

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

Volume 34 No. 2



April 2013

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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2013

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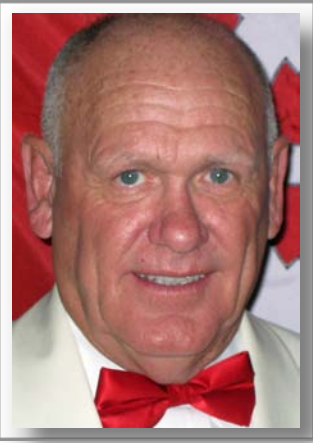


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President Chuck Browning



I would like to thank the Venice Yacht Club, its members and their IOBG Chapter for the hospitality that was showed us during our visit. Past Commodore Bud Higginson and his crew organized and coordinated a great meeting. We appreciate the big turnout from District 8. It is nice to see so many IOBG members participating in our meeting.

The Venice Yacht Club members are very proud of their club and we understand why. They have a beautiful club in the perfect location. I was really impressed with the visit from Mayor John Holic who presented a Proclamation proclaiming February 9, 2013 as International Order of the Blue Gavel Day in the city of Venice, Florida.



Chuck Browning, International Order of the Blue Gavel president, left, Venice Mayor John Holic and Venice Yacht Club Commodore Tony Zumbana enjoy the annual IOBG meeting at the club. The mayor read a proclamation naming Feb. 9, 2013, International Order of the Blue Gavel Day. The group of about 4,000 members worldwide met in Venice on Friday and Saturday and had a banquet at the Yacht Club on Saturday night. Bud Higginson, not pictured, is the Venice Yacht Club IOBG president.



Audrey Rice, former Venice Yacht Club commodore, attended the International Order of the Blue Gavel meeting at the club. The IOBG has been meeting since 1953 with the purpose of preserving yacht club traditions and ethics.

Now that the Winter Meeting is behind us it is time to start preparing for our visit to Portland, Oregon and District 5. As usual we can look forward to a big welcome from District 5 and also from the Portland Rose Festival's Rosarians. This year we can witness President Elect Gary McGrath being Knighted by the Queen of Rosaria in Portland's gorgeous Rose Garden.

We want to continue growing our membership and one way of doing that is by using our Lighthouse publication. This is great advertisement and it will help your yacht club and/or Chapter be recognized around the country and possibly bring you more members. This is free publicity for your area of the country and I hope you take advantage of it.

Again, congratulations to Venice Yacht Club and I hope to see everyone in Portland for the Spring Meeting.

Let's grow together in 2013...

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

Whereas, The International Order of the Blue Gavel will be holding their annual meeting in the City of Venice, Florida, on February 8th through the 10th, 2013, at the Venice Yacht Club; and

Whereas, The International Order of Blue Gavel is a worldwide organization comprised of 4,000 Past Commodores of qualified Yacht Clubs; and

Whereas, they meet regularly on local, national and international venues; and

Whereas, their organization was started in 1953 to preserve the proven traditions and ethics of yachting so that they will not be lost to future generations; and

Whereas, their missions include youth marine and sailing training, Make A Wish Foundation, Safety at Sea presentations, Yacht Club Officer training and management, and lobbying government marine legislation; and

Whereas, they also support the National Boating and the Royal Lifeboat Institution as well as US Junior Sailing.

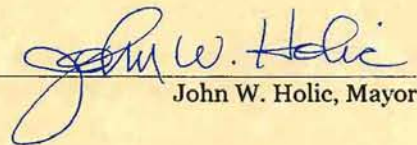
NOW THEREFORE, I, John Holic, Mayor of the City of Venice, do hereby proclaim February 9, 2013 as

International Order of Blue Gavel Day

in the City of Venice and on behalf of the City Council and citizens of our community, we hereby welcome them and hope that they enjoy the beauty of our city and hospitality of our citizens.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Venice to be affixed this 9th day of February, 2013.

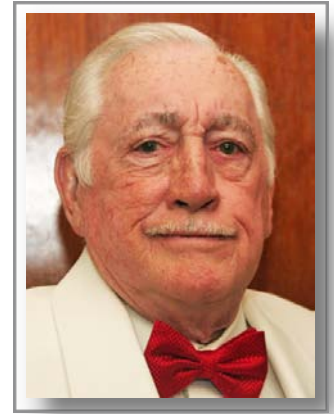



John W. Holic, Mayor





*President - Elect
Gary McGrath*



The Annual meeting will be held in Concord, California at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on October 17-20, 2013. There is complimentary parking and easy access from Oakland or San Francisco airports. We will have meetings on Thursday and Friday mornings and all day on Saturday (or until we finish business).

There will be a boat ride up the Delta, dinner at two different yacht clubs and the Annual Ball. The room rate is guaranteed for up to 3 days before and 3 days after the Annual Meeting. We also will have, for the first time, on-line registration that will be set up by the June meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you in Portland.



First Vice President
Joel Kay



According to the position description of the 1st VP, one of the responsibilities is covering the Districts east of the Mississippi River. There is only one matter regarding this portion of the country - Hurricane Sandy and its devastation to the yacht clubs and marinas in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. Actually, I am more concerned about our members in these Districts, and the boaters who ply the waters there, in general.

I do not like to quote numbers; Marshall has the ability to make numbers interesting and/or use them as a subject for concern. I do not. But, for the record, to show what this storm did to low-lying areas along the coasts of Long Island, New York City, Staten Island, all of New Jersey and Connecticut, I am quoting some numbers that to me are astounding.

Connecticut:
2,500 boats damage; losses - \$23m
marinas damaged: 20-25.

New York:
marinas seriously damaged: 300-400

New Jersey:
boats damaged - 25,000; boating losses: \$242m
marinas seriously damaged: 80-120.

Boat US provides that for more accurate information, multiply the numbers by 300, especially regarding marina losses! The account of devastation is from data that needs further updating (USCG and BoatUS).

For our purposes, the area covered is located in Districts 12, 20, 22 and 26. This is a large area of Blue Gavel activity, active or otherwise. In order for this august body to ease the burdens of our members in these Districts, there has been considerable email, and some telephone discussions about the Blue Gavel's involvement. I firmly believe that we need to address the issue & put some money into the program. My problem is that I admittedly do not know where to begin the debate, or estimate its ending. I am, to quote a line from a wonderful old movie, "asking a higher authority to determine if Santa Claus really exists."

