

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

Volume 40 No. 1

January 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



2019 Executive Committee



Thank You to Melinda Short,
Annual Meeting Chairperson



IOBG-HF Grant to Oceanside
YC's Learn to Sail Program



Passing the Gavel to
President Bud Higginson



IOBG-HF Grant to Life Sail,
Inc. Marina del Rey, CA



International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary

2019 IOBG DIRECTORY

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Marshall Nemoy 888-378-2211

Boat U.S. Membership

Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

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Mark Hansen 310-601-0710

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U.S. POWER SQUADRON

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ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

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Reflects Updates Received
as of January 2019

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President Bud Higginson



Most of this year has been spent planning for the Annual Meeting which was held in October this year at the Venice Yacht Club in Venice, Florida. The president of the Venice Yacht Club chapter of IOBG Melinda Short put together a great staff to help with decorating the clubhouse and scheduling all the events. I hope that all in attendance enjoyed their visit. I had many comments on our facility and all of our staff including our kitchen and serving personnel.

Looking forward to the future. Our goals should be the same as in the past which is recruitment and retention of new members. I think a new goal should be added which is to explore areas of the country that IOBG does not exist.

We have already started this with the February 6-10, 2019 Winter Regional Meeting scheduled for the New Orleans area. Let us all put our heads together and come up with other areas of the country to pursue.

Let's all work together to make this another great year for the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

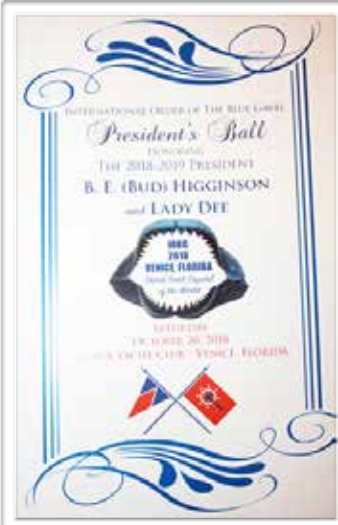






District 8 Change of Watch





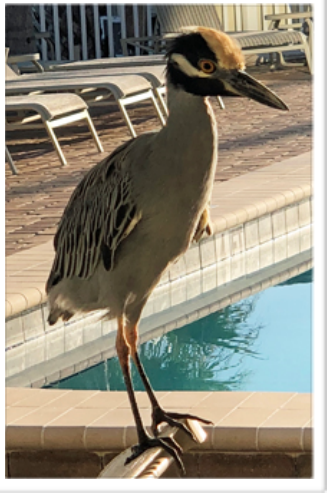




Venice, Florida

on the gulf

PARADISE





International Order Of The Blue Gavel



Winter Regional Meeting

February 6 -10, 2019

New Orleans, Louisiana

Hosted By: SEVP Karen Shea

www.neworleansonline.com



EVENT SCHEDULE

Dress: Summer Whites

Thursday, February 7th

All Day Registration & Welcome Packet Pick Up at the Holiday Inn Downtown Front Desk

Breakfast/Lunch On Your Own...

Noon - 9:00 PM New Orleans City Tour & Dinner By Trolley with
Tour Guides P/C Joe & Mary Lou Tringali (Time/Dinner To Be Determined)

Friday, February 8th

All Day Registration & Welcome Packet Pick Up at the Holiday Inn Downtown Front Desk

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM IOBG Executive Committee Meeting – Jazz Room

10:00 AM -12:00 PM IOBGA Executive Committee Meeting – Exec Boardroom

Noon Lunch On Your Own

Shop/Tour By Trolley With Tour Guides - P/C Tringali

Saturday February 9th

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM Winter Regional IOBG Meeting – Jazz Room

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Winter Regional IOBGA Meeting – Exec Boardroom

Noon- 1:30 PM Luncheon Buffet - Jazz Meeting Room

1:30 PM -5:00 PM Shop...Tour...Dinner On Own or with Group

6:00 PM Travel To Parade Site By Trolley With P/C Tringali – 3 Miles

7:00 PM - ??? Krewe Of Chewbacchus Mardi Gras Parade



International Order Of The Blue Gavel

Winter Regional Meeting

February 6 -10, 2019

New Orleans, Louisiana

Hosted By: SEVP Karen Shea

www.neworleansonline.com



Hotel Information/Registration Form



We have rooms reserved from February 6 - 10, 2019

Holiday Inn New Orleans-Downtown Superdome
330 Loyola Avenue New Orleans, LA 70112

We have a customized booking link ready to go!

