

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

Volume 39 No. 3

July 2018

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.



2018 IOBG DIRECTORY

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Protocol Officer Marsha Landreth Tel: 805-889-0054 mlrs4742@gmail.com

Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth Tel: 805-889-0054 mlrs4742@gmail.com

Communications Director

Mary Nye Meyers (Michael) Tel: 253-224-8592 fire_n_ice104@hotmail.com

Education Officer Phil Promessi (Carol) Tel: 918-378-6582 Cell: 925-864-1585 ppromessi@att.net

Legal Officer

Joe Dowdell (June Thacker) Tel: 305-304-1208 joedowdell@bellsouth.net

Carol Promessi (Phil) Tel: 918-378-6582 Cell: 925-864-1585 cpromessi@gmail.com

Past Pres. Liaison Officer Stephen Willing (Shirley) Tel: 519-944-1397 stevewilling12@gmail.com

Supply Officer Commodore Insignia 1380 Centerville LN #32 Gardnerville, NV 89410 Tel: 775-782-3380 Tel: 800-315-7485 Fax: 775-782-4003 Comsignia@aol.com www.commodoreinsignia.com BOAT U.S.

REPRESENTATIVES

Marshall Nemoy 888-378-2211

Boat U.S. Membership Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

AUXILIARY LIAISON

770-337-8701

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON 707-422-3510 Vern Bendsen

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS Sherry Barone (Membership) 310-720-9610 Buzz Bisanz (Public Relations) 770-337-8701

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

US SAILING Mark Hansen

310-601-0710

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

U.S. POWER SQUADRON 941-474-2426

ELECTED OFFICERS

Executive Secretary
Mary Eiffert (Alan)
39906 Black Mesa Lane
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel/Cell: 206-819-5809
Cell: 760-567-8824
meiffert@earthlink.net

Northeastern Vice President Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St

Sanborn, NY 14132 Tel: 716-998-7938 stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle (Lee) 10704 - 35th Ave SW Seattle, WA 98146-1726 Tel: 206-243-8186 lanllightle44@gmail.com

Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith (Gary) 815 Ethel Place National City, CA 91950 Tel: 619-479-6292 kathyswyc@aol.com

North Central Vice President

Mark Vadaj (Robin) 7505 Thatchum Lane Concord, OH 44060 Tel: 440-350-1488 Cell: 440-479-0064 markvadaj@gmail.com

Southeastern Vice President

Southeastern Vice Preside Karen E. Shea (Spencer Ferrey) 5027 Herring Ct New Port Richey, FL 34652 Tel: 727-264-6118 Cell: 727-389-0675 LTCSheaK@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

AUDIT

Rosalie Davis-Green 310-684-1848 Bud Higginson Robert "Buzz" Bisanz 770-337-8701

BY-LAWS & POLICY MANUAL

Vern Bendsen 707-422-3510

FINANCE

310-684-1848 740-242-4001 941-966-7494 310-720-9610 770-337-8701 Rosalie Davis-Green Tony Durieux Bud Higginson Sherry Barone Robert "Buzz" Bisanz Marshall Nemoy 888-378-2211

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Rosalie Davis-Green 310-684-1848 740-242-4001 770-337-8701 Tony Durieux Robert "Buzz" Bisanz Marshall Nemoy

ANNUAL MEETING 2018

Bud Higginson 941-966-7494

ELECTIONS

Bud Higginson 941-966-7494

NOMINATIONS

Rosalie Davis-Green 305-923-5550 Joe Dowdell Joe Dowgen Tony Durieux Matthew Schmidt (East) 740-242-4001 216-347-7026

Reflects Updates Received as of July 2018

District 27

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District 1

Charles Havens (Pat) 2889 Grandview Dr Clarkston, WA 99403-2918 Tel: 509-758-6482 pathavens5963@msn.com

District 2 Don Fisher (Rita) 1080 Iris Avenue Victoria, BC V8Z 2N7 Canada Tel: 250-479-5516 dritscher@shaw.ca

District 3 Lewis W. Smith (Margot) 135 Paul Drive Amherst, NY 14228 Tel: 716-691-7626 margots135@gmail.com

District 4 Ron Defieux* (Linda) 641 Blueridge Ave. N.Vancouver, BC V7R 2J4 Canada Tel: 604-987-7425 rdefieux@shaw.ca

District 5

Open

District 6

Ron Dodini (Beckey) 44-128 Keaalau Place Kaneohe, HI 96744 Tel: 808-235-2470

Tel: 808-294-0135 huiana808@gmail.com District 12

Liz Allison 1700 San Carlos Ave #302 San Carlos, CA 94070 Tel: 650-593-4649 chocho2479@aol.com

District 8
Karen E. Shea (Spencer Ferrey)
5027 Herring Ct
New Port Richey, FL 34652
Tel: 727-264-6118
Cell: 727-389-0675
LTCSheaK@gmail.com

District 7

Deborah Light 2480 Dorset Dr Seven Hills, OH 44131 Tel: 216-973-1076

dlightful759@sbcglobal.net

Dearnet 9
Dean Reamsnyder (Karla)
1642 Grand Bay Dr
Oregon, OH 43616
Home: 419-690-5726
Cell: 419-376-0536 deanream@aol.com

District 10

Joyce Jackson-Coomber 4380 Johanna Ave Lakewood, CA 90713 Tel: 562-377-0056 joyceevelyn@verizon.net

District 11

Sheila Anderson 5606 Downey Avenue Lakewood, CA 90712 Cell: 626-484-7822 toymaker56@yahoo.com

District 14

District 15 Bill Edwards (Ernestine) 2056 Wind River Road El Caton, CA 92019 Tel: 619-593-8252 cdredwards@cox.net

District 16 Richard Olsen (Georgean) 109 San Fernando Ave Oxnard, CA 93035 Tel: 805-985-1732 Cell: 805-218-4641 glogreen143@gmail.com

District 18
Dave Kowert (Christie)
1236 Oak Hill Terrace
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466
Tel: 843-412-0137 davekowert@bellsouth.net

District 19

District 19
David Breninger (Linda)
425 Websters Court
Roseville, CA 95747
Tel: 916-771-5685
Cell: 916-798-3980 dbreninger@surewest.net

District 20

(Alternate Director) Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St Sanborn, NY 14132 Tel: 716-998-7938 stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com District 21

DISTRICT 21 Leo Vortouni 4308 Patrice Rd. Newport Beach, CA 92663 Tel: 949-722-1153 Cell: 949-933-4308 Ivortouni@aol.com

District 22 (Alternate Director) Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St Sanborn, NY 14132 Tel: 716-998-7938 stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

District 23

District 24

District 25

Ken Bruce #16-950 Lanfranco Kelowna, BC V1W 3W8

Betty Tyson 504 Chestnut St Wyandotte, MI 48192 Cell: 313-510-0311 bhppy777@yahoo.com

District 26 (Alternate Director) Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St Sanborn, NY 14132 Tel: 716-998-7938 stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

Canada Tel: 250-860-5673 kdbruce@shaw.ca

Open

District 50 Mark Vadaj (Robin) 7505 Thatchum Lane Concord, OH 44060 Tel: 440-350-1488 Cell: 440-479-0064 mvadaj@att.net

DISTRICT 27 (Alternate Director) Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St Sanborn, NY 14132 Tel: 716-998-7938 stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

District 51 Walt Kadyk (Marti) 5072 Pensier Street Las Vegas, NV 89135 Tel: 9702-790-1195 Cell: 310-629-0987 wskadyk@gmail.com

District 70

District 75
Keith Wardell (Patsy)
4 Glendovey Road
Fendalton, Christchurch
New Zealand 0852
Tel: 0064-35516046
Cell: 0064-274438465 homehostingltd@inet.net.nz

JAPAN Kuniteru Matsumoto (Kiyoko) 3-3-22 Matsumoto Building Dajima, Kitaku Osaka, Japan 530-003 Tel: 06-458-7020 Fax: 06-441-3765



PRESIDENT

Tony Durieux (Sandra) 13804 Crescent Cove Ave NE Thornville, OH 43076

Tel: 740-242-4001 Cell: 740-334-7669 agent@alink.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

B.E. "Bud" Higginson (DEE) 124 Tina Island Drive Osprey, FL 34229

Tel: 941-966-7494 Cell: 941-320-9063 higgo2@aol.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT SHERRY BARONE (PAT REGAN) 204 Washington Ave #101 Santa Monica. CA 90403

Tel: 310-458-9610 Cell: 310-720-9610 seasidecon@aol.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT ROBERT "BUZZ" BISANZ (NANCY) 529 Victoria Road

Woodstock, GA 30189

Tel: 770-337-8701 buzz8521@comcast.net

PAST PRESIDENT ROSALIE DAVIS-GREEN (GARY) 1445 Stonewood Court San Pedro, CA 90732

Tel: 310-684-1848 rgreen@ca.rr.com

TREASURER

MARSHALL NEMOY (DAWN)
3517 Camino del Rio South
Suite 208

San Diego, CA 92108-4028

Tel: 619-282-5050 / 888-378-2211 Res: 858-565-1093 Fax: 619-282-5252 bgtreas@iobg.org



President Tony Durieux

Summer is here and local District and Chapter IOBG programs are being planned and implemented. It's that time of the year. Winter is over and the boat gremlins are being banished. The light that would not work, the engine that would not start and the bottom boat paint that needed a touch up is being fixed.