The insurance industry, particularly Boat US Insurance, has been performing a yeoman's job in settling claims. My opinion is that we need to set a policy, then an amount and then determine who/what entities would benefit the most from our involvement.

On a lighter note, our travel distance from our apartment on Siesta Key is so close, that I will not be submitting a travel voucher! Further, we have an IOBGA member staying in our guest suite for this event! Had I not gotten involved in this wonderful organization, I would not have had the many occasions to meet terrific people.

Nancy joins me in wishing everyone here a happy and safe boating season.





Second Vice President Joe Dowdell

As stated in the bylaws, under duties of the second Vice president, "The Second Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the President and for public relations, the IOBG brochure, Area Vice Presidents west of the Mississippi River and the Director of District 51. The Second Vice President reports to both the President and the President Elect."

The last member from District 8 to be elected to the International Executive Committee was Ray Thompson in 2006 I recognize the amount of work and dedication that following in his footsteps requires. I look forward to working with President Chuck Browning and the other officers on the executive committee.

I attended the District 8 Winter Regional Meeting that followed The International Meeting at Venice Florida. I asked the District 8 members to remember that lines of communication between the Districts and International are better than ever, and International will answer every inquiry, and stand ready to assist the districts in every possible way when asked. It is always good to hear from individual members and chapters, and if you want to ask for a change in the bylaws or policy, you need to take it to the district members as a whole, and get a resolution passed in favor of your proposal at a District Membership Meeting, first. Your District Director can then take the proposal to the Board of Directors at the next Annual meeting.



I am also the liaison officer for the IOBG Auxiliary. Don't make the mistake and call them the "Ladies Auxiliary" A member is a spouse of a member, or a widow or widower of a former member and can be and often is, male. As the late Past Commodore Ken McLeod said when he held the office of 2nd International Vice President, "If your district doesn't have an active and involved auxiliary, you need to start one! I have found it amazing the difference that an involved Auxiliary makes. Almost without exception, every successful district will also have an active supportive and successful Auxiliary. It can only return benefits such as maintaining and increasing membership, harnessing a potent resource, and broadening the pleasure and enjoyment of Blue Gavel membership."

The District 8 Chapter at Coral Ridge Yacht Club has new life...

On Oct 23, 2012 I received a message from Past President Steve Willing forwarding an inquiry from p/c Charlie Sanmarco of Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The message was – "The Coral Ridge Yacht Club would like to become more active with membership in the IOBG. We currently don't think any of our active member P/C's are enrolled....How do we proceed?"

Steve asked me to respond, after telling me something I did not realize: "If the club had a chapter but all the members dropped out, and if one P/C wishes to join under the still existing chapter, then he can, without the other P/C's invitation. He only has to meet the qualifications as a P/C to become a member. There is no one remaining in the chapter to invite him."

P/C Sanmarco was sent an application which he quickly submitted and just as quickly received his membership card.

He invited SEVP and District 8 Director Lenworth Gordon to come to their Fleet Review and Officer installation on Sunday, January 27, 2013 where he could meet most, if not all, of the P/C's along with the new Commodore and other officers. Lenworth attended and took video of the event, which he included in his report at the Venice regional meeting. Coral Ridge Yacht Club now has 6 new members in their chapter.

"Blue Gavel is a wonderful organization and as with any organization, it can only be as successful as its members are willing to make it."- Past International President Carol Promessi



Treasurer Marshall Nemoy

I presented the treasurer's report at our regional meeting held February 9, 2013 at the Venice Yacht Club in Venice, Florida. Here are some of the highlights of the report:

For the year ended December 31, 2012, IOBG had a net income of \$9,807 which was \$9,797 greater than budgeted but \$575 less than last year. Our revenues were \$1,569 less than budget but our expenses were \$11,366 lower than budget. The Annual Meeting, Area Vice Presidents and the Blue Gavel Log expenses accounted for the bulk of the favorable results.

Our total assets increased by \$9,358 to \$122,675. New this year was the addition of a special printer to print the new plastic membership cards. We also had more members pay their 2013 dues in advance. The deferred income this year is \$2,100 greater than last year. Overall our financial position remains strong.

For 2012, the primary reason for this year's profitability is we did not spend the money we had budgeted. As noted above, the significant positive budget variance should be viewed with the much lower year to year variance of \$575 to better understand this year's results. The areas of Annual Meeting and Blue Gavel Log must be budgeted as though a certain scenario will happen. If the expected results do not occur, the variance may be large. In this case not as many people attended the Annual Meeting and not as many members requested printed copies of The Blue Gavel Log. The 2013 budget has been adjusted accordingly.

The membership statistics shows the number of paid members as of February 4, 2013 to be 1,042 which is 10 more than we had at this time last year. Dues payments are arriving every day. Most of the variances are normal for this time of year. The report to be presented at the Spring Regional Meeting in June will provide a more clear picture of the membership situation.

Some other items noted in my report: Dues collections are steadily arriving in my office. The new plastic membership card takes longer to produce but we have worked out a process to get the cards out to members in a reasonable time. Some things to remember when sending dues transmittals: (1) make sure you provide all information for new members. We can not produce a card without a mailing address. (2) We need the full chapter name, not the initials. Please spell out the name. (3) Make sure the chapter name for the member is correct. We have been getting data with the wrong chapter name. (4) Alert us to a change of address. When we are working with 100 items we may not notice a change of address until the card comes back in the mail.

At the Annual Meeting we presented various designs for the new plastic membership cards. One design was selected and that is what is being sent to members. So far the comments all have been positive. It costs a little more to produce a membership card but I believe it is worth it.

Next year it is planned that the design will change. We are working on a plan whereby the members can participate in the process but I will leave that for ATS (after tax season).

We always need up-to-date email addresses. That is the primary delivery method for The Blue Gavel Log and the Lighthouse.

If you would like to have a copy of the full treasurer's report, contact the International Operations Center.





Past President Stephen Willing



The nominating committee is charged with presenting a slate of officers for the following year (2014) to the membership and the board for consideration and election.

Notice is given in accordance with our by-laws, that members in good standing wishing to be considered for an elected office, submit their letter for consideration to the nominating committee.