You can call 1-800-238-0227 with **group code IOB** or

Click this link to book online... [International Order of the Blue Gavel](#)



Date/Event	Cost per Person	# of Persons	Total Cost
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Saturday, February 9th

Noon - 1:30 PM (After IOBG & IOBGA Meetings) Luncheon Buffet in Jazz Room - Holiday Inn Hotel

Lunch (includes tax & gratuity)	\$26.50	X_____	\$_____
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Name: _____ Spouse/Guest _____

District # _____ Office Held _____ IOBG Member ____ IOBGA Member _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Registration Deadline: January 23, 2019



Make checks payable to: Karen Shea



Mail this registration form and your check to:

Karen Shea

5027 Herring CT

New Port Richey, FL 34652

Phone: 727-389-0675

Email: LTCSheak@gmail.com



President - Elect Sherry Barone

The year flew by with many activities from our districts. The Membership Appreciation event, Change of Watch, Opening Days, Charity Events, and IOBG Sailing Regattas for Jr. Programs continue to be a critical part of IOBG.

I attended District 11 Westlake Yacht Club IOBG Chapter Jr Sailing Regatta benefiting their Jr. Program. The youth sailors raced with C-18's and C-14's, RS Teras, and Lasers for a fun day on Westlake in Southern California.

The role of 1st Vice President involved being a liaison to the Area Vice Presidents in the Northeastern and Southeastern regions. I had the privilege this year to work with SE Area Vice President Karen Shea and NE Area Vice President Stephen Tisack. They both focused on retaining membership, strengths, opportunities for improvement and suggestions from our members. Innovation and commitment continue to be shown by both AVP Karen Shea and AVP Stephen Tisack. They have looked at how to energize members to participate because they are involved in so many yachting activities.

Southeastern AVP Karen Shea worked very hard and spear-headed the IOBG letter and honorary application from President Tony Durieux to Commodore Jose Escrich of the Hemingway International Yacht Club in Havana, Cuba on August 1, 2018. We welcome Commodore Jose Escrich from Cuba to IOBG. Karen also developed a recruiting display - Digital Photos, IOBG brochures, recruiting PowerPoint slides and an embroidered IOBG table cloth that she shared at the winter meeting in Venice, Florida.

AVP Stephen Tisack traveled to New Jersey and the east coast recruiting new chapters as well as new members in Halifax.

The Summer regional meeting and events at Lake Erie Yacht Club were a lot of fun. I got to know Erie, PA and saw the yacht club's amazing junior sailing and education program. Staff Commodore and IOBG member Edward Schuler hosted our visit and took us around the massive club by golf cart and what a tour. EYC is on beautiful Presque Isle Bay and brings together those who love boats and time on the water and youth sailing since 1894. Since I'm originally from a suburb outside of Philadelphia it was a big year in PA when the Philadelphia Eagles won the 2018 Super Bowl which I attended and got to explore Erie.

With our updated Community Service web page conceived from Past President Rosalie Green and Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers and new PowerPoint slides ,on-line renewal registration from some districts and our new brochures, continue to let potential members know what IOBG is about value and camaraderie of our past commodores. Mary Nye Meyers continues to keep us on the cutting edge of communication with the web site at www.iobg.org, the Lighthouse and Log newsletter. They keep all of us informed what is happening locally and abroad. Since many of us travel it is always nice to know what is happening locally for a quick stop to our districts and chapters.

The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation (IOBG-HF) continues to support youth sailing and do so much for the boating community and we encourage support for our membership. Visit their web site at www.iobg-hf.org

President Tony Durieux's "District Achievement Award" pin competition has help maintain and grow IOBG in 2018. There is nothing like a healthy competition between districts. Tony has continued to guide us and expand new ways to retain membership. Bud Higginson will lead us and continue the IOBG tradition. Let's continue to grow IOBG membership and enjoy events as well as new friendships.