What's next? Completing a special project left from last year? Then we get to the fun part of boating...the special fun night, a dinner cruise or dance being planned by your e-board or district or chapter auxiliary, also know as, your fun time team.

My point is that the IOBG is an organization that exists for the benefit of our Past Commodores and their families. We want the boating community to continue to recognize and understand the importance you played in maintaining the integrity and public confidence in the boating community. When you take on a community project, we want all to take notice and want to be part of a terrific idea. In addition to being recognized leaders in the boating community we want our Past Commodores to be recognized as a great group of people everywhere they go.



With this thought in mind, the executive committee has agreed to award a District Achievement Award based on retention and growth beginning with the official district membership numbers posted in August 2017.

This distinctive pin will be awarded to the top five district executive boards in 2018. The formula chosen will give retention the most weight and growth is added to the mix to determine the awardees. This will be an Area Vice President driven program with the winning district presentations being made at the 2018 Change of Watch.

Each Area Vice President will have a district winner. Updates will be available throughout the year so each District can see how their planning is coming together.

Our thought is to get back to basics. The Gavel is each and every Blue Gavel member. Every Past Commodore has earned the right to wear his silver epaulets. The Blue Gavel is the continued recognition of his or her past and present service to the boating community. As a club member once told me, once a Commodore always a Commodore. That comment, carries the responsibility of being the person who commands respect from all wherever he or she goes.

In closing, I want to thank the Rosarians for their continued hospitality. We have been part of the Rosarians Festival since 1972 and they honor the International Order of Blue Gavel every year. It's a fun time with the added flavor of nobility.



Summer Regional Meeting



August 16-18, 2018

Host by: District 7 - Cleveland, Ohio

Erie, Pennsylvania

Registration Deadline AUGUST 2, 2018



Please make your reservations directly at, Sheraton Bayfront Hotel at 814-240-7246

or

Use this link to make your room reservations https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action? id=1802236885&key=35142CC9.

If you choose to come by boat Erie Yacht Club has dockage available on a first come, first serve basis. Please call the yacht club at 814-453-4931 to make the arrangements.



Note*

- * Transportation will be provided on Thursday night to Erie Yacht Club and on Friday to the Niagara Museum tour.
- * Saturday night activity is a dinner cruise aboard the "Victorian Princess". See sheet for dinner choices. There will be a cash bar. We will have an enjoyable relaxing dinner cruise on this three-level paddlewheel boat around Presque Isle Bay.

Board the boat 6:30 pm Leave the dock 7:00 pm Cruise and dinner 9:00 pm

Make checks payable to: Lloyd Bogue

Mail the first page registration form and your check (no later than August 2nd) to:

Lloyd Bogue

P.O. Box 681 Geneva, OH 44041

Phone: 440-812-4242 Email: Lloydbogue@windstream.net



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL



Summer Regional Meeting

August 16-18, 2018

Host by: District 7 - Cleveland, Ohio

Erie, Pennsylvania

Registration Deadline AUGUST 2, 2018

Registration Form

Date/Event	Cost per Person	# of Persons	Total Cost
Thursday, August 16			
*Cash Food & Bar (Erie Yacht Club)		X	
Friday, August 17			
Lunch on your own			
*Niagara Museum Tour	\$10.00	X	\$
Dinner at Sheraton Bayfront			
Stuffed Chicken Breast	\$39.00	X	\$
Braised Pork Shank	\$39.00	X	\$
Faroe Island Salmon	\$40.00	X	\$
Saturday, August 18			
Lunch on your own			
Dinner Cruise	\$46.50	X	\$
Pork Loin		X	
Stuffed Chicken Breast		X	
		Total Amount Enclosed	\$
Name:	Spouse/Gue	est	
District #Office Held			mber
Mailing Address			
State Zip Code	Telephone		
Email Address			Page 6



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL Summer Regional Meeting



August 16-18, 2018

Erie, Pennsylvania

Host by: District 7 - Cleveland, Ohio

Registration Deadline AUGUST 2, 2018

Events Schedule

Thursday, August 16

12:00 - 5:00 PM Registration open at Sheraton Bayfront Hotel

6:00 - 9:00 PM *Cash Food & Bar at Erie Yacht Club (See Transportation)

Friday, August 17

9:00 -11:00 AM Registration

9:00 -11:00 AM IOBG & IOBGA Executive Committee will meet at the hotel

(Sheraton Bayfront Hotel)

Noon Open for lunch (area restaurants)

2:30 - 4:00 PM *Tour Brig Niagara and Museum

(Reservations required) (See transportation)

6:00 PM Cocktails at Sheraton Bayfront Hotel (Cash Bar)

7:00 PM Dinner at Sheraton Bayfront Hotel (Reservations Required)

9:00-11:00 PM Hospitality Room Open - Otter Room

Saturday, August 18

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration

9:00 AM Summer Regional IOBG Meeting and IOBGA Regional Meeting

at the hotel (Sheraton Bayfront Hotel) Dress: Summer Whites

Noon Lunch on your own

6:30 PM Dinner Cruise on Victoria Princess (Reservations Required)

9:30 -11:00 PM Hospitality Room Open - Otter Room





International Order of the Blue Gavel District Achievement Award

Beginning with the official District membership numbers posted in August 2017, the Executive Committee will be awarding a District Achievement Award pin based on retention and growth. This distinctive pin will be awarded to five District executive boards in 2018. The formula chosen will give retention the most weight and growth will add to the mix in determining the recipients.

District Stats as of June 2018

District	Retention %	Growth Rate %	DAA %
1	80.00%	0.80%	80.80%
3	Not Submitte	d	
6	97.00%	11.86%	108.86%
7	89.00%	4.00%	93.00%
8	91.18%	1.76%	92.94%
9	Not Submitte	d	
10	93.00%	13.24%	106.24%
11	79.00%	8.82%	87.82%
14	98.00%	10.17%	108.17%
15	86.00%	3.70%	89.70%
16	73.00%	22.72%	95.72%
19	87.00%	7.10%	94.10%
20	Not Submitte	d	
21	77.00%	11.43%	88.43%
22	Not Submitted		
25	86.00%	4.00%	90.00%
26	Not Submitted		
27	Not Submitted		

This will be coordinated by the Area Vice Presidents. The winning Districts' presentations will be made at the October 2018 Change of Watch in Venice, Florida. Each Area Vice President will have a District winner. In addition, because some districts have a small number of members, this method should only be used with districts that have 25 or more members. The Executive Committee can then decide if a small District qualifies with the recommendation of the Area Vice President.

Updates will be available throughout the year so each District can see how their planning is coming together.

In conclusion...Our thought is to get back to basics. The Blue Gavel is each and every one of its Blue Gavel members. Every Past Commodore has earned the right to wear his silver epaulets. The Blue Gavel is the continued recognition of his past and continuing service to the boating community.



President - Elect Bud Higginson

Over the last several years the membership has declined, as in other organizations. The most common question asked is what does IOBG do for me? possible answer to that question is to develop some sort of reciprocity for active IOBG members among vacht clubs that have IOBG chapters.

IOBG 2018 enice, Florida Shark Tooth Capital of the World

775-782-3380

800-315-7485

I recently met with the commodore of the Venice Yacht Club to discuss this issue and agreed upfront that it

would be up to the yacht clubs to set the terms of such an agreement. The intent

would be to develop terms that would be acceptable to all yacht clubs with IOBG chapters. Making this project work is not an easy task, as it will take a lot of time and effort on the part of many members and the full support of the Executive Committee.

District 8's Gulf Harbors Yacht Club in Newport Richie, Florida changed house rules and bylaws to allow IOBG members to come in.

An IOBG member would have to contact the yacht club in advance. Some people stay three months, so there would have to be a limit. Reciprocity would be difficult to standardize across the board. It would not be fair if your club gives reciprocity yet you can't go into another club.

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



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, black & navy background and the price is \$23.95 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.

Quantit	у	Black	White	Navy	Unit Price	Total
	IOBG Blazer Emblem					
	Auxiliary Blazer Emblem					
Please	Print					
ı am a ı	paid up member of IOBG Distric IOBGA Distric		Ya	cht Club _		Year
Signatu	ire			Ship to:		
	ove will be verified. Member wilns when shipped.	l be bille	d for	_		
		Contact	Phone Nu	mber: _		
		Em	ail Addres	sses:		

International Order of the Blue Gavel ANNUAL MEETING

October 18 - 20, 2018

Venice, Florida



Welcome to Venice, Florida

Venice Yacht Club

1330 Tarpon Center Drive Venice, FL 34285

941-488-7708



District 8 is honoring one of their own becoming International President of IOBG. Bud Higginson and Lady Dee have a wonderful weekend planned. We look forward to you attending this special event.

The hotel is 1½ hours from Tampa Airport; 55 minutes from Ft. Myers Airport and 40 minutes from Sarasota Airport.



Hotel Information: Ramada Venice Hotel Venezia – 425 US 41 Bypass North, Venice, Florida 34285. Phone Number: 941-308-7700. Mention IOBG when reserving – price is \$99.00 plus tax per night and includes breakfast!

If you are coming in on Wednesday the 17th the Hospitality Suite will be there to greet you. Dinner on your own or join us at the Venice Yacht Club for "Pasta Night". Also available is a full service dining menu for you to choose from. Shuttle service is available from Hotel Venezia to Venice Yacht Club.