The letter may be submitted by direct mail or email. Letters should be sent **no later than May 15th, 2013** to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, P/P Steve Willing, 292 Esdras Place Windsor Ontario Canada N8S 2M5, or email stevewilling12@gmail.com.

Over the past few years the economic downturn has put pressure on the boating industry, as well as yacht clubs, marinas and repair facilities. Added to this new reality mother nature has created havoc with earthquakes and hurricanes that have destroyed yacht clubs and their programs. The IOBG and the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation have been called upon to provide aid where possible.

We all want to help, but this requires an infusion of cash to get programs up and running again. I urge all IOBG members to encourage your clubs to make donations to the Humanitarian Foundation. Your donations will allow the IOBGHF to assist our friends when they need it most.

I look forward to seeing you at the regional meeting in Portland, Oregon in June or the annual meeting in Concord, California in October





IOBG Spring Regional Meeting



Thursday, June 6 to Sunday, June 9, 2013
Portland, Oregon

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.

Thursday is the IOBG business meeting and lunch to be held at the historic Portland Yacht Club located on the Columbia River.



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 "Champagne and Roses" and guarantees a good time for all.

The Rosarian headquarters hotel will be the Doubletree by Hilton-Portland. (Formerly Doubletree Lloyd Center) located at 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232. Call the hotel directly at 503.281.6111 or 800.996.0510. The room discount code is "RH6". Rates are \$130 and \$140 plus tax per night through May 8th. It is conveniently located on the Tri-Met MAX Light Rail public transit line which has access to the Portland International Airport (PDX) and is minutes away from downtown Portland.

You have the option of signing up for a host of activities you will find on the Rose Festival form. That reservation form is sent to the Rose Festival Association.

We look forward to making your visit to Portland productive and truly enjoyable.

See you in June!

Bill McKinney
District 5 Director



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL



IOBG Spring Regional Meeting Portland, Oregon

June 6 – 9, 2013



Thursday June 6, 2013

Dress of the Day: Summer Uniform

Blue Blazer, White Shirt, White Pants, White Socks & Shoes, IOBG Tie, Black or Dark Blue

Transportation on your own.

Portland Yacht Club

1241 NE Marine Drive Portland, Oregon 97211
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9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	IOBG Executive Committee / IOBGA Executive Committee
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	IOBG General Meeting
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	IOBGA General Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch _____ @ \$20.00 per person Total: \$_____
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	IOBG & IOBGA General Meetings (Continued)
	IOBG Humanitarian Foundation meeting will follow general meetings.

Friday June 7, 2013

10:00 AM Royal Rosarians Knighting Ceremony in Washington Park

Saturday June 8, 2013

Enjoy the day at the Rose Festival Parade and the Grand Ball in the evening.
Refer to the Rose Festival Registration Form for Rose Festival events.



PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **IOBG District 5**

MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO: **Blue Gavel District 5, 1521 N Jantzen Ave. #334, Portland, OR 97217**

Deadline: May 26, 2013

Event Contacts: Bill McKinney, District Director, 503-539-8748 Email: billmckinney3@gmail.com
Shirley Ridley, President, 503 680 3070, Email: sridley48sk@gmail.com
Ron Timmerman, 503-297-1030 Email: rontimmerman@msn.com

District Number _____ Club _____ IOBG Title _____

NAME _____ SPOUSE/GUEST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____



HOSPITALITY WEEKEND EVENT REGISTRATION

2013 ROYAL ROSARIAN ROSE FESTIVAL HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

June 6TH – 9TH DOUBLETREE BY HILTON – PORTLAND

(FORMERLY DOUBLETREE – LLOYD CENTER)



Thank you for registering for the 2013 Royal Rosarian Hospitality Weekend. Registration is as easy as 1-2-3.

Full Registration discount is available through Friday, May 17, 2013.

Please return this registration to Marjie Dreiseszun no later than Friday, May 24, 2013.

(1) SELECT FULL REGISTRATION

This option includes the Hospitality Suite (Thurs-Fri-Sat), Fun Night – “Rocket to 3013”, The Grand Floral Ball - “Putting on the Ritz”, Farewell Breakfast and transportation to the Knighting Ceremony. (Note: The Queens’ Garden Party Luncheon, Queen’s Coronation & Parade Tickets are not included in the full registration).

Couple.....	\$320 per couple	x _____ couple/s = \$ _____
Couple (after May 17).....	\$340 per couple	x _____ couple/s = \$ _____
Single.....	\$160 per person	= \$ _____
Single (after May 17).....	\$170 per person	= \$ _____

ALA CARTE EVENT REGISTRATION

Individual event tickets can also be purchased:

Hospitality Suite for 3 Days.....	\$55 per person	x _____ tickets = \$ _____
Hospitality Suite for 1 Day Indicate Day: Thurs Fri Sat (please circle)....	\$29 per person	x _____ tickets = \$ _____
Queens’ Garden Party (Friday) Regular or Vegetarian meal (please circle)....	\$39 per person	x _____ tickets = \$ _____
Fun Night – “Rocket to 3013” (Friday).....	\$60 per person	x _____ tickets = \$ _____
Grand Floral Parade/Coronation Preferred Seating (Saturday) **.....	\$30 per person	x _____ tickets = \$ _____
Grand Floral Ball - “Putting on the Ritz” (Saturday)*.....	\$75 per person	x _____ tickets = \$ _____
Farewell Breakfast (Sunday).....	\$27 per person	x _____ tickets = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: (US \$) = \$ _____

***INDICATE MEAL CHOICE FOR THE ‘PUTTING ON THE RITZ’ GRAND FLORAL BALL ON THE FOLLOWING REGISTRATION.**

**Grand Floral Parade/Coronation Preferred Seating Tickets are available until May 24, 2013. Parade tickets can be purchased after May 24, 2013 by calling 877-789-7673 or through the Portland Rose Festival Foundation Website: www.RoseFestival.org/buytickets (subject to availability and handling charges). Tickets for the Grand Floral Parade Preferred Seating/Coronation are non-Refundable.