First Vice President Robert "Buzz" Bisanz

We are at the cusp of the end of our current fiscal year and the beginning of our new fiscal year. Let me say that it has been a pleasure serving the organization as 2nd Vice President this past year. My responsibility included the organization's public relations, liaison between the IOBG Executive Committee and with the IOBG Auxiliary and liaison with our Northwest Area Vice President Lani Lightle and Southwest Area Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith.

I have a bit of sad news to report to you. The IOBG International Auxiliary President Al Eiffert passed away during this past summer after a short illness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mary, Al's wife and our IOBG Executive Secretary. The IOBGA leadership process was called upon and Gary Smith, the IOBGA President Elect stepped in and is serving as President of IOBGA.

I hope you had a chance to view our IOBG Brochure. This was completely updated last year and is ready for your use in handing out to prospective members. Please contact the International Operations Center or your Area Vice President for a hard copy or a number of copies. Let's get these passed out to prospective members in your area.

We also have an IOBG organizational presentation in a PDF for your use. This is a great presentation to give at meetings to show briefly what IOBG is all about. Look for this presentation on our IOBG.org website.

Throughout this year we as an Executive Committee have promoted the IOBG membership retention and growth. The District Achievement Award (DAA) was created and promoted to each member. At this point in time it looks like the DAA has been successful. Congratulations to all who have won this year's DAA pins.

As we now run into the fiscal year 2018 - 2019 I am looking forward to serving as your IOBG International 1st Vice President. Our first Regional meeting is being planned for February 6-10, 2019 and I hope to see as many of you as time and travel allow at this meeting.

Thank you for your support this year and I ask for your continued support for the upcoming year.

If your District has an internet website please consider including a link to other IOBG sites including IOBG.org, IOBGA.org, IOBG-HF.org and other District sites like D8IOBG.org.

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 for your efforts in 2018 and good luck in 2019.

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.



Second Vice President Mark Vadaj

Members of IOBG and IOBGA, I am thrilled that you have shown your confidence in me to elect me as the Second Vice President of IOBG. I offer you my sincere gratitude and I pledge to you that I will not let you down.

In my professional life I manage business groups, people, budgets and customers. They are all vital elements to our mutual success. In IOBG I treat our members as partners and shareholders in what I do and how I conduct myself. I look forward to hearing from each of you with all ideas and suggestions and even complaints. Your vote, voice, opinion and choices matter. Without you, there is no IOBG.

As Second Vice President I am assigned to work with the areas West of the Mississippi and I am genuinely excited to be working with and supporting Lani Lightle V/P of the Northwest Area and Kathleen Jo Smith V/P of the Southwest Area. If you have not engaged with either of them, I firmly suggest that you start there when becoming more involved. As part of my responsibilities, I will be providing support and tools to Lani and Kathleen to meet their needs and the members needs.

My goal is to not only grow our membership but to Enhance Your Membership through better communication, value and significance. I welcome your input and contributions to IOBG, but most of all I value your continued commitment to Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity.

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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

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

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

Please Print

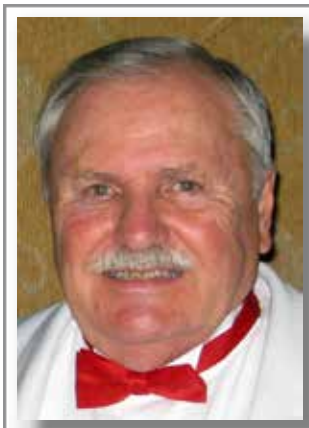
I am a paid up member of IOBG District # _____ Yacht Club _____ Year _____
 IOBGA District # _____

Signature _____ Ship to: _____

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

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Addresses: _____



Past President Tony Durieux

Retention is the life blood of our organization. The better our retention, the stronger our growth. How we work to retain our membership reflects the effort put forth to keep our chapters and districts active.

This year we present our first District Achievement Award. Five deserving districts have shown by their retention and growth that their district has paid close attention and worked hard to maintain their existing members while taking care to recognize the new past commodores in their district by introducing them to the Blue Gavel. We do this as a chapter member, district representative or in a casual meeting with a past commodore who is not a member. We need to recognize the possible talents this past commodore could bring to the boating community as a Blue Gavel member. After all, we are the boating community's ambassadors.



