

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

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December 2019

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.









President Sherry Barone & Patricia Regan



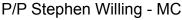






Sandi Durieux Sheila Anderson O'Canada & Star Spangled Banner







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President Sherry Barone

This year has been focused on increasing membership and looking into recruiting and retaining the Active and Inactive Chapters, new Chapters and new members. Past Presidents formed a working group to look into adding other yacht clubs and yachting associations and reported the status at the Annual Meeting/Change of Watch. They will continue working and report progress at the monthly teleconferences/regional meetings. Our communication is critical and AVPs and Districts continue to have meetings to share ideas monthly and quarterly.

Mary Nye Meyers continues to coordinate our web site and Lighthouse eBulletin which provides communication to our members as well as local district and chapter information. The international web site at www.iobg.org lists the International elected and appointed officers and it has information about the Districts. Here you can find a copy of the LOG newsletter, Lighthouse eBulletin and information about regional meetings. Many districts have their own websites and newsletter as well as a calendar for the year. First and foremost talk to your local Blue Gavel leaders to find out the activities in your area.

For the last quarter I have been focused on the Annual Meeting/Change of Watch in Marina Del Rey, California hosted at Del Rey Yacht Club. We had a full agenda starting on Wednesday, October 16 through Sunday, October 20, 2019. The events planned included television taping-Jeopardy, Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive - shopping, Greystone Mansion, Stage Coach Museum, Gardens of the World, Boat Rides (electric boats Westlake and Fire Department 110 Boat /DRYC race committee boat - Marina del Rey), and 5 yacht clubs (Del Rey Yacht Club, South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, California Yacht Club, Marina Yacht Club and Westlake Yacht Club).



First, I want to recognize Our Change of Watch Committee, Sheila Anderson, Gisele Ozeri, Brian Keown, Mary Nye Meyers, Kathy Smith, Joyce Jackson, Marge Bottari, Marsha Landreth, Rosalie Davis Green, and Julie Albright). A special thanks to our co-hosts Districts: District 11 - Sheila Anderson & Gisele Ozeri and District 16 - Marsha Landreth and Keith Moore. The Southwestern districts donated by having fundraisers that were critical to the event. Thanks to District 11- Santa Monica Bay, District 10 - Los Angeles /Long Beach, District 14 - San Francisco Bay, District 15 - San Diego Area, District 16 - Channel Islands and District 19 - Delta for their help in donations and fundraising. Donations were made by Vons, Firestone Winery, Tito Vodka, Hula Girls and Thumbprint Cellars. Regan and I enjoyed sharing our home Districts and local attractions for a full week.

A special thanks to Mary Nye Meyers for all her work and support with planning, communications, programs, gift donations and pins. I would like to thank Master of Ceremony P/P Sir Stephen Willing and support of Lady Shirley Willing. They spent hours getting to know my background and getting the gala perfect. Seven years ago I asked Steve to be my Master of Ceremonies in case I went up the chairs. I could not have asked for a better MC and team.

The A team included - Installation of IOBG Executive Committee and Board - P/P Sir Vern Bendsen, Installation of Auxiliary - Ethel Keith and Invocation - P/P Sir Joel Kay, Canadian Anthems - Singer IOBG Auxiliary P/P Sandi Durieux and National Anthems - Singer IOBG Auxiliary P/P Sandi Durieux and SWAVP Sheila Anderson, Dance Master P/P Tony Durieux and IOBG Auxiliary P/P Ethel Keith to lead us in dancing to "We are Family".

Steve, Vern, Mary Nye, Ethel, Tony and Joel have been very helpful through the years in IOBG. Tony Durieux and Sandi have been very helpful and guided me though the Change of Watch. Who knew Tony could dance and what a voice Sandi has.

(Continued...)

It has been my pleasure to be Bud Higginson's "wing woman" during the 2019 year.

West Marine is now offering IOBG discounts (a minimum discount of 10% to IOBG members) and Mark Vadaj IOBG 1st VP will roll out the new program in January 2020. Other vendors such as Home Depot & Lowes are some of the other discounts coming to IOBG. Thank you to Mark who has been working on this project for a few years.

We will be holding our Spring Regional Meeting on June 4-7, 2020 in Portland at the Columbia River Yacht

Club.





The Summer Regional Meeting will be held in Dublin, Ireland on August 13-16, 2020 at the Howth Yacht Club (established in 1865) and Malahide Yacht Club. The Fireball International World Championships will be held at Howth Yacht club during our visit with great sailing, parties and local sights and tours.





The hotels recommended choices are: The Grand Hotel Marina Malahide (Seaside area - Expedia rates or direct website rates are \$159 -\$209); Hilton Garden Inn (Custom House) at Dublin port with easy access to train; Hyatt Centric The Liberties Dublin - A new hotel near St Patrick Cathedral (\$188-\$206). Book online to the hotel directly and advise booking early due to busy summer. There are no blocks of rooms being held. Easy access to buses, train or Uber.

We have a fantastic international venue planned. Regan's family is from the area and have some local events planned.

