation towards DRYC Jr sailing scholarship fund for children to learn to sail in the 2012 DRYC summer program.

I attended the IOBG Spring Regional meeting in Portland held at Portland Yacht Club on 7 June 2012. The meeting consisted of review of financial statement, executive, committee, appointed officers and regional reports. During the weekend of events, Columbia River Yacht Club hosted a dinner and tour of the boathouses. It was the 100th anniversary of the Royal Rosarians and we attend many events such as the knighting ceremony and parade. The rainy weather mixed with sunshine did not keep anyone away. The parade had numerous bands and floats in the Grand Floral Parade. The well-known Royal Rosarian Knighting Ceremony was held knighting President Stephen Willing and President-Elect Chuck Browning.



Upcoming events include 15 July 2012 Wine tasting with proceeds benefiting the Junior Sailing Program at Westlake Yacht Club and 3rd Windy Q on 17 July 2012.

District 14
Mike Billington, District Director

District 14 is still in the rebuilding stage with plans for events in the near future. We hope to have all of our District 14 members active with the planning for the future.

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.

District 15
Eileen Van Winkle, District Director

Once again District 15th began the year with our yacht club Management Seminar only this year we added an important new subject. Past District Director Jim Colburn gave a very timely, informative, and much needed presentation on California's ABC rules (our liquor laws). It was very well received and a lively question and answer session followed. All agreed it should be included in future seminars.



We had special guests this year, Rosalie Green, VP Southwest and again Vern and Linda Bendsen were in attendance.

Continuing in the mode of last year's successful events held at individual members' homes like the ice cream social hosted by the Colburns and the end of the summer burger bash at the Wold's, the Board chose to do the same for our new member reception. Billed as "leap into the new year", as a way to meet new friends and see old ones, all members, prospective members and current Commodores were invited. Kathy Smith,

Secretary, District 15 and her husband Gary, Vice President IOBGA, graciously offered their home. And since it has a \$100 million dollar view of the San Diego skyline and harbor, it was rapidly and unanimously accepted. Again Jim and Karin Colburn stepped up and assisted the Smiths with the party.

Unfortunately my husband and I were out of town and missed the fantastic event but we were certainly not missed since there were approximately 80 in attendance.

(Continued...)

District 15 Report Continued...

District 15 enjoys partnering with other clubs in charity events. This year Coronado Yacht Club, Coronado Cays Yacht Club and Navy Yacht Club of San Diego held the "amazing race" to benefit Make-A-Wish. This is a fun bike ride with stops along the way that provided a few extra challenges for the riders.

IOBG entered a team of ten riders and provided volunteers to man some stops and assisted in selling raffle tickets.

Also during Spring, two "dinner and a play" events were offered to all members.

We have been contacted by Dr. Disraeli, IOBG Past President from Southwestern Yacht Club for assistance with the U.S. Disabled Sailing Championships which will be held for the first time on the West Coast. The Board will be considering this and other events at our meeting.

With our strong Board and close coordination with IOBGA District 15 is in a great position for the remainder of this year...and forward.

District 19

Peter Oswald, District Director

2012 has been a busy year for IOBG District 19. We started the year with a joint meeting with IOBG District 14 in February at the Pittsburg Yacht Club. Our District President PC Ray Mitchell thanked our hosts and recognized PC Commodore Carol Buyvid of the Pittsburg Yacht Club. This meeting was a joint induction of new members for both Districts. Eight new members of District 19 and 3 new members of District 14 were sworn in to membership. We also recognized a new Chapter to District 19, the Capitol City Yacht Club and swore in new members from the Chapter

In May, our District cruised to the Village West Chapter Yacht Club. Two new members who could not attend our February District meeting were sworn into office. PC Roger Beebe gave a presentation on our much improved District website. We can be found at iobgdelta19.org. Members present critiqued the website and gave some new ideas for PC Beebe to incorporate. In addition, a new four-member committee was formed to contact Past Commodores who are no longer District members with the goal of enticing them to reinstate their membership. PC Fred Goodman was appointed editor of our District newsletter, the Gavel Tidings. Our newsletter can be found on our website.

District 19 has committed to raising funds for the upcoming induction of our District 19 PC Gary McGrath to International IOBG President in 2014. We kick off this effort by holding a Lobster and Prime Rib extravaganza on July 18th at the Driftwood Yacht Club. This event is spearheaded by our District 19 Vice President John Anthony.