(2) PAYMENT

My Check for \$ _____ is enclosed made payable to Royal Rosarians **OR** Please bill my: _____ VISA _____ MasterCard

Amount Authorized: \$ _____ Account #: _____ Expiration: _____ / _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email (for confirmation): _____

Organization (if any): _____ Title: _____

(3) SEND

Please send or email your registration to:

**Registration Deadline:
Friday - May 24, 2013**

**ROYAL ROSARIANS 2013 HOSPITALITY
8410 NW COPELAND STREET
PORTLAND, OR 97229-6765
EMAIL: marjie@dreiseszun.com**



HOSPITALITY WEEKEND EVENT REGISTRATION



ROYAL ROSARIAN ROSE FESTIVAL HOSPITALITY WEEKEND June 6 – 9 DOUBLETREE BY HILTON – PORTLAND, OR

(FORMERLY DOUBLETREE – LLOYD CENTER)

Please indicate the name of each person with meal selection if attending the Grand Floral Ball

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

NAME: _____ Rib Eye Steak ___ Salmon ___ Vegetarian

Please contact the hotel for any special needs due to physical disability or dietary restrictions.

HOSPITALITY WEEKEND SILENT AUCTION

To Contribute Items – Contact:

MERCY NORBY / AUCTION CO-CHAIRWOMAN
503-367-7801 / Email: mmmnorby@yahoo.com

or

LYNN REINECKER / AUCTION CO-CHAIRWOMAN
503-830-7834 / Email: Petelynn88@aol.com

HOSPITALITY SUITE FOOD OR CASH DONATIONS

Contact:

KAREN DERNEDDE / CHAIRWOMAN
503-860-0234 / Email: kdernedde@comcast.net

For additional assistance with event registration, please contact:

MARJIE DREISESZUN / EVENT REGISTRATION CHAIRWOMAN
503-297-7829 or 503-708-7591 / Email: marjie@dreiseszun.com

HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE MADE SEPARATELY

The host hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton – Portland (*formerly DoubleTree-Lloyd Center*) 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232. The room discount code is 'RH6' for a special room rates of \$130 & \$140 plus tax per night through May 8th. Call the hotel directly at 503-281-6111 or 800-996-0510 to make reservations. Hotel discount cutoff is May 8, 2013.

2013 HOSPITALITY WEEKEND SCHEDULE

THURSDAY JUNE 6

3 – 8 pm Registration – Lobby

3 – 8 pm Hospitality Suite – 14th Floor Presidential Suite

FRIDAY JUNE 7

8 am – 5 pm Registration – Lobby

8:30 & 9 am Buses leave from hotel to the Knighting Ceremony in Washington Park

10 am Royal Rosarian Knighting Ceremony Washington Park Amphitheatre**

11:30 am Buses return from Washington Park to hotel

12:30 pm Queens' Garden Party – Ballroom (Optional) Tickets purchased separately and include luncheon.

1 – 4 pm Hospitality Suite – 14th Floor Presidential Suite

5:30 – 10 pm Fun Night – "Rocket to 3013"

SATURDAY JUNE 8

8 am (Optional) Tri-Met MAX Light Rail from the hotel to Memorial Coliseum for Float Viewing, Queen's Coronation, and Grand Floral Parade

8:30 am Coronation of the 2013 Rose Festival Queen (Optional) Preferred seating is included with purchase of a Grand Floral Parade Ticket.

10 am Grand Floral Parade (Optional) View the parade from any vantage point along its route or remain in Coronation seating.

1 – 4 pm Hospitality Suite – 14th Floor Presidential Suite
6 pm Grand Floral Ball – "Putting on the Ritz" (Ballroom)

SUNDAY JUNE 9

8:30 am Farewell Breakfast – Ballroom

11 am Placement of the Queen's Plaque Washington Park Rose Garden

**In case of inclement weather, the Knighting Ceremony will be moved to the DoubleTree

by

Attire:

Knighting Ceremony – RR Whites (women wear pants) or Business attire

Fun Night – Casual, 3013 style or your finest alien attire.

Queens' Garden Party – RR Whites (women wear day skirts) or Business attire

Coronation/Grand Floral Parade – RR Whites (women wear pants) or Casual

Grand Floral Ball – Women wear Whites (long skirts) or Evening

Gowns. Men wear Whites, Tux or Dinner Jackets.

Farewell Breakfast/Queen's Plaque Laying – RR Whites (women wear pants)

Greens if not attending Queen's Plaque Laying or Casual

Questions about Hospitality 2013:

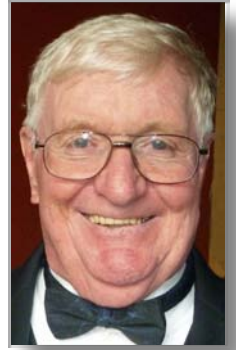
Jacquie Janulis
2013 Hospitality Chairwoman & Council Advisor
Cell: 503-332-0783 or Email:
jjgocougs@comcast.net

US Sailing Representative

Bill Thayer



The US Sailing Board of Directors, with the affirmative vote of the House of Delegates, has passed a series of bylaws and regulations in an effort to reorganize their leadership structure. The reorganization is designed to more effectively serve members through streamlined communications between the board, committees and members. Highlights of the reorganization are: the House of Delegates has been retired, the councils were transitioned into new committees and new composition has been established for the Nominating and Governance Committees, and the Board of Directors nomination process has been revised. There will be no more contested elections.



US sailing is accepting nominations for its 2012 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year awards, widely acknowledged as the foremost individual sailing honors in the nation.

US Sailing, the national governing body of the sport, has agreed on a multi year sponsorship deal with Sunsail and The Moorings, two leaders in water sports vacations and Yacht chartering.

The US Disabled Sailing Championships hosted by San Diego's Southwestern Yacht Club wrapped up another successful edition on North San Diego Bay's Americas Cup Harbor. Titlists were crowned in three championship fleets in single-, double-, and triple handed racing.

Miami, Florida held the ISAF Sailing World Cup at the US Sailing Center Miami January 26 to February 2, 2013. The regatta will form part of the ISAF Sailing World Cup until 2016 as the second stop in the 2012-2013 series.

US Sailing's 2013 National Sailing Programs Symposium was held in Clearwater, Florida January 23-26. The Symposium brings together more than 250 sailing instructors, program directors, volunteers, executive directors and industry leaders.