Thursday afternoon join us in visiting the Clyde Butcher Art Studio along with some shopping therapy in historic downtown Venice. Transportation will be provided. Dinner on your own this evening or join us in VYC Main Dining area, Pearson Cove or Tiki area.

On Friday, pack those sunglasses as you will need them while enjoying a cruise aboard "La Barge", transportation and box lunch will be provided, then back to VYC to enjoy a special dinner in our Sunset Room.

Saturday will be the celebration of the installation of our new officers along with dancing. Hospitality Suite will open at 10:00 PM at the hotel.

Don't miss this wonderful weekend in Venice, the shark tooth capital of the world!





INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 18-20, 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

Date/Event	Cost	# of Persons	Total
Thursday, October 18 Lunch (Barbecue Menu)	\$15.00	x	\$
Activity-Clyde Butcher Art Studio Shopping in Downtown Venice		X	
Friday, October 19 Box Luncheon for Activity (Wraps, Chips & Cookies)	\$12.00	x	\$
Activity - Cruise Aboard La Barge	\$27.00	x	\$
Dinner at VYC - Sunset Room	\$30.00	x	\$
Choice/Quantity: Prime Rib	Salmon _	Stuffed CI	nicken Breast
Saturday, October 20 Luncheon at VYC (Deli Buffet)	\$24.00	x	\$
IOBG President's Ball	\$70.00	x	\$
Choice/Quantity: Filet Mignon	Cor	nch Crusted Group	er
Please let us know of any dietary restriction	ns so we may	accommodate you	r needs
	TOTAL A	MOUNT ENCLOSE	ED \$
Name:		Spouse/Guest:	
District and Office Held:			Member (Circle) IOBG IOBGA
Mailing Address:		City:	
State: Zip/Postal Code:	Phone Nu	ımber:	
Email Address:			

Make checks payable to: **VYC - IOBG 2018 Ball** (No Online Registration)

Mail check and this form to:

Venice Yacht Club - IOBG 2018 Ball

1330 Tarpon Center Drive Venice, FL 34285



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 18-20, 2018



Schedule of Events

Wednesday	, Octob	or 17
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Registration	Venice Yacht Club	3:00 - 8:00 PM
Hospitality	Hotel	5:00 - 8:00 PM
Dinner On Your Own	VVC - Hanny Hour & Pasta Bar	5.30 - 222

Thursday, October 18

Registration	Venice Yacht Club	8:00 - 11:00 AM
IOBG (Ex Comm)	VYC - Conference Room	9:00 - 11:00 AM
IOBGA (Ex Comm)	VYC - Sunset Room	9:00 - 11:00 AM
Lunch	Venice Yacht Club	11:30 -12:45 PM
Activity	Clyde Butcher Art Studio/Shopping	1:00 - 4:00 PM
Dinner (No Host Cocktails)	VYC - Tiki, Bistro or MDR	5:00 - 8:30 PM
(Yacht Club Casual)		
Hospitality Suite	Hotel	9:00 - 10:00 PM

Friday, October 19 Dress: Florida Casual (Day) / Yacht Club Casual (Evening)

Registration	Venice Yacht Club	8:00 - 11:00 AM
IOBG-HF Meeting	VYC - MDR Conf./Bistro	7:30 - 10:00 AM
IOBG Meeting	VYC - Sunset Room	9:00 - 11:00 AM
IOBGA Meeting	VYC - MDR Conf./Bistro?	9:00 - 10:00 AM
Activity - Box Lunch Provided	Cruise - La Barge	11:15 - 3:30 PM
Dinner (No Host Cocktails)	VYC - Sunset Room	5:00 - 9:00 PM
(Yacht Club Casual)		
Hospitality Room	Hotel	Until 11:00 PM

Saturday, October 20 Dress: Whites - No Ties or Blazer (Day) / Black Tie Formal (Evening)

Daturday, October 20 Diess.	Willes - No fles of blazer (bay) / black fle	i oimai (Everiing)
Registration	Venice Yacht Club	9:00 - 10:00 AM
IOBG Meeting	VYC - Sunset Room	9:00 - 11:45 AM
IOBGA Meeting	VYC - MDR Conf./Bistro	9:00 - 11:45 AM
IOBG-HF Luncheon	VYC - Sunset Room	12:00 - 1:30 PM
IOBG Meeting (Continues)	VYC - Sunset Room	1:30 - 3:00 PM
Fall Regional Meeting	VYC - Sunset Room	3:00 - 3:30 PM
Cocktail Hour	VYC - Main Bar/Bistro	6:00 - 7:00 PM
Officers Line up for Procession	VYC - Hallway	6:45 PM
Installation/Dinner (Black Tie/Forma	l) VYC - Main Dining Room	7:00 - 9:30 PM
Hospitality Suite	Hotel	10:00 - ???

Sunday, October 21 Thank you for attending & have a safe journey home.



First Vice President Sherry Barone

There has been a continued focused and strategy in increasing IOBG membership with our new brochures and PowerPoint charts to recruit and retain the inactive chapters, new chapters and new members. The Executive Committee will be awarding a District Achievement Award pin based on retention and growth and the competition has ignited our districts.

Our communication is critical and the Area Vice Presidents and Districts continue to have meetings to share ideas monthly and quarterly. Working this year with Northeastern VP Stephen Tisack and Southeastern VP Karen E. Shea is a pleasure as they continue working hard for representing and communicating with districts. Civil minded activities, sailing, and community service is a part of the activities on the East Coast. The team is working hard to add new and inactive chapters to IOBG and four were added this quarter. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and international countries are some of the focus for this year as the boating season is beginning.

IOBG continues to induct many new commodores to our family and are welcomed as they become active in IOBG. Discussions were held at the Portland meeting to discuss inviting Commodore Jose Miguel Diaz Escrich from Hemingway International Yacht Club (HIYC), Havana, Cuba to join IOBG as an "honorary" or special category member? Commodore Escrich has been the only Commodore of HIYC since 1992 and is not a Past Commodore. Cuba has a rich nautical history and have hosted many international races. Southeastern VP Karen Shea has written a point paper and he has been contacted to let him know we are reviewing his request through the executive board at Portland.

I have been attending many opening days here on the west coast of sunny California sometimes with a little "May grey". The yacht seasons never closes here.

I attended District 11 IOBG co-sponsored home port regatta with PMYC and ASMBYC teaching new racers techniques, racing rules, seminar and a fun day of sailing & racing in Santa Monica Bay. Membership appreciation, BBQ, youth charity events and sailing events continue to guide our membership.

Summer is an excellent time to take in yachting competitions in some of Europe's and the U.S. chillier coastal locales. Spending the last few months teaching Special Olympic Athletes sailing continues to enrich us and had some IOBG members on the water with UCLA marina aquatic center and community sailboats. A positive note on Junior Sailing in Southern California is the enthusiasm and participation level is getting higher than in recent years. IOBG is supporting local Jrs such as the King Harbor Youth Foundation and the many grants IOBG Humanitarian Foundation supports yearly. If you have not donated this year the work the IOBG-HF does on behalf of IOBG is exceptional. Check the updated web site as Mary Nye Meyers continues to keep us up to date on the IOBG events in US. Canada and New Zealand.

A number of our members are sailing & racing competitively under the IOBG flag.

Happy sailing and boating this summer...



Second Vice President Robert "Buzz" Bisanz

The IOBG 2nd Vice President's role includes the management of our association's Public Relations, represent the IOBG Executive Committee on the Audit Committee and Finance Committee, liaison for the IOBG Auxiliary, member of the Annual Meeting Review and liaison with the Area Vice Presidents for the Northwest, Southwest and the District west of the Mississippi. I'd like to provide you with an update on the progress year to date on these areas of responsibility.

Beginning last year and moving into this year our brochure was updated and republished. The new brochure is available for you to order from the International Operations Center and distribute. Thanks to Sherry Barone for her input and hard work on updating this brochure. Our IOBG.org website has also been updated and the majority of the updates are now complete. If you have not reviewed this site in a while please check it out at www.IOBG.org.

I would like to thank Sherry Barone and North Central AVP Mark Vadaj for their time and effort to create the IOBG Power Point presentation that provides us with an electronic story of IOBG. This presentation is available on the IOBG.org website for anyone to download and use. I encourage you to investigate then use this presentation.

As part of further creating two way communications between our membership and leadership I have to thank our Area Vice Presidents for their efforts in setting up conference calls within their assigned Districts. We adopted regular conference calls to garner feedback from our IOBG District Leadership and to pass on information about activities within IOBG in general. At the same time, I have setup a monthly conference call with my assigned AVPs and we are achieving success in that communication area.

I act as the official liaison between the IOBG Executive Committee and the IOBG Auxiliary. Both President Al Eiffert and Vice President Gary Smith have submitted a report on the current status in the Auxiliary. Please see the attached reports.

District Achievement Award: Beginning with the official District membership numbers posted in August 2017, the Executive Committee will be awarding a District Achievement Award pin based on retention and growth. This distinctive pin will be awarded to five District executive boards in 2018. Your AVP has detailed information for you.

Thank you to Southwestern Area Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith and Northwestern Area Vice President Lani Lightle for the personal time and service they each put forth to their assigned areas on behalf of IOBG.