This is not a difficult challenge. If you have 5 or 25 chapters in your district, the first challenge is to keep track of those who soon will be past commodores and find a way to introduce them to the Blue Gavel. Follow the LOG newsletter because any districts post the ways they keep in contact and how they introduce prospective past commodores to the Blue Gavel. The first and best place to look for members is the chapters in your district.

At the Spring Regional meeting in Portland, Oregon we added a new chapter...the Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club in New Zealand.

We have others that we are debating and will announce their acceptance and soon as the paperwork is final.

I encourage you all to visit our web site (www.iobg.org). It is user friendly and recently enhanced and updated. There is a wealth of information available to all. History, current information and reports about how others got things done. Take the time to browse and be prepared to be amazed at the amount of information that is now available.

Communication is vital to maintaining an informed membership. Internally, we have asked our Area Vice Presidents to hold monthly conference calls with their district directors and/or district presidents. Our thought is to pass on important information or news as soon as possible and over time we hope district presidents will follow with a monthly conference call to the chapters in their district.

With all that said, it's now my turn to say thank you for entrusting the helm of the International Order of Blue to me as your President. The gavel has moved forward with the strong leadership provided by the Executive Committee. We are in great shape and so is our future. In closing, I want to say our future is in the hands of a great team of talented people. Still, the ultimate challenge to our future is the responsibility of each and every Blue Gavel member.

I was deeply honored to have been selected to serve as your President and I'm a little surprised at how fast this year has gone by.

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.



International Order of the Blue Gavel District Achievement Award Winners

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

This was coordinated by the Area Vice Presidents and the winning Districts' presentations were made at the October 2018 Change of Watch in Venice, Florida.

Each Area Vice President had a District winner.

Winning Districts as of August 1, 2018

REGION / AREA	WINNING DISTRICT #	DAA % (GROWTH & RETENTION RATE)
Northwestern	1	89.4%
Southwestern	14	111.86%
North Central	7	103%
Northeastern	3	100%
Southeastern	8	92.94%



In Memorium



Evertt H. Roberts

1991 International IOBG President

September 27, 1927 - August 29, 2018

Evertt H. Roberts, 90, of Portland, passed away August 29, 2018. He was born in Sydney, Montana and later graduated from Vancouver High School (class of 1946) in Vancouver, Washington.

Evertt worked as a Longshoreman for L.U. 40. He worked as a Longshore Checker and a Longshore Super Cargo for almost 40 years.

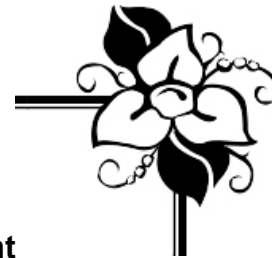


Ev was an avid boater and member of Columbia River Yacht Club in Portland, Oregon. Evertt was named the He was Commodore of CRYC in 1979 and later was a member of The International Order Of The Blue Gavel.

Evertt is survived by his children, Jay F. Roberts, Robin R. Jensen and Drew J. Roberts; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elvina M. Roberts.



In Memorium



Ira S. Nies

1996 International IOBG President

IOBG International President Ira Nies passed away on December 20, 2018 after having a paralyzing stroke. He was a member of Columbia River Yacht Club in Portland, Oregon since 1982 and became Commodore in 1992 when the new clubhouse was being built.



He loved sitting on his deck at the corner of B row, heckling passers by, serving drinks to those that stopped by to share the latest gossip. He loved the club parties and dancing with Leona.

Ira and Leona cruised all over the Pacific Northwest, exchanging club burgees along the way - many of which are hanging in the club today.

He continued this love of boating by joining the International Order of the Blue Gavel and going on to be its President in 1996.

Active to the end, at 93 he pulled weeds and planted flowers to help B row win the Clean up Day award. And at this past years Opening Day Celebration he held the torch to light the cannon and start the boating season.

Towards the end his First Mate of 73 years Leona and all of his loving family were with him. His son Jerry said that "my dad was a good man. I surely will miss him. I'd like to think of him smiling down upon us and saying safe travels and cheers to the best damn yacht club on Earth!"

The family is planning a Celebration of Life this Spring at Columbia River Yacht Club.