US Sailing and the America's Cup have entered a new partnership. The America's Cup will provide US Sailing members with special rights to purchase VIP hospitality tickets to America's Cup events taking place in the U.S.

Two-time Olympic medalist Charlie McKee has been appointed High Performance Director of the U.S. Olympic Sailing Program.

New Racing Rules of Sailing App is now available. Note: It still does not help interpret rule 18.



Thank You to our photographer...
Shaun Graser



IOBG and IOBGA

Clothing and Accessories

Approved Vendors

Pierside Promotions

c/o David Kutz
23911 Newell Lane NE
Kingston, Washington 98346

Telephone: (360) 297-2935
Cell: 360-271-1105
Fax: 866-239-2070

e-mail:
PiersidePromos@aol.com
www.piersidepromos.com

Yachta Lettering

c/o Paul and Lynn Erb
13 Dori Lane
Barnegat, New Jersey 08005

Telephone: (609) 698-6735
Fax: M/W/F: (609) 698-6735

e-mail:
yachtalettering@comcast.net
www.companycasuals.com

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



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

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

BLAZER EMBLEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE AUXILIARY

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

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

Please Print

I am a paid up member of IOBG District # _____ 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: _____

Northwestern V.P.
Mary Nye Meyers



Districts

1 & 5
2, 4 & 24
Blue Gavel Canada

District 1

Submitted As:
Mary Nye Meyers, Dist. 1 Executive Secretary
and
Northwestern Area V.P.

District 1 is currently preparing for their April 26-28 Spring Regional Meeting in the Tri-Cities area of eastern Washington state. Arrangements are being made to have the local wineries visit us during the weekend meeting. In the United States, Washington ranks second only to California in wine production. Sounds like this is going to be a great meeting!

The question of how to retain and grow the membership seems to be paramount on the minds of District 1, District 5 and many other Districts as well. This year District 1 implemented a 3-Step Dues Renewal procedure that is proving to be very successful. As of this report membership has jumped up by 27 members and I haven't even checked my mailbox yet today.

Through our electronic newsletters (much like the Lighthouse Bulletin) members are kept informed of District 1's activities. This same newsletter carried the Dues Renewal form that our members printed out and sent in.

Our next step was to send a letter from the District 1 President to those who have not already renewed asking/reminding the members to renew their dues. We also included pictures of the current Board, pictures from the Fall Change of Watch weekend meeting & luau and a calendar of events for the year. Also included was a Dues Renewal Form and a self-addressed envelope for the member to use. We received 21 renewals in the first 2 days and the dues keep coming in. The increase in dues renewals has more than made up for the small, additional printing and postage expense.

We then followed up the final step by personally contacting those members to find out why they have not renewed or to discuss any concerns or questions. Out of a dozen members contacted...10 have renewed their dues and thanked us for personally contacting them. I find that developing a "connection" with the members is an essential element of membership retention.

We are excited for next year when the Northwest area will be offering an Online Dues Renewal procedure where members can renew their dues within minutes using their debit or credit cards. This is a fast and easy method that we are hoping will further encourage membership recruitment and retention. Plans are in the works to also offer an Online meeting registration form and an Online New Member Application.

District 5 is hard charging into 2013 under the guidance of President Shirley Ridley. Regular monthly Executive Board meetings are scheduled and events such as the Spring Social, a boat cruise and the IOBG Regional Meeting in June are being planned at this time. Planning for two other Fall events will begin this summer.

As always member retention is a continuing effort as it is with all Districts as well as the IOBG. District 5 sends monthly notices to 2012 members who have not paid and invitations to 2012 Commodores who have not yet joined. Communication is the key to an active membership the President of each District must spearhead this effort. This District has had good success for the past three years and it looks like 2013 will follow suit.

The Blue Gavel Cooks at Columbia River YC finished the year long commitment of cooking for "Men's Night" on the first Thursday of each month during 2012. A full roster of Blue Gavel members at Columbia River came together for this event. Surf and Turf has been the theme for each dinner and this one went over the top starting with snacks of fried lean bacon, jumbo shrimp sautéed in butter, garlic and onions and assorted veggies with chips and dip. The entree was succulent baked lobster, steak fillets grilled to perfection, au gratin potatoes, asparagus and green salad with ice cream sundaes for dessert. This has really been a fun project and a great way to get the Blue Gavel word to the club membership and the members of District 5. Every club or chapter should try it.



Southwestern V.P.
Rosalie Davis-Green



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

It is a pleasure to serve as Southwest Area Vice President for a second year. One of the benefits of IOBG membership is visiting other geographic areas and seeing how boating is enjoyed there. Of course you can do this in the context of your personal travels. It is really delightful, however, to do this and participate in the regional meetings, enjoy the ambiance, camaraderie of past commodores and glean ideas to enrich district activities. Thank you District 8 for hosting a wonderful meeting in Venice Florida.

The southwest area districts report they are starting the year with renewed energy and enthusiasm and plans for strengthening membership.

District 6 Hawaii/Guam continues to maintain a strong membership. We have about 80 members that participate in both local IOBG activities while remaining engaged in their clubs. Our 2012 end of year events included an election barbecue, installation dinner for new members and 2013 Officers and our annual Christmas party that also included members of the Hawaii Commodores Association. We are looking forward to another busy year with support to the Transpacific Yacht Race – from Los Angeles to Hawaii, wounded warriors on the water, youth sailing and continued mentorship and engagement with our home clubs. The Pacific continues to be a great place to sail and boat – wishing all fair winds and following seas!

District 10 Long Beach is looking forward to a strong year with a variety of monthly activities planned.

District 14 San Francisco Bay continues in rebuild mode. We have an executive meeting scheduled for early February to plan our calendar.

District 16 ended 2012 with a lovely holiday party. The Anacapa yacht club chapter had a social and invited the whole district. We are now preparing for our harbors opening day ceremonies April 6 and April 7.

District 21 has a dinner business meeting and educational speaker planned for Feb. 23. We have filled our board positions. We have an executive committee meeting on March 13.

I am looking forward to visiting/supporting my districts as well as the other regional meetings.

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.