I am looking forward to being your President in 2020 and following the traditions of this prestigious organization.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-20, 2019

































President - Elect Robert "Buzz" Bisanz

Communication is extremely important to an association like ours especially since we are physically spread far and wide and internationally. One of our tools to address communications is our IOBG.org website. You can access this site from anywhere in the world that has an internet connection. During this past year we have undertaken efforts to keep the website updated and current. One of these items is the update to the IOBG Policy and Procedures Manual. You can find this Manual listed on the IOBG.org home page on the bottom left side of the page. Go access this document now and see our current Policies and Procedures that guide us in our daily activities with the organization.

While I served as an Area Vice President part of our communications with members was to assign each of the District officers up to 5 active Chapters. The purpose was established for the contacting of each Chapter 2-3 times per year by that District officer. The message delivered and received to/from the Chapters included information on District activity and the general update on what is going on within the Chapter. It is important for the contact to continue each year as it assists in Chapter retention by giving each Chapter the feeling of belonging to IOBG.

If your District has a website I strongly suggest that your District site include a "Link" to the IOBG.org site to allow the easy sharing of information between IOBG Chapters. It would greatly enhance the general communication between the District leadership and our membership. Having the feeling that you are "part of the whole" is a communication success factor that is powerful and will aide in the growth of the IOBG membership.

Information that will enhance the communication to perspective members and chapters includes our new IOBG Outreach Initiative for Personal Contact at Non-Member Clubs. The IOBG Executive Committee has voted to fund a travel budget for District Directors personal travel to non-member clubs in their District. The intent is to physically contact a prospective yacht club coordinated with the IOBG Area VP. More information will be forthcoming through your Area Vice President.

Summary: It has been my pleasure to serve as the IOBG 1st Vice President and I look forward to continuing my journey within IOBG as International President Elect.



***** 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 and submit directly to the Foundation.





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First Vice President Mark Vadaj

The 2019 year has been another outstanding year for our members from coast to coast and across the seas and continents. We have celebrated accomplishments and contributions from our Members, Clubs, Chapters and Officers. I hope that each of our members will take the opportunity to read what others are doing and possibly contribute themselves for others to benefit from. Our success and heartbeat are from the Chapter and District level. Please read the following articles from our Area V.P.'s and District Directors and hopefully this will stimulate you and others to become more involved with IOBG. Your involvement, contribution and commitment are truly our success.

The upcoming year of 2020 presents both challenges as well as opportunities for IOBG, IOBGA and its members. As Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity worldwide we have seen the changes in our demographics as well as what is both requested and expected by our current members and what is required to attract the next generation.

I can assure you that each member has a voice and your voice is heard and valued. I want to hear from you, meet you in-person or at least a phone conversation. I can also assure you that the executive board has diligently analyzed our operational budget to trim expenses where possible and allocate resources where it is needed.

Those of us who have made the commitment to membership with IOBG have enjoyed what the IOBG is truly about and for which it represents. For our Future Membership Candidates the familiar questions include the following: What is the IOBG? Why Join the IOBG? What does the IOBG do for me. The first two questions are easily answered and if you are reading this report you already know. The last question is extremely sensitive and extremely important. I have been working on a response for several years. What does IOBG do for me? Our society sometimes measures value or return on investment based upon tangible amenities. I can now share with you that the IOBG will be offering an Alliance Program in the next year with several major retail operations to provide a tangible value proposition to our membership.

In theory, an IOBG Membership may make you money. The first Alliance is with West Marine which will provide a discount on all purchases for in store purchases and or online purchases. This will begin at the first of the year if not sooner. We are in the process of receiving the official code which must be utilized with a current IOBG membership card. No IOBG Membership Card...No Discount. We are also negotiating with Major Big Box Hardware Retailers and National Appliance Retailers. All this which is in addition to the discount towing benefit that IOBG Members currently receive through Boat U.S.

But wait, there is more, I have been listening to your suggestions and requests for several years. I am also exploring alternative options for payment which can include electronic funds transfer to make your renewed commitment to IOBG and annual dues payment fast and easy. I welcome any and all your suggestions and or requirements. Please call, email to talk or invite me to your next function.

Thank You for your renewed commitment to "Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity"

Help Share Our IOBG 2020 Vision with a fellow Commodore and Past Commodore.



Second Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith

First, Congratulations to President Sherry Barone. She was installed at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Marina Del Rey this October. The hospitality and venues were perfect, and the Installation a great party.

It is my great honor to serve you this coming year as Second Vice President.

As Second Vice President my responsibilities include assisting the President, Public Relations, the IOBG Brochure and serve as liaison for the Area Vice Presidents west of the Mississippi and District 51. I report to the President and President Elect.

I hope you will contact me if you have any concerns, suggestions or questions. IOBG is your organization and we all want to make it meet the needs of the Past Commodores we serve.

I trust you are aware of what a great resource The Log newsletter is for us all. You will find contact information for your officers, news (and ideas for your District) of what is happening in other Districts and reports from Officers and Directors from our Regional and Annual Meetings. I urge each District to ensure your reports are submitted and published. Go ahead, brag a little or a lot! And we love photos. They make all the reports more interesting so send them along too.

Here's to a terrific 2020!



Past President Tony Durieux

2019





As your Past President it is my honor to announce the 2019 Past President's Award for Distinguished Service to the International Order of Blue Gavel.

This year we have a very special long time friend of the Blue Gavel... a Past Commodore of Carvers Cruisers and our Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert.

Mary became a member of IOBG in 1992. She and her husband AL traveled in their RV to countless changes of watch and regional meetings across this country.