N.B.F. Representative Marlene Barrington

USCG – Strategic Plan 2018-2022

The US Coast Guard posted its Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

The plan identifies three strategic priorities:

- (1) Maximize Readiness Today and Tomorrow;
 - (2) Address the Nation’s Complex Maritime Challenges; and
 - (3) Deliver Mission Excellence Anytime, Anywhere.
- Read more at <https://www.uscg.mil/alwaysready/> or visit the NBF web site at <http://www.n-b-f.org>



Boating, Ethanol, and YOU

YOU may be misfueling your boat!

There have been several studies showing we have a serious situation due to ethanol in our gasoline. This information gap could have dangerous results for you.

Know that the National Boating Federation, mostly through our Legislative Director Earl Waesche, has been working to speak for you regarding the implementation of ethanol-included gasoline for marine use. Earl does this in several ways, one of which is in conjunction with our partners, where much information is shared.

All should be aware that many marine engines cannot tolerate ANY level of ethanol, while some of the newer engines can utilize a small volume of ethanol. NONE of these can tolerate E15! But just so you don’t think this is related only to marine engines, beware! NONE of your small engines, i.e. lawnmowers, snowblowers, weedwackers, chainsaws, snowmobiles, jet skis, wave runners, etc., can tolerate it either. Indeed, motorcycles and many older automobiles do not operate well, or long, with it either.

The article you may access through this hyperlink is a study from our friends at Boat US, and it demonstrates an even greater danger: Public ignorance to the ethanol effects, and reading the labels on the dispensing pumps. For us at NBF, YOUR education on this issue is paramount!

Please access the Boat US document and read it through. Be aware of what you are pumping as your safety could be at risk.

Should you desire more information, there are several articles on ethanol and marine usage on our website <https://www.n-b-f.org/issues.html>

While on our website, please consider becoming a member. We could use the support as we work on your behalf.

Thank you!

Ed Payne, NBF President

Northwestern V.P.
Lani Lightle

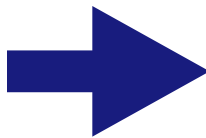


Districts
1 & 5
2, 4 & 24
Blue Gavel Canada

District 5 (Portland, Oregon) has had no activity for a while now. I am planning to start communicating with their current and past members. Presently there are no officers or board and therefore no direction in their membership. I am proposing to invite them to activities that District 1 (Washington & Idaho) have and planning to have in the future.

Currently District 1 is planning their Spring meeting in Prosser, WA. Prosser is 191 miles southwest of Seattle, about the same distance as it is from Portland. I will be inviting District 5 to join us. It will be at the same time as Prosser's annual "Spring Barrel Tasting" so with 30 wineries in the area...let the tasting begin.

As the CFO & Treasurer of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation I would like to mention that more people are using AmazonSmile and supporting the IOBG-HF with their purchases. The funds we receive quarterly from AmazonSmile are steadily increasing. A big thank you to those who have assigned IOBG-HF as the benefactor of Amazon's donations.



Did you know that the United States Power Squadron new brand name is now America's Boating Club.

In February 2017 they announced the America's Boating Club brand to the squadrons. It was felt that they have created a comprehensive advertising campaign to promote the organization, improve name recognition and develop a modern image.

This is not an official name change, but a brand and trade name that presents a marketing image to the outside world. By using the word "club" they assert them self as a social organization that has fun and at the same time provides great boating education and public service.

Squadrons throughout the country are incorporating the brand name into their own squadron marketing. Thus hoping to improve and enhance outreach programs to recruit new members, attract students to their courses and seminars and improve name recognition within their boating community.

Southwestern V.P.
Kathleen Jo Smith



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

This year has been a very busy.

Soon after the Annual Meeting in Cleveland, I was privileged, along with Gary, the IOBGA President-Elect, to attend the Change of Watch ceremony for District 6 at the Waikiki Yacht Club, including inducting their newest Chapter. They had a very good turnout and the Aloha spirit was evident.

Then in December, we were in Marina Del Rey for the District 11 Change of Watch. We were pleased to be able to make the ceremony and were very impressed with the speaker who was a photographer for the America's Cup. She had some fantastic access and unprecedented photos.