District 11
Sherry Barone, President

District 11 started the New Year with our first event held at Port Royal Yacht Club. Our Chapter annual wine tasting fundraiser for King Harbor Jr Sailing Scholarship Fund was held on 27 January 2013. We raised \$565 and enjoyed many wines and the gracious hospitality of Port Royal Yacht Club. Port Royal Yacht Club Commodore Sheila Anderson provided a lovely spread of home cooked appetizers, veggies and wonderful cheese to accompany our wines. Forty-six of our members enjoyed a beautiful later afternoon and evening tasting of wines from vineyards around the world as well as a raffle winning wines from our event.

I attended the IOBG Winter Regional meeting in Venice, Florida on 8-9 February 2013. Topics discussed were the treasurer's report, reports from executive committee, district reports and the Humanitarian Foundation missions. This meeting was an opportunity to receive international insight, bond with other districts and discuss events held as well as enjoying the local yacht clubs. Venice Yacht Club held the meeting as well as wonderful receptions and dinners. The next regional meeting will be held in Portland on 6-9 June 2013.

District 11 will also be attending the America Cup from 6-10 September 2013 as a group to experience the on the water races via a boat as well as many festivities from the yachting community in San Francisco.

We are looking forward to a great year and having events throughout our District.

District 14
Mike Billington, District Director

District 14 is getting ready for an active year in 2013. The executive committee is meeting at Encinal Yacht Club on February 2nd to finalize plans for the year. Many of you may remember Encinal Yacht Club as the site of the installation of Sir Vern Bendsen as President of International.

District 14 members will be meeting at Treasure Island Yacht Club on February 16th where 4 new members will be installed as District 14 members of Blue Gavel. Along with enjoying good fellowship members will discuss activities for the coming year. The focus will be on getting new members and retaining old members. Another goal is having existing members become more active in District 14 and Blue Gavel in general. The key to this is providing an environment where everyone has a good time.

During the year we are working on plans for a joint excursion with Delta District 19, possibly a cruise out. We are also planning a luncheon cruise on a Hornblower yacht in the Bay. This should be a fun time for everyone as there are not many places prettier to cruise in than San Francisco Bay. At this time we are working on a lunch meeting in late Spring or early Summer and are working on locating a yacht club venue.

District leaders will be encouraging members to attend the IOBG Regional meeting in Portland. The Portland meeting is always a great time and it is an excellent way for District 14 members to meet IOBG members from all over the country. We plan on having a good turnout of District 14 members.



District 15
Michele Wold, District Director

IOBG District 15 is off to a good start this year with a very successful Yacht Club Management Seminar. Held annually at Mission Bay Yacht Club, this seminar offers in depth information for new, as well as continuing, yacht club officers, boards, and bridges. The seminar covers all aspects of club management. Last year's popular session dealing with ABC rules was again well received. The annual seminar is growing in reputation and we were proud to have attendees from the Channel Island Clubs on down to San Diego. Thank you to District 15 President David Lancaster for successfully organizing this event.

District 15 is committed to contributing to our community and toward that end, we are in the process of putting together a 10 person team to represent IOBG District 15 next April in a charity event hosted by Coronado Cays Yacht Club, Coronado Yacht and Navy Yacht Club San Diego to benefit The Make A Wish Foundation. IOBG member Gregg Hansen is in charge of putting together a team to represent District 15 in this event.

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

District 19
Joan Marsh, District Director



On February 24th District 19 hosted over 100 people at a very special celebration at Pittsburg Yacht Club. International President-Elect Gary McGrath assisted by District President John Anthony inducted 18 new members into the International Order of the Blue Gavel. In addition President-Elect McGrath presented a new Charter to the District's 30th Chapter for the Delta Bayliner Club. The meeting was preceded by a buffet luncheon provided by the world famous New Mecca Café in Pittsburg. Arrangements were skillfully handled by District Secretary Sandee Clark.

We welcomed Southwestern Vice President Rosalie Green to our meeting and appreciated her words of encouragement as the new year launches.

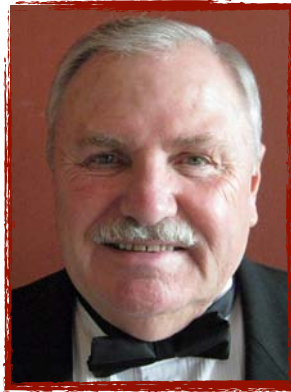
Vice President Estella McGrath and President Anthony provided information about the many upcoming events in the district. These include fundraisers to support Gary's convention: a prime rib dinner in April, a Lobster dinner in May, a south country boil in July and a barbecue in August at the ranch of our I.O.B.G. legal officer Herman Meyer and District 19 Auxiliary President Sue Meyer.



All of these events and more are posted on our website which is kept right up to date by Treasurer and webmaster Roger Beebe. Look for all our news at www.iobgdelta19.org. It's going to be one busy Spring and Summer.

Many of us here are looking forward to seeing many of you in Portland for the Rose Festival and Knighting of our President-Elect!

North Central V.P. Tony Durieux



Districts
7, 9, 23 & 25



Districts 7, 9, 25 continue to show strength during a very difficult time in the boating community. Many clubs are struggling because of the economy. The cost of fuel has forced many would be boaters to re-think buying a boat and for those who own a boat, are thinking, should they continue to boat.

The economy as a whole is having an adverse affect on club membership throughout the Great Lakes. What we are seeing is a renewed effort by the club management or bridge to offer a variety of local social activities to maintain membership, if you will, that home, away from home.

District 7 Mark A. Vadaj, District Director

District 7 is actively pursuing the goals to not only match the 2012 membership status but to increase the 2013 membership by 25% or greater. Within the District level, we have retained most of the leadership in the offices of Vice Presidents. This will facilitate the goals and direction mapped out from the previous years. A few examples of how District 7 will accomplish these goals are as follows: Each Area Vice President within the Chapter has pledged to dedicate 15 – 30 minutes of their time weekly for IOBG efforts. Each Vice President has committed to personally contact each current and or past member by phone as a first effort, or by email and written correspondence as a secondary effort. This method has proven success in the past and is expected to require an average of 3+ contact efforts per member to secure and retain membership. In addition to request for membership renewal, each Vice President will also verify complete contact information, inform the member of our Newsletter, promote and direct our membership to our new website, inform them of our Social Activities and lastly engage with their Chapter by offering to support, assist and participate in their Chapter Events, as well as, establish a Chapter President, Chairmen or Champion. A few of District 7 Social Events are as follows.