Mary Eiffert started as our Executive Secretary under President Phil Arms in 1992 and she has continued as keeper of our Blue Gavel history and records until this Change of Watch.



Mary has decided to retire. If my math is correct, that's 27 years of service to the International Order of Blue Gavel. Besides being our Executive Secretary she is one of only a handful of people who knows where all the bodies are buried.





N.B.F. Representative Marlene Barrington



The National Boating Federation sends Holiday Greetings to all Recreational Boaters this season.

Mark your calendars and meet us in New Orleans, LA on March 27 and 28, 2020 for our Annual Meeting.

Details coming on: www.n-b-f.org soon.



Earl Waesche, NBF Legislative Director ewaesche@comcast.net

NOAA Plans to Discontinue Production of Traditional Paper Nautical Charts: The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coast Survey announced plans to phase out the production of all traditional paper nautical charts. Over the next five years, NOAA says that it plans to transition to Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) products with a focus on improving data consistency and providing larger scale ENC coverage. It is expected to significantly improve the level of detail and consistency in NOAA's ENCs. As it reorients its efforts toward electronic products, NOAA will gradually shut down services associated with traditional paper charts, including full-size chart PDFs, print-on-demand paper charts and NOAA raster charts (RNCs). The phase-out will start in mid to late-2020 and be completed by January 2025. NOAA will still provide access to paper chart products based on ENC data, either through third-party vendors or through the NOAA Custom Chart system (now in prototype phase). The online NOAA Custom lets users create their own paper charts with NOAA ENC data. The user can define the scale and size of custom-made nautical charts, then download them in a special PDF format.

The International Maritime Organization now requires that all large commercial vessels on international voyages use electronic charts. In 2016, the U.S. Coast Guard started allowing commercial vessels on domestic voyages to use ENCs instead of paper charts. Electronic products are also increasingly popular with recreational users. NOAA's Office of Coast Survey has produced traditional paper charts for nearly 200 years, and these products have been the primary source of navigational information for generations of American mariners. Comments on the decision may be submitted through NOAA's online feedback tool.

House passes Coastal Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act: Rep. Harley Rouda (CA) voted to pass H.R. 729, a bill that would protect vulnerable coastal communities impacted by the climate crisis. The bill passed with two amendments authored by Congressman Rouda. Our coastlines are ground zero for the climate crisis. Families living on the coast know that rising sea-levels, frequent flooding, coastal erosion, and increasingly severe weather events are a clear and present danger to our lives and livelihoods. This legislation protects and preserves coastlines, helps communities create and enact resiliency measures, and improves ocean monitoring and research. (Continued...)

National Boating Federation Report Continued...



The two Amendments are the following:

Amendment 1: Authorizes a prize competition to stimulate innovation to advance coastal risk and resilience measures.

Amendment 2: Requires the development of a catalog of research on applicable coastal risk reduction and resilience measures.

Included in the base bill is H.R. 3596, the Keep Americas Waterfronts Working Act, a bipartisan bill which Rep. Rouda co-led. This provision seeks to preserve the character of coastal communities by protecting jobs, commercial activities, and public access to America's coastlines.

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Quantity



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IOBG Blazer emblems are authorized for sale by Commodore Insignia. These emblems have the Blue Gavel Burgee on the left staff and the Commodore's club on the right staff. They are available in a white, black & navy background and the price is \$23.95 each plus shipping and tax.

BLAZER EMBLEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE AUXILIARY

Black

White

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.

Navv

Unit Price

Total

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Northwestern V.P. Jim Martinson



Oistricts 1 & 5

Ahoy fellow Blue Gavel Members. My name is Jim Martinson.

I am the new Northwest Area Vice President. I am a Past Commodore of the Tacoma Outboard Association and Past President & Past District Director of District 1.

I would like to acknowledge the continuing support of Lani Lightle and Mary Nye Meyers for helping me and being there and for their guidance. Most of all I have to thank the support of my "Admiral" First Mate Laurie Martinson for her support and help.

The Northwest Area is basically now District 1, as District 5 remains dormant. We hope to revive District 5 and get them back online.

District 1 continued the 2019 Season with members of our various chapters participating in events and cruises at their respective clubs.

We held our IOBG Summer Picnic the weekend of July 19 - 20. Hosted by Brownsville Yacht Club it was well attended and featured a great presentation about carbon monoxide and fire dangers on our boats and RV's. Our 2nd Vice President Chris Heide made delicious barbecue ribs and everyone had a wonderful time. Many thanks to Brownsville Yacht Club for their support.

The Fall of Watch Meeting was held at Des Moines Yacht Club on September 20 - 22. Outgoing President Robert "Butch" Brown presided over the meetings and Change of Watch. Neil Kelly from Des Moines Yacht Club was sworn in as President for 2019-20. Thank you to Neil for his support and leadership in District 1.



There was discussion of member retention and recruitment in District 1 as in many districts within the International family. President Brown was very active working on this issue. All of our members continue to work on these issues at events, cruises, and balls. The fight keeps on. We also discussed and set some of the dates and locations of our 2020 events and meetings.

Continued...

Past District Director Bob Weber recited "Sail Away" honoring the members and mates that we lost the past year in District 1.