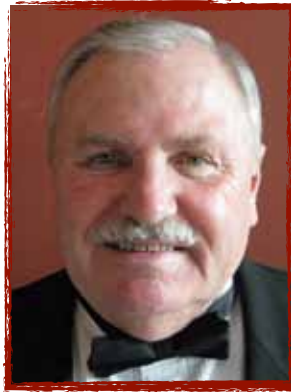
On August 4th we will be holding our annual BBQ at the Meyer Ranch, home of our Past President and International Legal Officer Herman Meyer and Sue Meyer, President of our District 19 Auxiliary. This is always a well-attended District function with slabs of barbequed beef. At this District meeting we will nominate District 19 officers for 2013.

Our Change of Watch will be held October 13 to induct our 2013 District and Auxiliary Officers and to welcome PC John Anthony as our new 2013 District President.

In addition to the above events, IOBG District 19 has been involved in two issues that face California boaters—the proposed tunnel under the California Delta which will transport more California northern water to southern California and will significantly affect Delta waters, and the proposal to absorb the California Department of Boating and Waterways into the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Both District 19 and 14 eagerly await the America's Cup races here in the San Francisco Bay Region.

North Central V.P.
Tony Durieux



Districts
7, 9, 23 & 25

District 7
Tony Durieux, District Director

As usual District 7 had a fast start into 2012. They began the year by attending the Spring meeting with the Interlake Yachting Association followed by attending the Greater Cleveland Boating Association's annual banquet. Then, we held, our well known recruitment get together, District-7's Annual Blue Blazer. It was held at One Bratenahl Place in Cleveland Ohio and hosted, as in the past, by Past District 7 President Neil Vanum and Lady Sue.

We had a large turnout of current District 7 Commodores & Vice Commodores for our Blue Blazer Social. This year, we were fortunate to have as our guest, International President Steve Willing and Lady Shirley. They were an unexpected surprise for District 7.

President Mark Vadaj and Lady Robin, our current District 7 Auxiliary President, did a superb job of explaining the history of the International Order of the Blue Gavel and District 7. The evening was topped off with the accepting of several signed petitions and the administering of the Blue Gavel oath.

District President Vadaj held a night on the water aboard the Nautica Queen, as a District 7 get together. The evening was perfect on the waters of Lake Erie and the outing was a great success.

Next District 7 joined with the The Greater Cleveland Boating Association for the annual Memorial Day ceremony aboard the USS COD, a World War II submarine moored at the Cleveland, Ohio Harbor. President Vadaj gave a talk, as is customary, for a District 7 President and spoke on the true meaning of Memorial Day, giving praise to our national guardians, the men and women of our armed forces. He then went on to express his thoughts about our local guardians, the men and women who serve us on a daily basis as our police and fire personnel.

District 9
Becky Vincent, District Director

District 9 IOBG held their spring meeting at Bay View Yacht Club on May 20th. For a fundraiser the officers have been selling tickets for a 19-inch High-definition television with DVD player. The winner was drawn on Sunday. The proceeds will be used for our humanitarian projects. We are proud to support the Sailing School at North Cape Yacht Club and always help several young people so they can attend the school. Members will suggest additional organizations or programs for the humanitarian fund this year and we usually try to select three or four to fund in some way. District 9 is very proud to be able to raise money for these projects.

Continued...

District 9 Report Continued...

I was pleased to induct PC Tim Crites as a Member-at-Large into District 9 this spring and Tim hopes to begin a new Chapter of IOBG at Toledo Ice Yacht Club in the future.

Some of the Chapters in District 9 are very active, and work hard to support their individual clubs. Steak roasts, spaghetti dinners, pancake breakfasts, hobo dinners and raffles, just to name a few of the activities that are planned for the summer months.

District 9 was happy to support International President Steve Willing and again quite pleased to have the very successful IOBG convention close to home in Windsor, Ontario last October.

District 25 Sam Bileti, District Director

District 25 held a general membership meeting on April 29, 2012 at Wyandotte Yacht Club. The meeting was very well attended and was followed by a very nice buffet lunch. We raffled off a \$500.00 Weber grill which was won by our Treasurer Jack Berry. The District made just under \$1000.00 as a result.

We are still stressing communication to all our Vice Presidents. We must contact all the Clubs and encourage interaction with other clubs and District 25 as well as other Districts.

We have an E-Board meeting scheduled for June 7, 2012 at 7:00PM at Mariners Boat Club. Vice Commodore Harvey Karpinski, with approval of President Bill Woods, passed out fliers to the clubs in the Anchor Bay Yachting Association inviting all Commodores, Past Commodores, Flag Officers and wives to come out for a social get together and any and all questions will be answered.