In January, we traveled to Pittsburgh for the Districts 14 and 19 Induction of new members. The event drew around 125 members!

In February we were at Huntington Harbor Yacht Club for the District 10 Change of Watch. What a terrific bunch...and brunch too! I understand why it is famous.



After the whirlwind of Opening Days and Summer Activities we were at the after race party for District 15's Charity Regatta. This was the third annual regatta and IOBGA again held their Jewelry Exchange. All proceeds go to ElderHelp San Diego.



Finally in September we were at the Channel Islands Yacht Club for the District 16 dinner meeting. What a beautiful location and hospitable membership. Unfortunately, they are under the same threat as so many yacht clubs where the civic entities are looking for a higher revenue source. We always hope that someone finally realizes the value of the volunteers in yacht clubs provide the community.

I enjoyed our meetings in Portland and Erie this year and look forward to New Orleans!

District 10
Joyce Jackson-Coomber, District Director

Fall season is already here and District 10 has been busy hosting a few enjoyable events supported by our chapter clubs. In the spring we co-hosted a brunch with Navy Yacht Club to benefit The Children's Clinics of Long Beach. We were able to donate \$1145.00 after expenses.

District 10 hosted a dinner at Huntington Harbor Yacht Club with about 25 members in attendance. Our guest speaker was Dr. Mark Monroe, a member of IOBG, who is an officer of Coast Guard Auxiliary. He spoke about qualifications to become a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, its missions, responsibilities and their regular activities.

In October District 10 donated a much sought after International Beer Basket with over 25 bottles of beer from around the world to the Charity Regatta to benefit The Children's Clinics of Long Beach. In December we had our very popular and fun Duffey Cruise in Huntington Harbor to view the many houses and boats decked out for the holiday season.

We are in the process of sending out membership renewals for next year to our members. This past year we had nine new members and hope that many or more next year.

District 11
Sheila Anderson, District Director

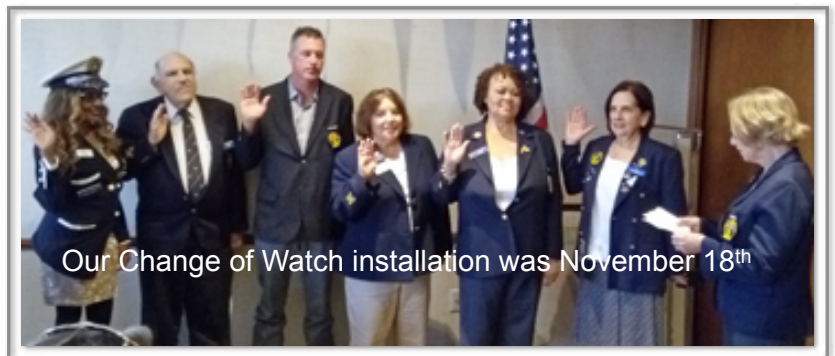
The retention of members has been the focus for 2018. It has been a struggle. We planned many events:

- Peterson Automotive Museum
- Wine Tasting Charity Event- Raised over \$500.00 for KHYP
- Members Appreciation Event
- Co-Host ASMBYC Home Port Regatta (District 11 sponsored dinner for all the Racers)
- Planned BBQ with District 10 (Cancelled)
- Hollywood Bowl Fund Raiser
- Windy Qs (members casual get togethers)

The members of District 11 are very active in their individual club activities.

District 11 is currently working with President-Elect Sherry Barone to plan the activities and events for the 2019 Annual Meeting in Marina del Rey, California. We have formed a committee to spearhead this undertaking. We are planning Wine Tastings, Paint Parties and other fundraising activities to help with the cost of the meeting.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2019.



District 14
Liz Allison, District Director

We began our year with a January 25th Board meeting at Encinal Yacht Club where we began our planning. Those present were: President Charlie Thome, Vice-President Sam Bensen, Secretary Mike Scheck, Treasurer Vern Bendsen and Director Liz Allison.

In February we held our new member induction in conjunction with our neighbors in District 19. We had 6 new members present. Throughout the year District 19 & District 14 included each other in their events.



Our March Board meeting focused on our participation in "Summer Sailstice." Although this is not a Blue Gavel specific event it is fun for our members & gives us exposure.