We adjourned and then treated to a tasty lunch provided by the First Mates of Des Moines Yacht Club. Many thanks to you for that.

After our lunch we had a presentation by President Bob Wise of the Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW). President Wise was supremely informational about the RBAW's efforts on behalf of Boating in the State, namely lobbying the State government on issues as e-Fuels, State Water Parks, Boating Construction and Derelict Vessel programs.

We continue to Support the Humanitarian Foundation with direct donations, and also through the Amazon Smile donation program and urge all of our fellow International members to also do this.

We had a wonderful formal dinner and music to cap the Fall Change of Watch. We also had a raffle and silent auction to raise funds for our District charities through the efforts our Auxiliary members. I would like to spotlight the donations of beautiful hand–turned wood bowls in the silent auction made by Auxiliary member John Gordon, Captain of our District Recording Secretary Jeanne Gordon.



I would like to honor District 1 member and retiring International Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert for her 27 years of service to IOBG. You and your Captain Alan Eiffert have been bedrocks and perfect examples of Blue Gavel members. We are grateful and thankful to you and wish you the best.

In closing I would like to thank Des Moines Yacht Club for hosting our District Meetings and continued support. Also another big thank you to Kingston Cove Yacht Club for its continued membership and support of the District. These two clubs are the foundation that we continue to build District 1.

Southwestern V.P. Sheila Anderson



*O*istricts 6, 10, 11,14, 15, 16, 19 & 21

I am excited to start my new position as Southwestern VP. Since the International Change Of Watch in October at Del Rey Yacht Club, I have attended the District 19 Change Of Watch at Bridge Marina Yacht Club in Antioch, CA. IOBG Past International President Gary McGrath installed the new Board of Directors. I was honored to present the 2019 District Achievement Award Pins to the District 19 Board.



On November 10th I attended the Change Of Watch of District 11. The new Board of Directors are very enthusiastic to increase membership in District 11. They have a promotion in place. Any member who pays their renewal dues by December 15, 2019 will receive an IOBG pin. They are also creating a birthday program to get the members more involved in events.



I will reach out to all the District Directors to find out their plans and events for the New Year.



District 6
Tom Youngblood, District Director

In July, District 6 was happy to once again host our 2017 Transpac boat Onde Amo for the 50th Transpac in 2019. We followed as the crew met every challenge including torn sails, electrical, freshwater pump, and rudder problems. As we prepared to greet them the final

challenge near the end was complete rudder failure. Unable to finish the race on an emergency rudder and with small craft advisories they opted to overnight in

Molokai and wait for the tow to Waikiki when conditions improved.

The next day in Waikiki they pulled into their slip with spinnaker wrapped securely around the forestay, just as the Skipper had described. Under the circumstances it was a beautiful sight! District 6 was there to welcome them with lei and boat lei, Mai Tai, fresh food and drink, and friends and family from the mainland. All were so very grateful for the safe arrival.

October was our annual Election BBQ at Kaneohe Yacht Club. In November District 6 supported our youth sailors and Hawaii Sailing Foundation at SEAFEST presented by the Hawaii Commodore's Association.

Also in November was our Installation of 2020 officers and Induction of new members at Waikiki Yacht Club. December will be our traditional District 6 Christmas party and much anticipated "gift exchange".

District 10 Joyce Jackson-Coomber, District Director

Summer brought us two very successful events. On August 4th both IOBG and Navy Yacht Club sponsored a brunch to support The Children's Clinics of Long Beach. This event was held at Navy Yacht Club. We fed about 65 people with a wonderful selection of food. Two of our members Bill and LaVon Plumlee provided an array of items to be included and cooked in tasty omelets. Rodney and I provided the rest of the goodies. I guarantee no one went home hungry. We raised enough money to donate \$1,038.00 to the Children's Clinics of Long Beach.

Our other event on August 25th was a combined barbecue also held at Navy Yacht Club for IOBG Districts 10 and 11. Our goal was to help raise money for the installation of our next International President Sherry Barone. We served hot dogs and hamburgers, corn on the cob, potato salad and beans. We had a beautiful cake for a tasty dessert. We played corn hole bean bag toss and had several raffle prizes including a beautiful blanket provided by Sheila Anderson Director of District 11. Our combined efforts help raise \$480.00.

Our next event was a dinner at Huntington Harbour Yacht Club on November 14, 2019. Our guest speaker was John Marshall who is the head of RBOC and Vice Commodore of SCYA. John spoke on the History of Avalon.

We will end the year with a get together at one of our members homes in Huntington Beach and share drinks and cruise the canals on duffy boats.

District 11
Sheila Anderson, District Director

District 11 has focused on preparing for the Annual meeting and working with President-Elect Sherry Barone to ensure the meeting was a success. The committee worked tirelessly. Special thanks to Giselle Orteri, Brian Keown and Julie Allbright for their help.

We continued with our tradition of the Summer Windy Qs hosted by Giselle Orteri. This year we also had the combined District 10 & 11 BBQ. It was a great time. The weather was fantastic along with the food and games. It was a great time for all.

We are looking forward to entering an IOBG boat in the Marina Del Rey Christmas Boat Parade.



District 14 Liz Allison, District Director

District 14 continues with stable membership but with no activity within the District. Our members continue to participate in District 19 activities. At the Annual Installation Lunch & Ceremony we added five new members and subsequently have added two more. This past week two more members have been proposed & accepted.