There is a good possibility there will be a party later this year (summer) for President Bill Woods. I have contacted several boat clubs in an effort to generate interest in Blue Gavel and am expecting the Vice Presidents to make every effort to generate interest in joining The Blue Gavel.



Northeastern V.P.
David Grove



Districts

3, 12, 20,
26 & 27



District 27 had the pleasure of sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit Vets on the Bay and the Queen of the Chesapeake Scholarship Fund. Two slots were made available to the District thru Humanitarian Fund President Bob Howe for the opportunity to ride aboard the Coast Guard Tall Ship USCGC EAGLE on its transit from anchorage off Annapolis, Maryland to Baltimore, Maryland's Inner Harbor for the 1812 Celebration.

The EAGLE would be mooring among tall ships and grey hulls from around the world that were in Baltimore for the celebration. June 14 dawned bright when our two winners, Russ Bowser and Dahlia Hirsch, plus 30 vets from Walter Reed Medical Center boarded launches at 6AM for the ride out to the EAGLE to enjoy a four hour trip on the Eagle plus a flyover by the Blue Angles while mooring in Baltimore.

Sunday June 3rd. was one of the most important celebrations of the Chesapeake Bay Area. It was the day when all of the members of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association gather at the Maryland Yacht Club to select a new Queen of the Chesapeake. Her term is for one year and she will preside over the one hundred and twenty member clubs. This year that young lady is Lily Vogelsong, former Princess of The Top of the Bay Cruising Association.



Once again IOBG was well represented and we had the great honor to give the new Queen her first "Pin". Presenting to her were President Dennis Taylor, District Director Russ Bowser (taking the photo) and myself.....P.S. Dennis you now owe me an IOBG Pin.

Representing our boating interests on the national front there are a few important items of news that are of concern to all boaters. Past Commodore of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association, Earl Woesche recently attended the National Boating Federation Conference in Oak Brook, Illinois where he reported that the Nations GPS System is no longer under threat from the proposed network planned by the Light Squared. The FCC has withdrawn its conditional approval for the establishment of their network, stating that this would have a profound negative affect on our military, commercial air and the boating industry. Shortly thereafter I have been told that Light Squared declared bankruptcy. I guess it takes a threat to our National Security to overrule the big lobbyists in DC.

District 27 is looking forward to hosting this year's Annual Meeting this October. We are looking forward to seeing many of you back again and meeting many new people. Please make your reservations as soon as possible so as to help with our planning.

My wife and I live five minutes from the Maryland Golf and Country Club and would love to have every one come by for cocktails and some delicious snacks.

Have a Safe, Fun Filled Summer Boating Season.

Southeastern V.P.
Joe Dowdell



Districts
8 & 18

I attended the District 8 Spring Regional meeting at Royal Palm Yacht Club on April 14, 2012. Ten Chapters were represented at the meeting and it was a pleasure meeting all of them. There was a cocktail party and dinner dance on Friday. The business meeting was on Saturday. P/C's Jack Kindsvater, Peter Franck and Bill Pitman, members of the new Pelican Isles Yacht Club Chapter, were introduced.

District Director Lenworth Gordon presented a power point program on the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. The program explained the benefits and advantages of supporting these activities. He announced the program is available for presentation to any Chapter that wishes to show it at club functions for educating members of the purpose and benefit of the organization. It includes examples of the success stories of previous grants made by the Foundation. IOBGA Treasurer Renee Gordon made a brief presentation on behalf of that organization.

Charles Ranson gave the Treasurer's report for Bob Pease, who was out of town. There were 180 members paid. I spoke with Bob Pease just before coming to Portland, and he said that all Chapters have now paid their dues this year except one – Bay Point Yacht Club. With the new Chapter, District 8 membership should now stand at 205.

Art Theobald contacted Hernando Beach Yacht Club regarding their P/C's becoming members. President George Eichmann reminded those in attendance that the Annual District 8 meeting will be at Isles Yacht Club on October 6th. This will be an election of officers meeting. Venice Yacht Club had several members in attendance at the meeting. They explained in detail how their Chapter decided to hold theme dinner parties throughout the year, to benefit their club by raising funds for needed items at the same time raising member's awareness of the Blue Gavel Chapter in the Venice Yacht Club. January's party was "I Love New York" with the food, music and dress in the styles of New York City. The Chapter raffled off a fine art painting and the proceeds were used to benefit the club. The next party will be on July 28th and will be a New Orleans theme with food, music and dress like a takeoff of Mardi Gras. A club member has donated a helicopter trip to lunch on Useppa Island as a prize to be auctioned off to raise money for the club. June and I hope to be able to attend that party. We have plenty of beads to wear which we got at the Mardi Gras parade in Ocean Springs.