In June it was Portland for the Rose Festival. Those Rosarians are the best hosts.

In July we gave out our 3rd Scholarship for disadvantaged youth to sail for a week on the schooner Matthew Turner. At our July Board Meeting we installed one new member bringing our membership up to 68. We set our Member Appreciation Picnic at San Rafael YC.

In August it was off to Erie, Pennsylvania for the International Summer Regional Meeting. The Erie Yacht Club was a great place to see & their hospitality was what we are all about. We were on Lake Erie for many boat tour opportunities.

We ended our year on a flurry of activity.

At the end of September we participated in the annual PICYA (Pacific Inter Club Yacht Assn.) Wheelchair Regatta. This is an event for veterans living institutional lives in VA Homes & Hospitals in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. This year there were 180 vets + attendants who came to Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda, California for a boat ride on San Francisco Bay and a barbecue lunch. We gathered donations for the vets of personal care products and then helped to make up "goodie" bags for them.

On Sunday, October 14th we held our annual Member Appreciation Picnic at San Rafael Yacht Club in San Rafael. The burgers were huge, the salads were beautiful & the fixings were just right. San Rafael is a geographically new area for us and some past members showed up & rejoined.

Our annual meeting & installation of 2019 officers was held on Thursday, November 15th.

District 15
Bill Edwards, District Director

A Yacht Club Managements Seminar was presented by the District 15 Board of Directors and Representatives on January 20 to any yacht club board of directors or any persons who sought to increase their knowledge of yacht club protocol, organization, finances, legal issues, alcohol beverage control and California labor laws. It was hosted by Silver Gate Yacht Club (SGYC). It was very well attended and the Participation Trophy for the most members of a yacht club attending went to Silver Gate Yacht Club.

Report Continued...

District 15 Report Continued...



Our annual membership appreciation event was held on March 10. It was a great turnout with approximately 40 of our 80 members attending. Food and beverage was provided to them as well as some fun raffle prizes which were provide at no charge to our members. This event brings some or our members together with their friends only at this event. We also sought and received contributions from those fortunate enough to be able to contribute a little to our charitable organization of choice - Elderhelp of San Diego. ElderHelp provides personalized services and information that help seniors remain independent and live with dignity in their own homes.

We supported the 10th Annual Amazing Race for Children's Wishes on June 9 which benefits Make-A-Wish of San Diego. District 15's fielded a bike team which raised \$1,480 for the event. This brings significant attention to District 15.

We approved the slate for our 2018 board of directors on September 10 without a Secretary. The Secretary was identified from the club in rotation, SGYC, on September 20. All billets have been filled:
District Director: Gregg Hansen, President: Jim Murtland,
Vice President: Roger Robinson and Secretary: Simon Decker



Our Third Annual Charity Regatta was held on September 29. It was sponsored by District 15 IOBG and hosted by the Point Loma Yacht Club. The regatta was well attended and the event proceeds, along with the proceeds from the annual membership appreciation event will be presented to Elderhelp of San Diego at our annual change of watch which will be conducted on January 11, 2019.

My cut on maintaining and increasing membership is to make our organization relevant to our local communities. I firmly believe that District 15 is making headway by our interaction with the yacht clubs in the San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs and our community with the philanthropic contributions of both the Amazing Race and Race your BOD Regatta. I believe this template is one that can be emulated internationally.

I and our District President, or an alternate, attend the monthly San Diego Association of Yacht Club monthly dinners representing District 15 and address the need to contribute to our community for the Amazing Race, Race Your Board of Directors (BOD) Regatta to benefit Elder Help of San Diego, Christmas Parade of Light Picket Boats and the 4th of July Picket boats which support the Big Bay Boom Fireworks display annually; which I coordinate. Without the aforementioned picket boats neither of these events would take place which would result in a financial loss to our community and disappointment to our community members.

It is important to note that the venues described above have given opportunities to our Auxiliary to effect the community by raising funds to support their charity of choice- Elderhelp of San Diego. We work closely with them as we move through the year and they do a wonderful job supporting us. I have enjoyed my association with the International IOBG as a Director and will continue to support District 15 and my chapter going forward.

North Central V.P.
Steven Hyder



Districts
7, 9, 23 & 25

Greetings from your North Central Vice President...