In the summer some of our members joined in with the District 19 Barbecue. The location was at Stockton Yacht Club's spacious patio & barbecue area down by the river. A good time was had by all.

District 15 Gregg Hansen, District Director

District 15 sent a number of our members to Marina Del Rey for the October Annual meeting where Sherry Barone was installed as the International President of IOBG. Then on Sunday, October 27th we once again participated in the Make-A-Wish Amazing Race for Children's Wishes at Coronado Cays Yacht Club. We looked forward to wearing our favorite Halloween costume while bike riding around Coronado Island. We all join together along with District 15 to help raise funds for a very worthy cause.

The following events are scheduled for the remainder of 2019:

- 1) Change of Watch Dinner Meeting on January 10th, 2020 at SWYC 6pm
- 2) Board Meeting on January 13th, 2020 at SWYC 6pm

I, along with our District President and other board members, plan to attend the monthly San Diego Association of Yacht Club's meetings to retain and recruit members and encourage Past Commodores to join and be active with IOBG in supporting our local yacht club community.

District 16 Marsha Landreth, District Director

I reported at the convention that we have been fighting the amendment to take boating and yacht clubs from Channel Islands Harbor and replace with lucrative apartment building. I am pleased to announce that since the meeting the Oxnard City Council voted 6-1 to deny the Amendment to abolish boating in favor of apartments.

Thank you to Channel Islands Yacht Club for supplying the IOBG boat for the Opening Day Boat Parade.

We continue to push the Smiles program at Amazon for HF.

Also, District 16 helped sponsor the IOBG Annual Convention in Marina Del Rey.

We have discussed retention and what direction we want to take to raise membership.

CHOWDERFEST 2019

Sheldon Berger, Past President District 16

Sheldon Berger started this project 5 years ago and to date has raised over \$250,000 for the museums continuing education activities. He is very proud of this and the volunteers from our local yacht clubs.

Hundreds of hours have been spend working with their Board of Directors, IOBG members and community

volunteers to bring this event to fruition.

This is a prime example of what IOBG stands for in our local community.



The 5th. Annual Chowderfest festival benefiting the Channel Islands Maritime Museum was held on August 4, 2019 at the museum's beautiful Channel Islands Harbor location. Sponsored in conjunction with the International Order of the Blue Gavel. Yacht clubs participating this year included CIYC, HIYC, PCYC, VYC and IOBG District 16 members. Many volunteers from these yacht clubs and from the museum worked tireless hours towards making the event a huge success.

This year's festival included participation from 20 local restaurants, cake and frozen yogurt eateries, wineries and Walker Firestone 805 Brewery. Again this year entertainment was provided by Kelly's Lot Live Blues band. Well over 1,500 people attended and sampled the best chowders of Ventura County.





Each year Chowderfest restaurants compete for the honor of "best chowder". This year, 3 local judges voted Salt Waterside Bistro as the winner with Moore's Seafood in 2nd place and Spencer Mackenzie in 3rd place. The "People's Choice" award for best seafood chowder went to Moore's Seafood and 2nd place went to the Embassy Suites at Mandalay Bay.

Since its inception, the Chowderfest Festival has raised over \$250,000 for the Maritime Museum supporting their many on water and off water educational activities. Visitors can explore galleries full of rare and beautiful maritime paintings dating back to the 1600s, more than sixty world-class models of historic ships, rotating thematic fine arts exhibitions, and interactive exhibits that encourage visitors to expand their horizons about everything maritime.





District 19 Jack Michael, District Director

Following a very successful Appreciation Picnic, District 19 held our nomination luncheon presented by P/C Karen Mann at Discovery Bay Yacht Club. We had 33 members joining us for a beautiful day in the California Delta. The nomination committee presented the following members to serve our membership.

2020 Slate of Officers

International Director: P/C Paul Clausen Vice President: Jan Cutaia-Iaconis

President: P/C George Iaconis **Secretary:** P/C Patricia Atkins

Treasurer: P/C Ben Blair

We are looking forward to the new slate of officers. Additionally, we thank Past Southwestern International VP Mike Billington for being our treasurer for the last five years.

The 2020 election took place September 21, 2019 at the Pittsburg Yacht Club with 22 members in attendance. It was another wonderful California Delta event and fellowship.

Delta District 19 donated \$2500 to the Pacific Interclub Yacht Association Scholarship fund. Representing Richmond Yacht Club was Hayden Lahr. Hayden started sailing when she was 8 years old. During her time in high school when not sailing, she volunteered over 200 hours of community service. After graduation from high school she enrolled in the University of Hawaii and the scholarship will help with her further studies.

The final event of 2019 will be the Change of Watch for George Iaconis and the 2020 slate of officers. It will be held at Bridge Marina Yacht Club. The yacht club is now at full operation following a 2017 barge collision which struck the clubhouse and damaged some of the supporting pilings. After 14 months of construction the club has been beautifully rebuilt. We are happy to celebrate our Change Of Watch at the reconstructed clubhouse.

We continue to recruit new members and have formed a committee to retain current members. As we all know retention and attendance continue to be our largest challenge. Delta District 19 is looking forward to new leadership ideas for 2020.

Our 2020 calendar is being updated, and interested members can visit our website at www.iobgdelta19.org for the full calendar and other information about Delta District 19.