**** Please continue your support of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. Website: IOBG-HF.org
To apply for Humanitarian Foundation funding of a local project access the website and complete the LAP
(Local Area Project) application form.



Past President Rosalie Davis Green

We are working hard on our membership retention numbers this year. Remember to support these efforts with exciting social activities and by involvement with valuable service projects in your community. These two things will keep members returning as they are so very rewarding.

The two major duties of the Immediate Past President are Audit committee and Nominating committee. The audit committee comprised of the two most recent Past Presidents, Joe Dowdell and Rosalie Davis Green, President Elect Bud Higginson, 2nd Vice President Buzz Bisanz met and reviewed all the documents provided by the Treasurer. After a thorough review, we found that the revenues of the organization are being spent on the usual and customary expenses of the organization. From the audit perspective, we are satisfied that financially everything is in good order in the organization.

The Nominating committee is comprised of: P/P Rosalie Davis Green, Chair, P/P Joe Dowdell, President Tony Durieux, Member from east of the Mississippi Mathew Schmidt, member from west of the Mississippi Linda Loftis. The committee will make selections and nominate a slate which the chair will present to the Executive Committee for approval. All will be completed before August 1, 2018.

Hope to see many of you at the Summer Regional meeting in Eire, PA.

In the mean time, enjoy your time on or near the water.

District 50
Mark A. Vadaj, District Director

District 50 is on the way to expansion as we expect members in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin to join very soon. I am extremely excited about the enthusiasm I am receiving from multiple yacht clubs. I am still looking for additional hosts to sponsor a Meet and Greet event in Illinois. If there are any Clubs willing to provide a room, the IOBG will provide the snacks and beverages.

Now that we have a foothold in the New England areas, I am certain that Northeast V.P. Steve Tisack and 1st V.P. Sherry Barone will be eager to expand upon your base. You renewed commitment is greatly appreciated. Help us to provide even more to the members in and around your area.

Lastly I hope to see you in Erie, Pennsylvania for our Summer Regional Meeting or Venice, Florida for our Annual Meeting Convention.

Mark A. Vadaj – Director, District 50.

Email: MarkVadaj@gmail.com Cell: 440-479-0064



Past President Rosalie Davis Green

Slate of Officers for 2019

The 2018 nominating committee consists of the President, the two immediate Past Presidents and two IOBG members, one from West of the Mississippi River and one from East of the Mississippi River.

The IOBG nominating committee met by conference call and reviewed all requests for nomination submitted by interested members. The committee thoroughly discussed each request. Our decision reflects the consensus of the committee. The IOBG Executive Committee ratified the slate as presented to them by the nominating committee.

These nominees will be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the IOBG Board of Directors at the IOBG Annual Meeting in Venice Florida on October 20, 2018.

President B.E. "Bud" Higginson

President-Elect Sherry Barone

1st Vice President Robert "Buzz" Bisanz

2nd Vice President Mark Vadaj

Immediate Past President Tony Durieux

Treasurer Marshall Nemov

Executive Secretary Mary Effect

Northeast Area Vice President Stephen Tisack

Southeast Area Vice President Karen E. Shea

North Central Area Vice President Steven Hyder

Northwest Area Vice President OPEN

Southwest Area Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith



N.B.F. Representative Marlene Barrington

Electric Shock Drowning and Recreational Boating



Today, we are informing all of a very dangerous condition: Electric Shock Drowning and we are doing it with a focus on the Recreational Boater.

Please note that this condition can be deadly!

We are pushing this through with help from other sources, because we are in the launch sequence for seasonal boaters, and many times this is when the condition is most possible. One season haul out, then work on the vessel over the winter, and launch the next spring season, could make electrical current leakage a very real problem.

As it happens, our friends at Boat U.S. have published a very in-depth article in their "Seaworthy" magazine. You can find that article here...

Another valuable resource is the <u>Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association</u>. Not only is there much relevant information on this site, but there are many links to more information than any singular article might provide.

Though we are suggesting that winter layup may be a cause for current leakage, it is not the only possible cause. And it may not even be your vessel, as it could be your dock partners or even the marina that is allowing current leakage. One must be aware of all possible sources.

There are many current detectors available to allow one to determine if your vessel has current leakage or even if the marina you are docked in might be the culprit, prior to jumping into the water for a cooling swim in unsafe conditions. One can search for them on the internet and determine if one suits you more than another. We can only hope that the individual will be informed through these articles and wish to have some sort of testing device available to protect family and friends from disaster.

With all that National Boating Federation addresses for the Recreational Boater, our primary focus is on safety! We hope that is your first consideration in all you do, especially to have a great time while boating!

Please access other information from National Boating Federation at www.n-b-f.org and on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/NationalBoatingFederation.

I Vague



US Sailing Representative Mark Hansen

Update from Jack Gierhart, CEO of US Sailing

Many of our programs and numerous other events that have involved US Sailing are ramping up. From an operations and performance standpoint we are on target financially. Membership numbers continue to gain ground, and although we are slightly behind budget, we are ahead of 2017. Program revenue is below budget but this is a timing issue with certificate revalidations. Fundraising is performing well. I have been travelling a bit, visiting Charleston Race Week where we held our annual Buzz Bar and Malcolm presented an update to the crowd on our Olympic Program; the Bay Area to attend part of the Team's may clinic and meet with donors and the new West Marine CEO; and to Florida for a NGB conference and meetings in Miami.

We are currently working to fill several open positions. The CMO search is entering its last phase with 3 strong candidates scheduled to visit the office over the next two weeks. Our goal is to have a candidate finalized by mid-June. We have finalized a job description for Will Ricketson's replacement, and that will be posted this week. We have short term options to provide communications support for the team until we bring a candidate in fulltime. We have strong candidates to fill the Organizational member engagement and multimedia manager positions (a new role to provide us inhouse video content capabilities for education and communications). Finally, Lauren is also working to fill the part time role that is open since Tina departed. Overall, while hiring new staff is time consuming, these changes are positive and provide opportunities for us to re-evaluate positions and fine tune job descriptions.

As you all have hopefully seen, the new website is up and running. Over the past nine months the whole staff, many volunteers and our web developer worked incredibly hard to build a brand-new site from the ground up. It reflects the new US Sailing and provides easier access to the information our members and sailors are looking for, as well as supporting the multitude of devices that people are using today. We reduced the page count from approximately 7,000 to under 1,000, integrated many new images, improved the navigation and focused on search engine optimization. We also consolidate the 10+ individual sites into one. The IT team did a spectacular job on the transition, and while there were several challenges when we flipped the switch, they were quite limited, and the team responded incredibly quickly to minimize the impact. From a business perspective there was literally no down time. I'd like to especially recognize Rachel Reagan and Bryan Donovan for their great work in supporting the staff and volunteers in content migration and getting the project over the goal line.

We have been busy with Miami-related business over the past month. The lease for the Sailing Center was up for renewal, and at the 11th hour opposition to the renewal emerged. While US Sailing is not directly involved in the lease, we are a customer of the facility, and it plays a critical role in the Olympic program and in public access to sailing in Biscayne Bay. The local community supported by Meredith Brody did a good job rallying local support and our communications team help engage a broader, national and even international audience to support the center. Bruce and I attended the final city commissioners meeting to lend support, and in the end, the city extended the lease for another 10 years with two 4-year extensions. One of the messages that came from the city was that the center needed to do more from a program standpoint to engage the local community and help bring more benefits locally. We look forward to assisting the center in this endeavor.

Continued...

On another Miami front, we continue to work with World Sailing to improve the World Cup Series Miami and strengthening its financial sustainability. During our visit to Miami for the City Commissioners meeting, Bruce, Meredith and I also met with flag officers from the Coral Reef and Biscayne Bay Yacht Clubs and the race manager from the Coconut Grove Sailing Center. We discussed ways to reduce expenses and better engage and support the local sailing community. There is solid support for the event from the Miami sailing community and they pledged to work with us to continue improving the regatta.

Shifting from Miami to the west coast and San Francisco, we announced the establishment of a US Sailing Team Training Center on Treasure Island, a project in conjunction with the St Francis Sailing Foundation, FAST and the Treasure Island Sailing Center. The center will be a west coast home for the team and US Sailing and a benchmark program demonstrating the integration of grass roots programing through Olympic athlete training. The sailing team held a clinic on May 14 and 15 in San Francisco that included athletes, our commercial partners, experts from other sports, the USOC and our local partners, and we used the event to launch this new initiative. Malcolm will be relocating to the Bay Area to oversee this new initiative and work closely with the athletes, coaches and our technology projects.

Finally, this has been a busy couple of weeks in Newport with the Volvo Stopover in town. Our youth and education teams have been busy with the Reach exhibit at in the Exploration Zone that has seen 1000's of kids come through. We also hosted a STEMcation with 6 middle school students from Hawaii, Bermuda and New Bedford. Over 5 days, Jessica and the education and youth departments introduce these energetic young sailors to all aspects of the RI sailing community: Roger Williams University and the sailing team, boat building (visit to Zim), Community Boating in Providence, Vestas 11th Hour Tour, International Yacht Restoration School, and New England Science and Sailing. An incredible experience for these young students. Stay tuned for a recap video on the entire program.