I also visited Marco Island Yacht Club on June 15 and 16. This was two nights of parties, dinner and dancing with representatives from 34 Florida yacht clubs in attendance.

Next month I will be going to Naples Yacht Club. Naples has a large Blue Gavel Chapter, which sponsors and administers a huge program awarding scholarships to local high school students with a focus on yacht club employees. The funds are raised through the generous donations of the Naples Yacht Club Members. Over the years hundreds of scholarships totaling over \$250,000 have been awarded.

The big news this report is the Charter Application of Pelican Isles Yacht Club, located on the Florida West Coast near Naples, not to be confused with Pelican Yacht Club near Ft Pierce on the Florida East Coast. Pelican Isles Yacht club was established in 1998. It has 280 members and 14 Past Commodores. There are 186 slips that can accommodate up to 55 foot vessels.

The other big news this period is I received confirmation on May 28 that Venice Yacht Club will be the hosts for the IOBG International Winter Regional meeting February 7, 8 and 9, 2013. In 2011, the Winter Regional Meeting was at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda, FL. Venice is just 33 miles WNW of Punta Gorda, and is located just 80 miles south of Tampa's International Airport or 74 miles north of the regional airport at Ft Myers.

We have had an exciting period in District 8 this spring. I think inducting a new Chapter is as exciting as it gets. However, we continue with many more aggressive methods to develop broader awareness of IOBG activities between Chapters and help maintain the integrity of the office of Past Commodore (IOBG) by acting as a clearing house for information and promotion of their activities. We have featured the Marathon Yacht Club IOBG sponsored Mothers Day brunch here as an example of one successful and highly visible event which also helps to improve their clubs bottom line without infringing on the current ladders operations.



As a whole District 8 has adopted the notion to facilitate the cross pollination of ideas which gives greater incentive for individual chapters to become more involved with their own clubs development indirectly. Other Chapters are currently producing events for father's day, special events featuring New York style cabaret, lighting of the fleet and others. We are looking at making our current Newsletter a vehicle to promote these events throughout the District making our newsletter even more relevant. And, doing so encourages greater opportunities for cruise-ins to those events.

I have contacted every yacht club within the District by e-mail requesting an opportunity to meet the IOBG contact person. After introducing myself I stated that I would like to get to know each Chapter. I asked for permission to share those successes with other Chapters in the District for several reasons. I wanted to share information which will stimulate like practices I other clubs; to develop a calendar of events specific to the Blue Gavel sponsored events hopefully attracting cruise-ins; help IOBG foster goodwill within each club while adding to their clubs bottom line in a non threatening way.

To do this I asked for an opportunity to visit their club during their next Blue Gavel sponsored event, or at their next scheduled meeting. Additionally, I am the current Vice President of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation and would be happy to share the new mission statement in a formal presentation.

Happily, I have received a fair number of responses. One such response was from the Gulf Harbors Yacht Club Chapter, P/C Pierce Pratt, Secretary. He stated that his "IOBG Chapter traditionally supports 3 yearly functions: Spring Formal (just previously held), Annual (13th) Pig Roast (to be held September 2, 2012) and Black & White Ball (to be held October 20, 2012 and we coordinate our yearly Change of Watch. You and other D8 members would be very welcome to attend any of these upcoming events. We publish a monthly newsletter called the 'Soundings'. I have (.jpeg) images of these pubs going back about 10 years. We did have a website for the club but have recently had the site compromised. Let me know if I can be of additional help." Other Chapters have also bridged communications with me and the opportunity now exists for me to encourage renewed participation with IOBG on the District level.

I feel that the simple program outlined above will propel the efforts we have endorsed for reviving interest in IOBG within District 8 and ultimately the International body as well. I have reserved joining a local club to date in spite of the fact I have received several invitations to become a member of their club because, I am researching each Chapter/Club to see where my membership will be of more value to the IOBG interests in that club. Visiting clubs for the first time is now a priority and it serves well as a promotional tool as well as fostering goodwill for the order.