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.





(Districts 7, 9, 23 & 25

District 7
Lloyd Bogue, District Director

President White has led our District with distinction this year and continues to strive to do the very best to activate not only our new members but our current members. We are proud of the fact that we have taken in 25 new members from our Chapters and clubs.

We have also maintained a high retention rate of 91% and have this through top quality programming. One of our programs is called the "Blue Blazer" event which educates potential new members. This year we gained 10 new members as a result of this event.

D7, D9 and D25 are honored to come together and host a cocktail party in the honor of the Inter-Lake Yacht Club Commodore. This year we honored 2019 Cindy Johnson-Mintus. This event happens in August every year.

Change of Watch occurred on Oct. 12, 2019 at Forest City Yacht Club. We look forward to another great year building upon our 2019 successes.

District 9
Donald Teczynski, District Director

This year was a successful year for District 9. We were able to gain new members while retaining our current members. District 9 was honored along with D7 and D25 to once again host the IOBG Cocktail Party in honor of the 2019 Commodore of Inter Lake Yachting Association. This was held in August of 2019.

Our primary fundraiser for District 9 is a football pool. This year we sold all 200 tickets. This money enables us to donate back into the community. We supported Monroe Boat Club's Junior Sail Camp along with Perrysburg Rowing Club.

On October 13th District 9 held their change of watch passing the gavel to Roger Dutton as our President for 2020. Roger will bring some new ideas to the organization and will continue to grow upon its successes. District 9 looks forward to great year with high expectations on membership recruitment.

District 25 Mike Brown, District President We started off with our first E-Board meeting at Huron Point Yacht Club last November. At that time we set our budget for the year and planned a few events for the District. I held this meeting at HPYC in a effort to pull in more northern clubs.

Our second E-Board meeting was held at Seaway Boat Club in Wyandotte, Michigan in February. At this meeting we discussed upcoming events and a ticket raffle to raise funds.

Our Spring membership meeting was held at Seaway Boat club in May. Plenty of food and drinks and camaraderie.

We held a chicken dinner fundraiser at Great Lakes Steel Boat Club on July 14th. It was a wonderful dinner and a fair turnout raising about \$500.00.

Our ladies Auxiliary held a Detroit cycling pub event on September 15th with about 20 members and a lot of fun.

September 12th was our last E-Board meeting and was held at Grosse Ile Yacht Club. This was a great meeting because GIYC committed to becoming more active in the District. In fact I asked PC Mark Balazy to run for President-Elect at the upcoming election and he agreed.

We held our Fall General Membership meeting on October 13th at Sunseeker's Boating Club. The winner's of our ticket raffle were announced and elections were held and all officers sworn in.

Immediately following our membership meeting District 9 & 25 held a Blue Blazer cocktail party which included current Commodores and Vice Commodores as well as members from both Districts.

All in all I feel District 25 had a good year. We were down by 9 members from the previous year but I believe a lot of ground work was laid for the upcoming year.



2019 Annual Meeting Del Rey Yacht Club October 19, 2019



Northeastern V.P. Steve Tisack



(*istricts 3, 12, 20, 22, 26 & 27*)

The Northeast continues to struggle with growth in membership, in part because a number of the yacht clubs are seasonal. District 3 seems to be the only District with an active board and a membership that is continuing to grow. It is quite challenging to visit all the Districts in the Northeast without having a District Director to help promote and retain Blue Gavel members.

This past season I attempted to establish a Chapter in Maine by contacting and sharing information why their Past Commodores would benefit from joining our fraternal ranks of the Blue Gavel. They were very interested until the subject of dues came up. After many questions and answers they decide to rescind their interest in joining IOBG. I will continue to keep lines of communications open with them. This continues to bring us back to what can be offered to Past Commodores as a perk to joining the IOBG.

I also traveled to District 12 and continued to work with a few of the Chapters to try and reestablish a Board or at lease secure a District Director to help get a foot hold in the area. One area that was discussed with one yacht club in Chapter 12 is building boating relationships amongst their local yacht clubs by taking turns hosting happy hours or summer picnics to build relationships within their District first and that will help carry over interest into other Districts etc. These suggestions seem to make a positive impact and interest. Moving forward I will continue to send out contact information as well as renewal and new membership forms to members in my Districts.



District 3 had our annual meeting and added a summer steak roast on July 31, 2019. It was well attended with 76 members being present. The Board decide to charge only \$10.00 per person as a perk to giving something back to our members. This was well received and appreciated.

The picnic was held at Sandy Beach Yacht Club during a beautiful summer night. The members enjoyed good food and good music outside on their new deck. Fun was had by all. Now looking forward to the holidays, we are working on the final details of our holiday party in December to be held at the LaSalle Yacht Club.



In conclusion District 3 would like to graciously thank the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation for their generous donation to the Excalibur. The Excalibur is a water craft that enables under privileged and physically disabled people to go out and enjoy the fabulous waters of Lake Erie and the upper Greater Niagara River. The money has gone to purchase life jackets that were desperately needed for the Excalibur.