Thank you to our Board and all our dedicated volunteers for all you do for the sport. A big thanks to the US Sailing staff who work tirelessly to support our members and sailing across the U.S. Our new structure and home is making a difference, and this progress and our accomplishments are due to the dedication of the 50+ people I have the pleasure and honor of working with every day. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you all around the waterfront, and for those traveling to RI this summer, please stop by the office.

Cheers from Jack and the US Sailing Staff

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.







The big Opening Day of Boating Season was again hosted by the Seattle Yacht Club. They have been doing this yearly fon the first weekend in May for about 100 years now. It is the biggest Opening Day of Boating Season in the United States.



District 1 President, Mary McCollum, represented IOBG with the raising of the IOBG flag at the Seattle Yacht Club. Then we had a boat in the parade with members in full uniform and IOBG banners on both sides. We waved to thousands and thousands of people on the shores of the Montlake cut and log booms full of boats. From there we went across Lake Washington in our parade boat with banners



still attached to do as much advertising as we could. We stopped at Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club for lunch as the University of Washington Marching Band played for us. Huge beautiful yachts are there and some of the richest people in the world live nearby like the Nordstrom Family, Bill and Melinda Gates, and Jeff Bezos to name a few.

The following weekend I represented IOBG again at the Des Moines Yacht Club opening day ceremony located just to the south of Seattle, WA.



District 1 had their summer picnic this year at historic Port Townsend located about 50 miles northwest of Seattle. Port Townsend is a huge tourist attraction with a rich history, beautiful views, and many attractions. We had a nice turnout that included members from Port Ludlow Yacht Club, our newest chapter. In September we will have our Fall Change of Watch meeting hosted by the Port Ludlow Yacht Club.

Because our neighbor to the south (District 5, Portland, Oregon) does not have enough members to enjoy the activities that District 1 has we plan to begin inviting them to our activities. I believe that it is important to unite adjoining districts together when possible.

As the IOBG-HF Treasurer & CFO I would like to report that IOBG Humanitarian Foundation has been receiving increasing donations from AmazonSmile as a result of members signing up to AmazonSmile and assigning IOBG-HF as the recipient of a donation. The donations are small but they are increasing. Amazon has now donated \$89,030,554.80 to charities through this program. Thank you to those who have signed up, every bit helps.

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The Southwest region has several goals for this year:

Communication: We have instituted quarterly teleconferences. The objective is to keep in contact, and share and disseminate news of interest to the region. We also have a monthly Constant Contact Newsletter/Email Blast. We find this helpful in sharing activities and getting reminders and deadlines out.

Membership Retention: In keeping with the International, the Southwest Region has been focused on retaining members and Inducting new members. Districts 14 and 19 inducted 23 new members in January, and District 21 President Richard Price has been inducting new members during Opening Days in Orange County.

Relevancy Projects: Most of our Districts have some activities that benefit others. District 15 raises funds for ElderHelp San Diego and Make a Wish. District 6 members filled volunteer positions assisting with the 2018 Pacific Cup from San Francisco to Oahu.



Membership Appreciation: We value our members and strive to provide activities that will invite our members to participate. Many districts provide some type of incentive: District 15 has a Member Appreciation Party, where the District foots the bill for a BBQ. District 21 provides members with lapel pins, or decals.

In short, the Southwest Region is making our membership the priority. Our plan is to make IOBG membership the goal for every Chapter board member.

District 10
Joyce Jackson-Coomber, District Director



Opening day season is over and was wonderful. Rodney and I attended at least 25 different yacht clubs for their festivities. Between myself and a few other members of the board we inducted nine new members.



District 10 Report Continued...

We have several events planned for the upcoming months including dinners with speakers at both Huntington Harbor and Long Beach Yacht Clubs, A Day at the Races at Los Alamitos Race Track and a Knott's Berry Farm chicken dinner followed by rides in the park.

We are partnering with Navy Yacht Club to raise money for The Children's Clinics of Long Beach. We will accomplish this by hosting an omelet bar brunch at the Navy Yacht Club facility on August 5, 2018.

We are in the planning stages of fundraising in support of Sherry Barone's installation in 2019.

District 11 Sheila Anderson, President/Director

In March - We inducted the Jr Staff Commodore of Westlake YC and we presented the WYC Chapter with a special plaque commemorating their 50th Anniversary. Continuing the Opening Day ceremonies District 11 added a total of 8 new Jr Staff Commodores.

We also showed our appreciation to the membership with our annual Member's Appreciation Event. Past Director Susan Hernandez Araico shared her beautiful home with us. Her backyard was a wonderful setting for this very special event. The board provided food and drinks. Unkle Monkey provided music which we all enjoyed. We all introduced ourselves and stated the year we were commodore. Our group have commodores from 1974 to 2017. It was a great mixer.





In May, District co-sponsored The Marina Del Rey Home Port Regatta along ASMBYC and PMYC. This is a regatta for beginner racers. IOBG sponsored the after race dinner. The racers were very thankful for the dinner.

We are starting plans for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Our first fund raiser is a fun night of music at the Hollywood.

District 15
Bill Edwards, District Director

District 15 - Make-A-Wish® of San Diego Amazing Race for Children's Wishes bike team have raised more

money than in past years due to the President's solid communications with our constituency.

The following events are schedule for the rest of 2018:

- 1) BOARD MEETING ON SEPT 10, 2018 AT SWYC 6 PM
- 2) DIST 15 CHARITY REGATTA ON SEPT 29, 2018 at Point Loma Yacht Club
- 3) BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12, 2018 AT SWYC 6 PM;

With our CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER MEETING ON JANUARY 11, 2019 AT SWYC



With regard to strategies we are using to Retain and Recruit members, the Director and President of District 15 attend monthly San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs meetings and brief them about our activities; encouraging past commodores to join and involve them in our activities.

District 19
Dave Breninger, District Director

IOBG Delta District 19 continues to have an outstanding leadership team. It is led by President Jack Michael, Vice President Paul Clausen, Secretary Matt Smith, Treasurer Mike Billington and Supply Officer Don Dietz. Additionally, Past District 19 Director (2017) Roger Beebe continues to advise and assist as well as serving as Delta District 19's

Communications and Web Master.

On Sunday afternoon, February 25 over 110 people gathered at Pittsburg Yacht Club/Chapter, Pittsburg, CA for the annual combined IOBG Delta District 19 and IOBG District 14 General Membership and New Member Induction Meeting and Luncheon. Among the attendees was IOBG Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith with husband Gary Smith (who represented IOBGA International). Annually, District 14 and 19 meet-jointly for their respective new member induction ceremony. This year 16 new IOBG members were inducted into Delta District 19 and 7 new IOBG members were inducted into District 14. Officiating Officer of the 2018 New Member Induction Ceremony was IOBG International Past President Vern Bendsen.

Membership renewals and especially recruitment of new prospective members into IOBG is continually pursued by the Delta District 19 Board of Directors. All membership development – both renewals and recruitment - is a duty assigned-to and under the able direction of Vice President Paul Clausen.

Upcoming IOBG Delta District 19 scheduled events include:

- *** The Delta District 19 Nomination of Officers with BBQ lunch and cruise-in option and special two-hour pontoon boat tours will be Saturday, August 11 at 10:30am at Discovery Bay Yacht Club/Chapter, Discovery Bay, CA.
- *** The Delta District 19 Election Meeting with luncheon will be Saturday, September 22 at 12:00 noon hosted by Bridge Marina Yacht Club/Chapter at Driftwood Marina, Antioch, CA.
- *** The Delta District 19 Change of Watch with dinner will be Saturday, November 3 at 5:30pm at the Stockton Yacht Club/Chapter, Stockton, CA

Members and others interested in Delta District 19's 2018 schedule of activities, general information as well as membership information are welcome to browse www.iobgdelta19.org at any time.







The Summer Boating Season of 2018 is finally arrived as boaters on the Great Lakes are in full throttle until the snow starts again which could be next week. As you know The Great Lakes is known for a shorter season than our southern boating friends. This translates to enjoying 1-year worth of pleasure into 6 months of time or please don't invite me to a wedding, anniversary or graduation party from April to October as I am a Boater.

That is only one reason why I am extremely proud and extremely appreciative of the fine effort that the officers of District 25, 23, 9, and 7 invested into not only recruiting new members but to retain our existing members. This is done by developing new and innovative methods and events to not only retain but attract Past Commodores to "Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity". Thank you for not only inviting myself but other Districts to join in to strengthen and multiply the success of each event. In summary, it does not matter what District you are from or what size and type of boat. We are all in it for the enjoyment of being on the water. Job Well Done to all Members of the IOBG.

Please take a moment or two to review the articles from each of our contributors. It is not the investment of time to write the article that matters, it is the investment of time, effort and caring to develop the events and meetings that are truly the most valuable asset. If you are wondering Who, What, Why and How for the IOBG, please accept the invitation to join one or more of the events this season and bring a Past Commodore Friend. Most of the events are listed on a District web site or call me and I will assist you. Most often you are only a short distance away.

District 7 Lloyd Bogue, President Boating Season is OPEN. Another busy quarter for district #7! Our St. Patty's day parade in downtown Cleveland on March 17th was a fun day with sunny skies and warm beverages. Thanks to P/P Warren Dempster & of course Marianne for hosting the hospitality room again this year. Gene & Connie McKeown came through with the Irish coffee and wonderful corn beef sliders. YUM! Thanks to all that participated!