District 18
Submitted by Joe Dowdell, SEVP

District 18 consists of 5 States – Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. In 2011, there were 17 members in District 18. As of June 1, 2012, membership stands at 21 members. A slight increase, but not really significant compared to a high of 202 members in the past. The District 18 membership funds still reside in the International Treasurers hands except for \$1500 that was delivered back to the District 18 Interim Treasurer on March 22, 2010. It has been over two years now and nothing has been spent. Billing is being handled by the IOC.

Half of the District's 2012 members are in one Chapter – Fort Loudoun Yacht Club in Knoxville, TN. It is the home club of the Interim President and Interim Treasurer. They were both planning to travel by boat over Memorial Day Weekend with members of their club and Chattanooga YC through the Tennessee River System and locks to visit Lake Guntersville Yacht Club. They have been talking with me about this since last year, and they were going to try and get their Past Commodores to come back to Blue Gavel.

I spoke to the Interim VP, Buzz Bisanz, who lives in Marietta, GA and is a member of Altoona Yacht Club. They are going to have a meeting of their Past Commodores in July. They have 3 Past Commodores in Blue Gavel this year. In past years, they have had 14. I am encouraged after talking with P/C Bisanz. I believe his Chapter will be willing to host a District meeting in 2013. In addition to Buzz Bisanz, I have also been in recent contact with a P/C from Charleston YC, Dave Kowert. This contact has been even more encouraging than those previously mentioned. He also wants to host a District 18 meeting and he believes Charleston Yacht Club will actually pay for the first nights meal and then IOBG members would pay the cost of a nice catered meal the following night. He feels interest in Blue Gavel is building. When he retired as Commodore of Charleston YC last year, he was asked to join Blue Gavel, but he just never got any additional information. He is very willing to start recruiting P/C's at Charleston YC to join, or rejoin, as the case may be.

I am going to try to join up with President Elect Chuck Browning and visit Charleston Yacht Club and perhaps other Coastal South Carolina Yacht Clubs later this year.

IOBG and IOBGA

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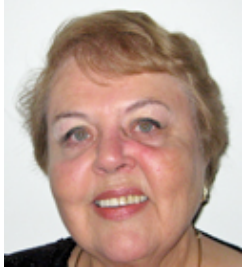

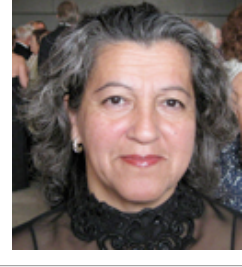

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International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary

President Ethel Keith



What a great 100th Anniversary Royal Rosarian Celebration! Congratulations! Everyone enjoyed the festivities. The parade was BEAUTIFUL; the knighting of our IOBG members Steve Willing and Chuck Browning will always be remembered.

The Regional meeting in Portland is always great, Thanks to the Portland Yacht Club for such great hospitality. The IOBGA got a lot accomplished. The meeting lasted most of the morning with a break for lunch. The meeting was completed in the early afternoon; there were a few glitches that we hope to clear up in Maryland. Sure hope to see all of you there.

Of course as always there was the rain, but as the Portland folk say, you get wet, and you keep on going, it is a part of the day, not like the Rain in Spain!!!! YOU GET SOAKING WET in Portland !!!! Thanks again to the Portland Yacht Club, and we will see you next year.

Deanna Tomei, IOBGA Vice President

Larry Draper and I attended three Opening Day Celebrations in The San Francisco Bay Area. The theme for this year is "American Spirit". All events really exceeded our expectations. All were so different.



The first was in the Delta Area on the San Joaquin River on April 14. It was hosted by Sportsmen Yacht Club. The club facility is the retired "Sausalito" Ferry Boat that sailed SF Bay and the Delta in the 1930s. After a river cruise we enjoyed a great Steak barbecue at the club.

The following Sunday we drove to the coast to Half Moon Bay Yacht club. This is primarily a sailing club. It was typically cool and foggy but everyone bundled up and made an eventful sail parade. The 60 foot yacht "Baroness" led a flotilla of sail boats around Pillar Point Harbor. They then hosted a potluck dinner with great music and a warm fire in the fireplace.



Finally on April 29 we had Opening day on the San Francisco Bay. There were power and sail boats aplenty. We opted to go on the committee boat; the "California" Hornblower Yacht. We observed the parade of boats after indulging in a continental breakfast. Afterwards we enjoyed a sit-down luncheon, all while cruising the

spectacular San Francisco shoreline.

We then returned to our yacht club, "Oyster Point" to celebrate our second place win in the power boat division and 3rd place in "flags and streamers".

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