Southeastern V.P. Karen Shea



Districts 8 & 18

As of August 1, 2019 we have 220 paid members plus 2 International Past Presidents (P/P's Janiszewski & Dowdell) compared to 223 in 2018. We now have 20 Chapters compared to 23 in 2018. We have lost Bird Key YC, Charlotte Harbor YC, and Ft Walton Beach YC. We have added Hemingway International YC, Cuba. Bradenton YC and Stuart Corinthian have shown interest but no new members yet. We will continue to try to activate our inactive Chapters especially those who are Florida Council of

Yacht Club members. We have added teleconferences in-between our three regional meetings. I believe has greatly improved communications.

Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Hockenberry who coordinated with our Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers who again sent out our 2019 Membership Directory in May. 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 published Membership Roster & Directory.

I continue to ask 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 (www.d8iobg.org) and International website (www.iobg.org). We have 5 out of 20 yacht club's who have IOBG links/info/tabs on their website. (Dunedin Boat Club, Gulf Harbors YC, Isles YC, Pelican Isle YC & Venice YC)
- **2.** Have their yacht clubs add IOBG members to their Hospitality/Reciprocity rules. International will be sending out a letter soon, but here I distributed a copy.
- 3. Be an ambassador for the IOBG when you have regattas and other events involving other yachts clubs and set up an IOBG card table with brochures, etc. I've made up an IOBG Display Table which can be used. Call me to see if I'm available.

We approved presenting our IOBG Chapters with an outdoor IOBG flag (24" X 40") with number of years as chapter for hosting a meeting. At our May Regional meeting which we hosted at Gulf Harbors YC we presented GHYC's IOBG Chapter President Long with the flag with 38 years on it.

Humanitarian Foundation Director Nancy Bisanz and myself also presented a \$1000 check to P/C Long for GHYC Youth Sailing Camp. After our D8 meeting meeting that night, we had a celebration of "Hot Night in the Tropics" with tropical décor, food and a band. At our October 4th Annual Meeting we presented Clearwater Yacht Club's IOBG Chapter President and our new D8 District President with the IOBG flag with 54 years on it.

District 18
Dave Kowert, District Director

Membership has increased from 5 in 2018 to 7 in 2019 from three yacht clubs in two states and one International Past President Chuck Browning who resides in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

District 18 has offered Charleston Ocean Racing Association (CORA) to maintain their official committee boat. That is great exposure for IOBG. We would support the Wednesday night race and then transport the boat to the various yacht clubs for the weekend regattas. I hope this program will increase our visibility and the positive spirit towards IOBG that we are slowing building in Charleston.

020 **Executive**



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1st Vice President



2nd Vice President Open



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International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President Gary Smith

District 7
Rhonda Rich, District President

District 7 had a great year! We added 25 new members and have a total of 123 members this year. We started in December with our annual holiday party at Lakeside Yacht Club. Over 40 members of

the Gavel and Auxiliary enjoyed the evening. In March we assisted the Gavel with their Blue Blazer event, inviting Past Commodores and spouses to join our organizations. Also in March we marched in the St Patty's Day Parade in downtown Cleveland and hosted a hospitality room for those in attendance.

As summer arrived we joined The Greater Cleveland Boating Association in their Memorial Day ceremony aboard the USS Cod. This is a very solemn occasion that honors fallen military and deceased members of our yacht clubs. We continued to support the Greater Cleveland Boating Association by assisting the Gavel in hosting a cocktail party at their summer rendezvous for their participants and our members. In August we again assisted the Gavel in hosting a cocktail party on Put in Bay honoring the Commodore of the Inter Lakes Yachting Association. This is a 45 year tradition that we co-host with Districts 9 & 25.

Districts 7 & 9 hosted the annual wine tour weekend in the heart of Ohio wine country. We visited 4 wineries and concluded with a hospitality room where the Auxiliary provided much of the food.

Our book project was a huge success this year. We were able to give two schools \$500 each to purchase books for their libraries. We are now looking for schools for next year and should have enough funds to donate to three schools. This seems to grow each year and we would like to thank the Gavel for their \$500 donation and the International Auxiliary for their \$100 donation.

Change of Watch was October 12, 2019 at Forest City Yacht Club with the swearing in of our new President Gina Aune.

District 9
Kristin Teczynski, District President

District 9 has enjoyed a few notable gatherings this year.

Our first event was actually in 2018. We celebrated with a Christmas potluck at Toledo Sail Club. A few of our IOBG and

IOBGA members took a walk across the street to the Toledo Zoo to see the 'Lights Before Christmas'. We were also able to raise a good amount of non perishable foods and toiletries for Mustard Seed which is a local organization that helps families in need in the Toledo area. We also collected donations for a family from Toledo Sail Club who had fallen on difficult times. It was a great evening and very well attended.

We also attended the IOBG reception for I-LYA Power Bay week joining members from Districts 7 and 25. This was held at Put in Bay Yacht Club. Special thanks to District 25 President Mike Brown for planning such a great event!

We joined District 7 in September for their annual Wine Tour Weekend. A number of members made the trip to the Cleveland, Ohio area and had an enjoyable weekend. (Report Continued...)

District 9 Report Continued...

Our last event was Sunday, October 13 for the District 25 Blue Blazer Event. We welcomed current Commodores to meet our Blue Gavel and Auxiliary members and learn what our group is all about.

It has been a wonderful year and I've met some really incredible people. Our leadership for 2020 has fantastic ideas and I know we will have another successful year. I was blessed to serve District 9 this year, and look forward to continuing to help growth in the next year.