Our huge event for the month of March was our annual Blue Blazer Event hosted by Northeast Yacht Club. The Sunday afternoon venue has worked well for this event and this year we hosted some 70 people. The best part of that day was that we inducted 10 new members. Each new member received their membership pin and a certificate. The supply officer P/P Warren Dempster also had a large array of Blue Gavel items for sale with much activity. Thanks to the bar crew of P/P Rich McKee & P/P Warren Dempster, I am sure no one went without a nice beverage! I would also like to thank the Auxiliary for helping out with set up, paper products, and cake! Thanks Rhonda, Debbie, Marianne, & Beth. I sure hope I didn't miss anyone? Thanks to all that helped

While I am talking about the Auxiliary, I would like to congratulate them on a very successful "Nautica" Brunch Cruise. They set a record with 184 people participating this year. The food and the crew of the "Nautica" do a great job and we appreciate all that they do.

Continued...

District 7 Report Continued...

The month of May is the official start to the boating season with many things planned for the summer months. A very impressive event is the Memorial Day Ceremony aboard the USS Cod sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Boating Association. If you have an opportunity to come down for the festivities, it starts with coffee & donuts at Burke Lakefront Airport at 9 AM followed by the march over to the Cod at 10 AM. All of the fun should conclude by 1130 AM. One other thing that I almost forgot is that we will also be collecting "Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers". So, if you have a slightly used shirt or one that your wife shrunk, that you would like to donate, please bring it along to Huron! This is another event that your district does for the community. So show your support for our soldiers!

The next event that is planned is for another cocktail party at PIB during I-LYA power boat Regatta. We along with district #9 & 25 host this event as we honor this years Commodore Mike Powers.

August 16-18th brings our fellow International Brothers & Sisters from around the country back to our district as we host the summer meeting in Erie, Pennsylvania. The Sheraton Bayfront Hotel is the main venue for our activities with a lot of fun stuff to do! We start off Thursday night with a bash at Erie Yacht Club, a tour of the marine museum, dinner at the hotel, overlooking the beautiful Erie Bay and to be topped off with a nice sunset dinner cruise aboard the Victoria Princess. Please get you reservation in early! The forms are enclosed or go on the website. The registration deadline is August 2nd. The hotel phone number is 814-240-7246.

District 9
Dean Reamsnyder, District Director

District #9 is pleased to report that as of May we have maintained last year's numbers for membership. We have also recruited and reinstated enough members to garner a 4% growth rate.

As boating season is now going in full swing on the western Lake Erie and lots of events are happening at the yacht and boating clubs. The Associated Yacht Club's Poker Run schedule includes 5 clubs. These 5 clubs host a large number of boats, as well as guests from all member clubs. Lots of fun and friendships abound. Watch for news of our Blue Blazer event this fall. Hope to see you there...

District 25
Betty Tyson, District Director

If you are a Blue Gavel member in your club within District 25, which includes boat clubs from Gibraltar, MI to south of Alpena, MI, but you haven't had a chance to join or renew your 2018 membership in the International Order of Blue Gavel (IOBG), I would like to encourage you to be a part of this organization. All our information for joining is available on our website iobg25.org.

Our International Order of Blue Gavel Auxiliary (IOBGA) had their Sock Hop April 6th at Sunseeker's Boating Club, where everyone enjoyed dancing to old tunes, some were dressed in attire of that era, and a fun time was had by all who attended this event.

Then on April 29th, IOBG District 25 members and friends went Featherbowling at Detroit's Cadieux Café, which is the original site of this Belgian sport in the United States. Additionally, this café is known for their mussels, various Belgian foods, and Belgian beers. Thanks Seaway Boat Club for opening early for us to enjoy a few drinks before the bus departed. Be sure to check our Events in 2019, as this may become a tradition, and you won't want to miss all the fun, if you are in the area!

Continued...

District 25 Report Continued...

In May our snowbirds returned from the south, boats were put in the water, and now it is finally the first day of Summer; which is a season that is all too short in this part of the country!

District 25 IOBG President John Robins had our Semi-Annual Membership Meeting for spring May 10th, and on June 12th John had a Burger Night at Sunseeker's Boating Club. Who doesn't like a burger now and then? This is always a fun idea for the summer.

Our Semi-Annual Membership Meeting for fall has not been scheduled yet, so please watch for updates on the Meetings tab of our website.

The Auxiliary's "Detroit Cycle Pub" event will be Sunday, September 16th. Check our website for the flyer with additional information to sign up early, as space is limited. The cost is \$30 per person and we will meet at 2:00 PM (rain or shine) at Punch Bowl Social, 1331 Broadway Street in Detroit for bicycling on a trolley car to 3 bars in downtown Detroit for a drink or two.

Our Webmaster Jeff Upholzer updates our website iobg25.org on a regular basis, for upcoming Events, Meetings and various District 25 information, to keep members informed; so please check it out. We are also on Facebook at IOBG District #25 and IOBGA District 25.

We are looking forward to seeing YOU at our IOBG/IOBGA District 25 Events and Meetings!

Northeastern V.P.

Stephen Tisack



Districts
3, 12, 20, 22
26 & 27

No Reports Submitted...







In order to assist District 18 in increasing their membership, I used the same strategy as I used on District 8. I sent 11 letters along with our new brochures to the inactive chapters in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. I received one response/member from Western Carolina Sailing Club who sent in an application. My next idea is to assist District 18 by sending out 37 personalized letters to yacht clubs in the five state area who have never had an IOBG Chapter. I have developed the same spreadsheet for District 18 as I did for District 8 which gathers lots of information onto one page. To date we have five members in District 18, along with two strong perspective members which includes five yacht clubs.

I am dual hatted as both the District 8 Director and the Southeastern Vice President. District 8 still have not reached our 2017 membership of 230. We currently have 223 plus 2 Past Presidents. Currently, District 8 has a District Achievement Award (DAA) calculation of 89.38%

It has been a challenge this year having the largest membership district and the smallest membership district. I look forward to working with other Area VP's and 1st VP Sherry Barone with ideas to increase our membership.

District 8
Karen Shea, District Director

Our District President Doug Case conducted our Winter Meeting held at Clearwater Yacht Club on January 19-21, 2018. Our District 1st VP and Clearwater YC IOBG Chapter President Hoyt Nichols hosted the meeting along with a speaker CW Tracy Randall, Commander of the Sand Key Coast Guard Station. The weekend, included fabulous weather and water views with lots of boat traffic, included two nights of delightful dining and dancing and a wonderful Sunday Brunch. Our Spring meeting scheduled for June 1-3 at Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Ft Lauderdale was canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.

We ended 2017 for the second year in a row with the most International District members out of 29 Districts. We had 230 paid members plus 3 Past Presidents for a total of 233 members. As of June 1st our membership numbers for 2018 are 223 members plus 2 Past Presidents for a total of 225. We have 2 Chapters that reactivated - Bird Key YC and Palm Beach Sailing Club - which gives us 25 Chapters. Palm Coast YC has also shown interest but no new members yet.

We continue to work on retention and have assigned our Board Presidents with both active and inactive chapters to contact. In conjunction with our Treasurer Dennis Bosi sending out renewals in December, I sent out 49 personalized letters to inactive Chapters along with our new brochures. In the letters, I also gave reference to our IOBG.ORG website and the great Power Point presentation that anyone can use. We will continue to try to activate our inactive Chapters especially those who are Florida Council of Yacht Club members.

Continued...

District 8 Report Continued...

Our District works very hard at keeping our members informed via our website, newsletters, emails, and phone calls from our Executive Committee. We are one of only 2 Districts with a Membership Roster/Directory, not to mention our great website. This all helps in keeping our retention rate high.

We are asking our District 8 Chapter Presidents to work on several areas within their yacht clubs.

- 1. Add an IOBG tab on their Yacht Club website. Just start off with the IOBG mission statement and who your current Chapter Board is and maybe a few pictures. Also add a link to both our District 8 and International website. We have 7 out of 25 yacht clubs who have IOBG info/tabs on their YC websites which include Dunedin, Gulf Harbors, Isles, Pelican Isle & Venice Yacht Clubs.
- 2. Have their Yacht Clubs add IOBG members to their reciprocity rules in their House Rules or By-Laws. Right now I only know of one which is Gulf Harbors YC.
- 3. Be an ambassador for the IOBG when you have Regattas and other events involving other yachts clubs. Set up a table with IOBG information, brochures, IOBG membership applications and our power point presentation and call me for help. I had two nice card table size tablecloths made with IOBG Flags & IOBG on all 4 sides.

District 18
Dave Kowert, District Director

We have 3 new prospective members which includes one PC from Hobcaw YC and 2 from Charleston YC. The plan is to ask each of them to serve as a Board Member in District 18. The good news is that 2 of these prospective new members are fully retired and have more time to devote to organizing meetings or events to attract additional new members.

District 18 remains very focused on supporting the racing community here in Charleston, primarily with committee boat work for local YC regattas and race management training. We are also looking to see if we can host a boating skills training (on the water) for local race officials and operators of support boats. One of our prospective new members is the leading SAYRA area D Judge and has the credentials to teach on the water race management courses.

Our idea of supporting the area clubs with the experience of former area PC's is not getting traction at this moment. The local clubs appear to have leadership that is resistant to input from outsiders. I plan to extend the circle to clubs outside of CHS to see if the idea will fly before abandoning it completely.