March 17th - District 7 will participate in Winter Dress Uniform in the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade (One of the largest in the country) by invitation; Participation has also been opened to District 9 and 25.

March 21st – District 7 Blue Blazer Invitation which is our annual Cocktail and Social Event for Current Commodores and Vice Commodores which provides an inside look at IOBG Membership, IOBG Efforts, IOBG Humanitarian Efforts, and the IOBG Social Experience. In 2012 we had a record breaking turnout with over 105 Commodores and Vice Commodores attending.

April 28th – The IOBG & IOBG-A, Nautica Cruise aboard the Cleveland Nautica Queen. This is the second year for this event. In 2012 it was a complete sell out. In 2013 we expect well over 100 in attendance. Last year District 7 performed a Memorial Service for the Captain which was a newly inducted Member to IOBG.

May 27th – The Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Observance aboard the USS Cod. IOBG Members in uniform will participate in the service along with the Greater Cleveland Boating Association and invited to attend brunch at any of the 4 adjacent clubs of their choice. LYC, FCYC, IYC, GSBC.

June 27th – The IOBG District 7 Cocktail Party in Summer White Uniforms at the Greater Cleveland Boating Association Rendezvous within the Huron Boat Basin, Huron Ohio. This is part of a 4 day event with IOBG members invited and encouraged to participate. The cost of this event is offset 100% + by 50/50 Raffle Sales and Gift Baskets raffled off. A great deal of good will, camaraderie and expansion of the District 7 footprint is generated.

District 7 - Continued...

August 10 – The IOBG District 7, 9, & 25 Sponsored Cocktail Party and Salute to the Interlake Yachting Association Commodore. ILYA is a Non Profit Organization intended to support, promote and encourage yachting activities both power and sail from dinghy to yachts. See ILYA website for additional explanation and purpose of ILYA.

September 2013 – The Battle of Lake Erie – 200th Anniversary and Observance of the Battle between Commodore/ Admiral Oliver Perry and the British. Tall ships will be attending with private watercraft participating and escorting the Fleet as it enters the Harbors. More details to follow.

September/October 2013 – Change Of Watch – Date & Location To Be Determined.

October 2013 – Possible Fall Fashion Show or Wine Tasting

December 2013 – 3rd Annual Holiday Celebration – 1 Bratenahl Place, Penthouse Suite, Date T.B.D.

In addition to the organized District 7 Social Events, Area Vice Presidents are encouraged to attend, support and participate in any and all IOBG Chapter Events to promote, expand and fulfill the role of IOBG, IOBG-A membership and Humanitarian Foundation. District 7 Officers and Members are encouraged to participate and assist in all Installation Ceremonies, Regatta's or Club Events, as well as, Memorial Services of IOBG Members.

District 9
Becky Vincent, District Director

District 9, together with Districts 7 and 25, sponsored a pizza table at the winter Inter-Lake Yachting Association's gathering. We have done this for the past few years in an effort to promote Blue Gavel. This year we displayed a banner showing our support for I-LYA. We especially want to let members of the boating community know of the Humanitarian projects we do. District 9 has an Ohio State/ Michigan football pool which has been very successful for us in the past. This fundraiser along with a Pig Roast which we are planning for 2013 will contribute to our Humanitarian donations.

District 9 welcomes two new Past Commodores to the board as Vice President's and hope this is an indication of growing interest in IOBG.

We are planning a spring brunch and hope this is another way to promote the camaraderie of the organization.

Many of the Chapters in District 9 are very active with projects to help support their clubs, as well as, humanitarian projects.

District 25
Bill Woods, District Director

After years of discussion about better methods to communicate District 25 has incorporated an emailing distribution list for all its members. The response to the list has been enthusiastic with input from many members about the new means of communication from the board.

Last year all our functions were well attended, some of which include the Zukins Rib Dinner held at Great Lakes Steel Boat Club, a Trolley Wine Tour out of Sun Parlour Boat Club, a cocktail party held for the 2012 President at Sun Parlour Boat Club and the annual IOBG cocktail party held at Put In Bay Yacht Club and hosted by Districts 25, 9, and 7.

This year's first function a Formal Dinner Dance on January 26, 2013 held for our current President Greg Lowe and Lady Arlene has proven to be a great success.

We are currently experiencing a small influx of past members renewing their memberships and are looking forward to renewed enthusiasm.

Northeastern V.P.
David Grove



Districts

3, 12, 20,
26 & 27

District 27
Submitted by NEVP David Grove

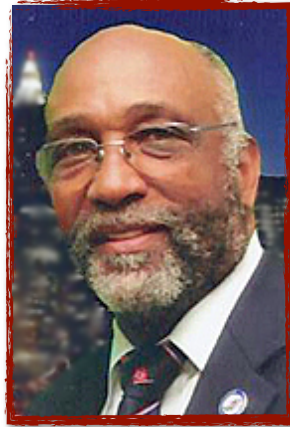
District 27 consists of the following Yacht Clubs: Belvedere Yacht Club; Bush River Yacht Club; Charlestown Yacht Club; Crescent Yacht Club; Eastern Yacht Club; Kent Island Yacht Club; Maryland Yacht Club; Middle River Yacht Club; Otter Point Yacht Club; Riverside of Maryland Yacht Club; U.S Sailing Association; Wellwood Yacht Club; and the White Rocks Yacht Club. Each of our clubs is situated at the upper portion of the Chesapeake Bay. As many of our sister clubs along the outer eastern shore of the United States, we were affected by Hurricane Sandy. At my home club Otter Point the club house lower level was under two feet of water and we lost much of the furniture there. Several of the boat owners suffered wind damage to canvas and deck equipment. Somewhere floating on the Bay is my new front deck five-foot lounge cushion that Sandy blew away. I just had it made at the beginning of this past summer. Do not get me wrong, I am not complaining in the least. When I see and hear of the devastation that the home and club members of New York and New Jersey have suffered I can only count my blessings and thank my almighty for them.