District 15 Audrey Hall, District President

What a busy summer for our Auxiliary.

In July we had a special night filled with great food, wine and music. We had our Elder Help jewelry and nautical items for a raffle. Everyone received a prize and \$400 raised toward goal of \$1000. We have reached over \$1000 for this year.

We have been planning for 2020 with new officers and something different for our members.

We decided to do some of the fun things we did in the past but adding some new and exciting twists to them.

With our events we will be still helping our chosen charity of Elder-Help San Diego.

In January we will be holding our IOBGA Seminar along with the IOBG'S seminar. Our seminars help to give the future members and leaders an idea of what we are all about and what they can do to make our Auxiliary even stronger.

Our Change of Watch will be held in January 2020. We don't have all the board members names but as of now, our Vice President Belen Poltorak will move into the president's position, our Treasurer Dawn Shaffer Nemoy will remain in this position, our Secretary Marybeth Thayer may stay as well. There are some excited members who want to step up and continue District 15's great contributions to our community and help our IOBG as well.

Our first IOGA President Rose Prell from District 15 would be proud to see that we are still strong today.

It has been a great pleasure for me to step in once again for the IOBGA in 2019.

District 25
Frances W. Rose, District President

District 25 had two memorable events in 2019.

First, our annual Detroit Cycle Pub adventure, while not as well-attended as last year was just as much fun! We were blessed with a beautiful fall day and a guide who played our kind of music; you know, the kind that makes you sing along and dance and sway to the beat! We had people dancing in the street, literally!

Second, we assisted with munchies and the ever popular Bloody Mary bar at the dual District 9/District 25 Blue Blazer cocktail party. There were many new faces with promises to join after seeing how much fun and food we have.

A special thank you to Past President Sharon Skitch for her awesome Bloody Mary Bar (presentation is everything) and Lady Rita Robbins for prepping SunSeekers Boating Club for that event. We are a small group but we sure have a lot of fun and we eat well.

2020 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

PRESIDENT-Northwest PRESIDENT-NORTHWEST Neil Kelly (Patti Dahl) 35030 8th PL SW Federal Way, WA 98023 Cell: 253-951-6940 neild101@msn.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 Frank Hoyt Nichols (Marcia) 14880 Shipwatch Trace #1913 Largo, FL 33774-5722 Tel: 727-595-5899 hoytnichols.cpa@gmail.com SECRETARY Kathy Hockenberry (Doug) 1863 W Caroline Path Lecanto, FL 34461 Tel: 813-716-5699 Carrk98@gmail.com

PRESIDENT- Southwest #16 Keith Moore (Mary Ann) retin Moore (Mary Ann 277 Sunset Drive Oxnard, CA 93035 Home: 805-985-5560 Cell: 805-551-0983 keith@castle-light.com SECRETARY Marsha Landreth 2300 Chico Ct Oxnard, CA 93035 Tel: 805-889-0054 mlrs4742@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT - Canada Open

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PRESIDENT- Southeast #18 Open

SECRETARY/TREASURER Open

PRESIDENT- North Central Mike Brown (Noella) 4513 2nd Street Ecorse, MI 48229 Cell: 734-781-5776 jamn2@att.net SECRETARY John Rose (Fran) 21667 Meridian Grosse Ile, MI 48183 Tel: 734-904-9801 giycrose06@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT- Northeast Don Peacock (Carol) 69 Carpenter Ave Buffalo, NY 14223 Tel: 716-432-9327 donaldapeacock@gmail.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

#11

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PRESIDENT- Southwest Paul Clausen (Donna) 9128 Ivy League Circle Orangevale, CA 95662 Tel: 916-989-3541 pclausen2@hotmail.com SECRETARY Matt Smith (Monique) 3565 Silverwood Road

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PRESIDENT- Northeast #26 Open

> **SECRETARY** Open

#25

PRESIDENT- Canada Open

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 Open

> **SECRETARY** Open

PRESIDENT- Northeast #27

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PRESIDENT-Northwest #5 Open

> SECRETARY Open

PRESIDENT- Northeast #12 Open

> SECRETARY Open

PRESIDENT- Southwest #21 Open

SECRETARY

Open

PRESIDENT- England #70 Open

PRESIDENT - Southwest

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> **SECRETARY** Open

PRESIDENT- New Zealand William G. (Bill) Mitchinson (Myrna) 4 Bannockburn Lane Bethlehem Tauranga, New Zealand 3110 Tel: 0064-75791098 Cell: 0064-277173724

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PRESIDENT- Southwest Jim Murtland (Liz Sloan) 2958 Sunset Hills Escondido, CA 92025 Tel: 760-741-8686 jimmurtland@aol.com SECRETARY

PRESIDENT- North Central #23 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

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International Order of the Blue Gavel P.O. Box 420955 San Diego, CA 92145-0955



Return Service Requested

Mark Your Calendars...

June 4-7, 2020 Spring Regional Meeting

August 13-16, 2020 Summer Regional Meeting



Royal Rosarian Weekend Knighting of President-Elect Buzz Bisanz

Portland, Oregon
Hosted by:
Columbia River Yacht Club



Dublin, Ireland Hosted By:

Howth Yacht Club & Malahide Yacht Club