I have the new IOBG brochures and will be leaving them at all the area clubs between now and July. I'm optimistic that having some new blood in the organization will gather some additional interest and get District 18 to the point where we can have more meaningful input for IOBG.

	President	Al Eiffert - Dist. 1 39906 Black Mesa Lane Palm Desert, CA 92260 Tel/Cell: 206-819-5809 Home: 760-567-8824 Email: meiffert@earthlink.net
	President- Elect	Gary Smith - Dist. 15 815 Ethel Pl National City, CA 91950 Tel: 619-479-6292 Email: gsaco@aol.com
	1 st Vice President	Robin Vadaj - Dist. 7 7505 Thatchum Lane Concord, OH 44060 Cell: 440-637-6287 Email: robinvadaj@gmail.com
Q A	2 nd Vice President	Open
	Secretary	Nancy Bisanz - Dist. 18 529 Victoria Road Woodstock, GA 30189 Cell: 770-337-8700 Email: buzznan1111@yahoo.com
	Treasurer	Audrey Hall - Dist. 15 2063 Grandview St. Oceanside, CA 92054 Home: 760-757-6796 Email: hulakai2@cox.net



International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President Al Eiffert

Another meeting in Portland has been concluded and it's just not the same as in the past. No District 5 to host us, no boat rides or visits to other yacht clubs. Maybe we should think about not having a meeting in the same location each year. Just have the annual meeting and two regional meetings.

Our first order of business was to obtain an IOBGA secretary. This proved to be quite easy because Nancy Bisanz immediately volunteered. She was appointed as secretary

and will be sworn in at the annual meeting.

This year's meeting was sparsely attended which is quite normal for Portland. The meeting was still productive and we accomplished numerous items. Among other things, we decided to discontinue our efforts on the literature for children plan. Since we meet only three times a year and our attendees vary from meeting to meeting and region to region it was difficult to appoint a permanent committee.

A donation of one hundred dollars to the Humanitarian Foundation was decided upon, to be presented at the annual meeting. I personally hope that we can do this and even more each year.

Past President Sandi Durieux gave a report on an interesting project in District 7. This involves providing approximately 150 books to a startup library. In each book it is noted that the donor was IOBG Auxiliary. A great publicity idea. I'd say "Good job District 7 Auxiliary!", this could give other districts ideas.

IOBGA President-Elect Gary Smith gave us a report on his trip with wife, Kathy, to several California districts and Hawaii. He said they were well received and that the visits may have revived some interest. He also gave his report at the IOBG general meeting. His comment on the loss of members is sad but true and we must all be thinking about how we can reverse this trend. Lifestyles have changed in the past several decades and social clubs don't have the appeal that they enjoyed in the past.

IOBGA President-Elect Gary Smith

Goal: The main goal for 2017-18 is to stabilize and increase the membership. The latest numbers from Treasurer Audrey Hall, shows the total of this years members at 296, last year's members were 301, an attrition of five members.

Although the membership is decreased, a national loss of five members is to be expected based upon the profile of our members. An increase in dues payers will continue to be a goal this year, and always a goal in the future.

Activities: The visits to districts seems to increase the interests of spouses. With that in mind, accompanied by Southwestern Vice President Kathy Smith, we visited districts in San Diego County, Los Angeles, Orange, and the Delta area of California, as well as the city of Honolulu, Hawaii, and combining a family visit to property on the Big Island of Hawaii. We got a first hand view of a erupting volcano during our last week there.

Continued...

Gary Smith's Report Continued...

We were pleased to receive very positive feedback from members at each visit.

Charitable Donations: We found many districts busy with activities to support local charities, varying from hospices, marine activities, and raising funds for children.

Fellowship: Every district sets aside time for dinners, breakfasts, and special events to meet fellow members, celebrate holidays, and invite new members to join. These social occasions seems to be the tried and true method for recruiting members.

We are looking for IOBGA members to assume leadership roles, please contact us if you are interested.

District 15
Grace Hansen, District President

Reporting from District 15 (San Diego County)... Our annual IOBGA Spouses' Seminar was held in January graciously hosted by Silver Gate Yacht club on beautiful Shelter Island. It was well-attended and questions as well as comments pertaining to the information shared regarding responsibilities and protocol were entertained by the board. The District 15 Board and a number of current District 15 members were present to conduct the seminar and receive the appreciation expressed by the attendees. It was a gratifying and an enlightening experience all the way around as it is District 15's intention to fully inform new and upcoming members, as well as to lend support as much possible, to those assuming their roles at their respective yacht clubs. Also, it was perfect opportunity to explain our humanitarian fundraising efforts which, for the past few years, has benefitted ElderHelp, a non-profit, volunteer organization that assists seniors in preserving and maintaining their independence.

Speaking of fundraising, to those who may not be aware, we receive donated jewelry primarily from local yacht club members (be they "throw-away," costume, vintage or designer) then sell them at our fundraisers. Oftentimes, the fundraisers are scheduled in conjunction with other yacht club events such as ladies' luncheons, various social events, and even regattas. We are gradually making a name for ourselves due to our "deals and steals" price points and varied selection of jewelry. And it is a way to be "green" by upcycling jewelry pieces that have fallen to disuse. Tentatively, there are three or four upcoming jewelry sales this year and we are looking forward to continued success. We would like to express our gratitude to those who have generously donated their jewelry and also to our members who have given of their time and energy preparing for and during our sales events.

We have just concluded our June fundraising event held in conjunction with the Mission Bay Yacht Club Ladies' Group summer party. This is our third annual event with them and they continue to generously include IOBGA's jewelry fundraiser for ElderHelp. It went well in spite of the "June Gloom" weather we typically experience this time of year. Also, we always appreciate IOBG members in attendance in a show of support. This event is an effective way to give IOBGA and ElderHelp exposure in the community.

Personally, I would like to thank our District 15's Board members for 2018: the esteemed Audrey Hall, Vice-president; the ever-diligent Marybeth Thayer, Secretary; and the meticulous Dawn Shaffer-Nemoy, Treasurer. These women are dedicated and tireless in their support of IOBGA and I certainly enjoy working with them this year.



IOBG Humanitarian Foundation

PATRON OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM

IOBGHF launched a program to provide special recognition to contributors who donate \$100 or more. Each contributor will be awarded a distinctive "Action for Life" pin which signifies their status as a patron of the foundation.

"The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation provides the boating community the ability to create real differences in others' lives. The foundation provides resources to existing charities and benefits communities through new initiatives involving boating activities and education."

This is the Mission Statement of the Humanitarian Foundation.



Carol Promessi	cpromessi@gmail.com	Broken Arrow, OK	President
Jackie Evans Rudd	jer884488@gmail.com	Gig Harbor, WA	Vice President
Lani Lightle	lanilightle44@gmail.com	Seattle, WA	Treasurer & CFO
Joan Marsh	jmarsh6607@yahoo.com	Pittsburg, CA	Secretary
John Norman	jln@norman-law.net	Huntington Beach, CA	Legal Officer
Dr. Julie Albright	albright@usc.edu	Los Angeles, CA	Director
Audrey Hall	hulakai2@cox.net	Oceanside, CA	Director
Larry Inguagiato	larry.inguagiato@mac.com	Monroe, MI	Director
Gary McGrath	gmac6262@aol.com	Concord, CA	Director
Karen Shea	Ltcsheak@gmail.com	New Port Richey, FL	Director
Liz Allison	chocho2479@aol.com	San Carlos, CA	Ambassador
Nancy Bisanz	buzznan1111@yahoo.com	Woodstock, GA	Ambassador
David Breninger	dbreninger@surewest.net	Roseville, CA	Ambassador
Gary Hall	hulakai2@cox.net	Oceanside, CA	Ambassador
Richard Hardy	rhardy3905@gmail.com	Pittsburg, CA	Ambassador
Mary Kay Inguagiato	mkinguagiato@gmail.com	Monroe, MI	Ambassador
Lee Lightle	leelightle@gmail.com	Seattle, WA	Ambassador
Phil Promessi	ppromessi@att.net	Pittsburg, CA	Ambassador
Charlie Thome	chocho2479@aol.com	Alameda, CA	Ambassador
Mark Vadaj	markvadaj@gmail.com	Concord, OH	Ambassador
Harold Weaver	Not Available	Detroit, MI	Ambassador
Mike West	westmike2003@yahoo.com	Ripon, CA	Ambassador
Susie West	westdoublej23@aol.com	Ripon, CA	Ambassador Pa
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There is only one secret for success on any given task, and that is...

TO KEEP THE PUSH BEHIND THE MOMENTUM

We encourage the IOBG membership to get involved and feel good about your Foundation. In order to get involved you must first know what our Foundation objectives are and what you can do to help.

The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation serves a unique purpose in Blue Gavel. It is Blue Gavel's "charitable and educational" entity, an IRS authorized 501(c)3 organization, that is able to receive your contributions and create two benefits: One benefit is to you, the donor, because your donation is tax deductible, and the second benefit is that your contribution can be matched with others to create greater impact in the community.

The purpose of the Foundation is to support initial and expanding programs for boating-related projects, to assist existing projects to achieve self-sufficiency by building successful fundraising programs, and to promote community-based initiatives that bring the spirit and sport of boating to the community. The purpose is for each year by local Chapters and Districts to create and fund their own projects. The Foundation encourages and endorses those individual programs. The service back to our communities is successful to our yacht club traditions.