In June of this past year District 27 in collaboration with the Humanitarian Foundation sponsored a Sail-Abriation Fundraiser. It was the Bicentennial Celebration of the War of 1812 when the British Fleet attacked Fort McHenry and the Star Spangle Banner was written by Francis Scott Key. Many of the worlds most famous Tall Ships and US Military ships sailed from Norfolk, VA into the Baltimore Harbor. Among those ships was the United States Coast Guard Tall Ship "Eagle". We were able to gather twenty-five Wounded Warrior Veterans from Walter Reed Hospital and local VA Centers to sail on the Eagle from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis to the Port of Baltimore. We auctioned off two additional seats on the cruise for \$20.00 per chance and raised over \$2,000. The profits were donated to the Humanitarian Foundation; The Queen of the Chesapeake's...Save the Bay Fund;...and the Maryland Wounded Warrior Fund.

Many of the club members in Districts 12, 22 and 26 have lost boats, docks, clubs and in several cases homes. For this reason I would like to recommend that IOBG and the Humanitarian Foundation consider some financial help to those clubs that have suffered catastrophic losses. In this way we will be letting them know that in a small way we share their loss.



Southeastern V.P.
Lenworth Gordon



Districts
8 & 18

Too many thank you's cannot be expressed to the Venice Yacht Club for the outstanding presentation and accommodations to the IOBG's February meeting in 2013. I have been slow in following in the footsteps of Past SEVP Joe Dowdell who moved on to the position of Second Vice President in the International body. Joe was instrumental in pioneering most of the efforts I will be reporting on in the South East. I have been showcasing as many yacht clubs as possible this past year in an effort to give greater exposure to those worthy programs that exemplify the virtues' of outstanding IOBG stewardship. This season, the club I wish to feature is among the finest I have had the pleasure of visiting. I would like to share some moments in pictures of their 2013 change of watch highlighted by the Coral Ridge Yacht Club's "Viewing of the Fleet". Their Blue Gavel Chapter met that day to formally reinstate their Charter within the District 8 IOBG. Renee Gordon, IOBG Auxiliary President and IOBG Humanitarian Foundation representative and I were there to share current information of the Foundation as the philanthropic arm of Blue Gavel in welcoming them back into the fold. Renee also took time to meet with the spouses to garner interest in promoting the Chapter's Auxiliary.

Following is a picture story of the event:

The new Officers and past officers, dressed in blue along with local dignitaries stood in formation along the shoreline with scores of spectators to witness the changing of the guard, signaled by the raising of the new Commodore's flag and with the assistance of the Sea Scouts. Then with each passing vessel announced by the blast from the cannon accompanied by the band playing old favorite military patriotic melodies, while each of fifteen vessels were identified over the PA, their skippers, crew, and dignitaries on board.



The incoming Commodore's flag is hoisted with assistance of the Sea Scouts

Featured here are eight of the fifteen. Immediately afterwards, the viewing officers and flag bearers sound the retreat and smartly filed into the main clubhouse where the evening of dinner and dancing ensued. Renee and I were formally introduced to over one hundred and twenty guests. We dined courtesy of the renewed Coral Ridge Yacht Club, IOBG Chapter.



SEVP Report Continued...



Ph A - Left to right, John Keese, Commodore, Ray Ramey, Fleet Captain and Lenworth Gordon. Ph B - with Renee Gordon.

In keeping with District 8's commitment to membership growth, the President George Eichman created a committee charged with the development and planning of such efforts. The first order is the creation of a questionnaire which is delivered to all IOBG Chapters in good standing, soliciting feedback to share with all Chapters for adoption as would be appropriate for themselves. I have also been in contact with IOBG, Past President, Harvey Sussel, who suffered a blackout while driving and totaled his SUV. Surgery found that he had a clogged artery in his neck that blocked 95% of blood travelling through his brain. They were able to unclog it and now he is functioning normal once again. He has resumed his tasks as editor of the District 8, Gulf Stream.

District 18 has no report beyond what has been reported in February. I am pursuing clubs previously contacted by 2nd Vice President Joe Dowdell. And, hope to bring an International meeting to that part of the country soon.



District 50
Mark A. Vadaj, District Director

District 50 is 1 of 2 unique Districts within the ranks of The International Order Of The Blue Gavel. Although unique, it is none the less a very important segment of our Membership and should be recognized, supported and communicated with as such. As District 50 Director, my goals are very simple.

1. To contact each and every Member either by a Phone Call as the primary method and email or written as a secondary or backup method.
2. To inform each and every Member on a regular basis on all of the Activities, Issues, Status and Changes within the IOBG, IOBG-A and the Humanitarian Foundation.
3. Develop our own District 50 Newsletter as a vehicle of communication to increase the flow of information in both directions from the International Level, District Level and Chapter Level.
4. Not only will District 50 retain our Membership but I intend to reach each and every legacy Member to encourage them to return to the District.
5. Ensure that each and every Member has a voice. From Chapter Level to the International Level.

Some of District 50 Membership has already been contacted, while others are still in the cue. Please feel comfortable to contact me directly with any suggestions and or advice. I welcome your call or email. Please remember that should you contact me by email; please include all of your current contact information. Including: First and Last Name, Complete Mailing Address, Phone Number/s, Email Address, Spouses Name and Club Affiliation. Any additional Information you wish to provide such as year as Commodore or other is welcome. I feel that the best Membership is one that is informed and has a voice. If possible, I look forward to meeting each of you in the future, on land or sea.

District 51
Walt Kadyk, District Director

The efforts of getting new members and finding past members for District 51 remains a very big challenge. I am not aware of how many members there are in the District at this point. We were down to as few as 5 of last count. I will await the new roster.

Despite my on-going efforts the number of District 51 members remains minimal. I am continuing to attend "Opening Day" ceremonies on behalf of Blue Gavel and I am soliciting new candidates any time I can. One of the comments I hear occasionally is that many yacht clubs do not recognize Blue Gavel for reciprocals. Only a few of the yacht clubs I deal with have active participants in Blue Gavel events in their Districts and appear to have trouble finding new officers. A handful of clubs have their own group of past commodores that are localized and go by different names such as "The Silver Stars".

I would suggest that IOBG overall come up with some marketing campaign that shows the benefits that we can identify that makes IOBG's "invitational" membership attractive.

I am curious how District 50 compares to District 51 for membership action. I seem to be getting nowhere.

2013
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