We rely totally on contributions from you, IOBG and IOBGA members, and local yacht and boating clubs. As you plan fundraising activities this year, please earmark a portion of those funds for the Foundation.

The IOBGHF cannot fund any capital improvement projects, such as buildings, docks, or general equipment replacement. However, the IOBGHF can and does fund projects pertaining Boating Education, Boating Program Scholarships (Special Needs), and Boating Safety Equipment and Materials.



I am happy to report that the Foundation has funded two grants this last month, one to District #9 for the Jolly Roger Junior Sailing Corp. for safety equipment and to District #15, for the Santa Margarita Yacht Club at Camp Pendleton for boating classes and safety training for youth. Again, thank you for allowing the Foundation to be of service to you.

We have just approved a "Photo Release Form" that is now attached to our LAP application. This form is a mandatory form that needs to be filled out and signed, if there are any pictures being taken for publication in our newsletter or the website of children. This is a simple straight forward form.

I can't believe it but it is that time of year to start thinking about next year and new directors. I have appointed a Committee to receive nominations for prospective new Directors of the Foundation. The committee is: Larry Inguagiato, Chairman, Audrey Hall and Karen Shea. A report shall be sent to the IOBG Executive Committee at least 60 days before the date of the election at the Annual Meeting of the Humanitarian Foundation. The Annual Meeting of the Foundation shall be held in conjunction with the Annual International Convention of the IOBG.

The bylaws of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation specify that the Executive Committee of the IOBG are the Trustees and voting members of the Foundation. There are three classes of membership in the Foundation: Voting Members (Trustees), Regular Members (all members of IOBG) and Humanitarian Members (those who are not members of IOBG but who support the Foundation and its work). The Voting Members are the ones who elect the Directors of the Foundations.

2018 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

#16

PRESIDENT-Northwest Mary McCollum (Wes Vaughn) 1920 13th Street Clarkston, WA 99403 Cell: 208-724-6279 sailinggrace62@gmail.com SECRETARY Jeanne Gordon (John) 10906 SE 179th PL Renton, WA 98055-6561 Tel: 425-226-8872 Cell: 206-790-5421 gordon5050@comcast.net

PRESIDENT - Southeast Douglas M. Case (Marilyn) 501 Bay Drive Vero Beach, FL 32963 Tel: 772-231-4599 dcaselaw@bellsouth.net SECRETARY

#8

PRESIDENT- Southwest Keith Moore (Mary Ann) 277 Sunset Drive Oxnard, CA 93035 Home: 805-985-5560 Cell: 805-551-0983 Cell: 805-551-0983 keith@castle-light.com SECRETARY Marsha Landreth 2300 Chico Ct Oxnard, CA 93035 Tel: 805-889-0054 mlrs4742@gmail.com

PRESIDENT- Northwest Carol Zumpano 60 Calgary Ave. Pentiction, BC V2A 2T6 Canada Tel: 250-292-8750 Tel: 25U-292-8750 czumpano@vip.net SECRETARY Yvonne Crawford (Steven) 1547 Klien Rd. Kelowna, BC V1Z 3H5 Canada Tel: 250-769-7325 skippnof@tellus net skicondo@telus.net

#24

#25

PRESIDENT - Canada Ed Ackerman (Marilyn) 308-10461 Resthaven Dr. #2 Sidney, BC Canada V8L 3H6 Tel: 250-656-7799 Fax: 250-656-1242 eimut88@shaw.ca SECRETARY/TREASURER John Biggs (Carole) 6406 McKenzie Dr. Duncan, BC Canada V9L 5R9 Tel: 250-746-4941 Bus:250-754-8435 johncarole@shaw.com

PRESIDENT- North Central Steven Hyder (Pam Myers) 3079 11th St Monroe, MI 48162 Cell: 734-474-1195 hyders@hyderlawfirm.net SECRETARY Prior Moyer (I ori) SECRETARY
Brian Moyer (Lori)
13685 Dunlap Rd
LaSalle, MI 48145
Cell: 734-777-6093 brian@moyerswelding.com

PRESIDENT- Southeast #18

SECRETARY/TREASURER

PRESIDENT- North Central John Robbins (Rita) 2288 Paul St Monroe, MI 48162 Cell: 734-341-3496 jrobbin6@aol.com SECRETARY John Rose (Fran) 21667 Meridian Grosse Ile, MI 48183 Tel: 734-904-9801 giycrose06@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT- Northeast Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St #3 Sanborn, NY 14132 Tel: 716-998-7938 crew92fm@hotmail.com SECRETARY Gerald Hathaway (Arlene) 28 Niagara Shore Dr Tonawanda, NY 14150 Tel: 716-693-1739 rleanjer@aol.com

PRESIDENT- Southwest
Rodney Coomber
11462 Pickney Way
Cypress, CA 90630
Tel: 714-891-0767
Cell: 714-488-2064
anzac1240@yahoo.com
SECRETARY
William Anast (Lana)
11236 Dover Way
Stanton, CA 90680
Tel: 714-235-4809
AnastBill@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT- Southwest David Breninger (Linda) 425 Websters Court Roseville, CA 95747 Tel: 916-771-5685 Cell: 916-798-3980 dbreninger@surewest.net SECRETARY SECRETARY
Karen Mann (Scott)
4815 Discovery Point
Discovery Bay, CA 94505
Cell: 510-612-5122
karen@mannappraisal.com **PRESIDENT- Northeast** Open SECRETARY

Open

PRESIDENT- Canada Ron Defieux (Linda) 641 Blueridge Ave. N. Vancouver, BC V74 2J4 Canada Tel: 604-987-7425 rer: 604-987-7425 Fax: 604-985-7263 rdefieux@shaw.ca SECRETARY Betty Harris-Peake (Dennis) 1078 English Bluff Rd. Delta, BC V4M 2N6 - Canada Tel: 604-943-4923 Fax: 604-943-1205 bettyharrispeake@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT- Southwest Sheila Anderson 5606 Downey Avenue Lakewood, CA 90712 Cell: 626-484-7822 toymaker56@yahoo.com SECRETARY Gisele Rebeiro (Craig) P.O. Box 882051 Los Angeles, CA 90009 Tel: 310-606-6912 giselechb@icloud.com

PRESIDENT- Northeast #20 **SECRETARY**

Open

PRESIDENT- Northeast Bill Fischbein 1209 Gillia Court Pasadena, MD 21122 Tel: 410-255-8650 Bill@litehouserealty.com SECRETARY Frank Abbott (Peggy Adams) 116 Jupiter Road Neward, DE 19711 Tel: 302-593-8095 fabbott102@aol.com

PRESIDENT-Northwest #5 Open

> SECRETARY Open

PRESIDENT- Northeast #12 Open

SECRETARY Open

PRESIDENT- Southwest #21 Richard Price P.O. Box 3451 Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352 Tel: 909-346-3870 bluegavel21@gmail.com SECRETARY #70 PRESIDENT- England

PRESIDENT - Southwest #6 PRESIDENT - Southwe Alfred Anderson, M.D. 45-995 Wailele Rd. #12 Kaneohe, HI 96744 Tel: 808-236-2628 Cell:425-941-6121 sailvega27@gmail.com SECRETARY SECRETARY
Donna B. Salisbury (Ed)
98-988 Palula Way
Aiea, HI 96701
Cell: 808-256-3731
Tel: 808-485-0002
donnaned@earthlink.net

PRESIDENT- Southwest Charles Thome (David Weidner) 920 Santa Clara Ave Apt. B Alameda, CA 94501 Tel: 408-529-0896 sfogit@gmail.com SECRETARY

#14

PRESIDENT- Northeast #22

SECRETARY

#23

PRESIDENT- New Zealand #75 William G. (Bill) Mitchinson (Myrna) 4 Bannockburn Lane 4 Bannockburn Lane
Bethliehem
Tauranga, New Zealand 3110
Tel: 0064-75791098
Cel: 0064-27791098
Cel: 0064-277173724
bmmitchinson@clear.net.nz
SECRETARY
Christine Conn (Martin)
65 Omokoroa Country Estate
Private Bag 12026
Tauranga, 3141 New Zealand
Tel: 0064-75481400
Bus: 0064-274791871
blueqavel@cmail.com bluegavel@gmail.com

PRESIDENT - North Central Lloyd Bogue (Rhonda Rich) P.O. Box 681 Geneva, Ohio 44041 Cell: 440-812-4242 Iloydbogue@windstream.net SECRETARY Warren Dempster (Marianne) 33545 Lori Ann Dr Eastlake, OH 44095 Tel: 440-725-7731 wcyc40@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT- Southwest Gregg Hansen (Grace) 5434 Robinwood Rd Bonita, CA 91902 Tel: 619-277-8526 gregg@riskagent.net SECRETARY Roger Robinson (Marge) 13526 Calle Colina Poway, CA 92064 Tel: 858-485-0736 Cell: 858-518-8262 nvcsd@att.net

PRESIDENT- North Central Robert F. Sapita (Kay) P.O. Box 581 Douglas, MI 49406 Tel: 269-857-2123 Cell: 269-355-8508 bksapita@frontier.com SECRETARY Don Schorfhaar (Sue) 9829 High Banks Drive Cheboygan, MI 49721 Tel: 231-627-2908

dschorfhaar@earthlink.net



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