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in this position. I am eager to serve this great organization and pledge to do the best job I can. I look forward to working with the Members, the Executive Committee and the Past Presidents as we build upon a strong foundation moving forward into the future. Thank you for your support!

I represent four great districts...District 7, 9, 23 and 25. All the districts are hard at work, promoting IOBG and member involvement.

District 7 and District 9 both just held very nice and well attended Christmas gatherings. District 9 through a 50/50 and basket raffle was able to raise just shy of \$400.00 to donate to a local family in need.

I have spoken with District 7, 9 and 25 and I know they are working diligently on their plans to involve their membership, retain their membership and grow their membership. Each of the Districts are dedicated to the expansion of IOBG and are working hard on this goal. This is a very exciting time to be a member of IOBG.

I look forward to working with and assisting all the districts in whatever they need to be successful.

Hope to see everyone at the Regional Meeting in New Orleans on February 6 - 10, 2019.

District 51
Walt Kadyk, District Director

The efforts of getting new members for District 51 remains a very big challenge. There are not many yacht clubs that do not fall within an existing district.

I continue my on-going efforts to recruit potential District 51 members and Blue Gavel members in general. I attend "Opening Day" ceremonies on behalf on Blue Gavel and am soliciting new members we may wish to invite to join us.

One of the comments I hear occasionally is that many yacht clubs do not recognize Blue Gavel for reciprocals. We should address this matter as it remains that Blue Gavel members are also yacht club members. But what occurs, for whatever reason, if a Blue Gavel member finds it no longer possible to be a member of a yacht club?

Northeastern V.P.
Steve Tisack



Districts
3, 12, 20, 22
26 & 27

Well it's that time of the year the leaves are changing, the water has turned from a beautiful blue green to a dreary iron gray. The marinas are becoming desolate as we settle in for a long, cold winter. Mother Nature blessed us here in the northeast with a beautiful boating season. We enjoyed calm waters, blue skies, and shining sun most of the spring and summer season.

There were great intra-chapter activities within District 3. There is progress with open lines of communication for new membership and to reestablish the board in District 12. I received a warm welcome from various chapters with newly sparked interest in the Blue Gavel from some of their past Commodores.

District 3

At the annual meeting / summer picnic we had a steak roast. To give back to our district 3 members, the board decided to only charge a nominal fee of \$10.00 per person (that was to ensure that if you signed up, you would attend). The annual meeting was very well attended with 73 members. We received over whelming appreciation from the members. They felt they were getting something back from their membership in the Blue Gavel.

This has brought new life and ideas for more venues and participation within the chapters of our district. At our annual Christmas party we selected an individual who has demonstrated thru volunteering, humanitarian work and education in promoting all aspects of safe boating to receive our award of Boater of the Year.

During the Annual meeting, elections officers for 2019 were voted on. The results are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| District Director: Lewis Smith | President: Stephen Tisack |
| First Vice President: Tony Albano | Second Vice President: Scott Green |
| Secretary: Jerry Hathaway | Treasurer: Andy Barbash |
| Supply Officer: Dick Sanders | |

District 12

I met with a few chapters in District 12 trying to reestablish a board of directors to further grow membership there. Had a very positive meeting with several PC's at Spray Beach Yacht Club. I was given a very informative tour of their yacht club by Leon Kanopka. They are in the process of updating their Marina with new break wall and docks.

They are very interested in the interaction with other chapters in area. The idea of visiting other chapters by boat and trying to promote IOBG will be set up for my next visit. I stopped at Bryant Beach Yacht Club and left some information with PC's there as well as Surf City Yacht Club.

Southeastern V.P.
Karen Shea



Districts
8 & 18

District 18 Director David Kowert continues to recruit from the Charleston, South Carolina area with hopes of forming a board soon. I had a meeting scheduled with him on September 14th at the Charleston Yacht Club, but due to Hurricane Florence arriving that day that did not happen. I was rescheduled for December 21st.

I sent out an IOBG letter and honorary application from President Tony Durieux to Commodore Jose Escrich of the Hemingway International Yacht Club in Havana, Cuba on August 1, 2018 which was approved by the board meeting on July 16, 2018. I received a formal response on September 12th stating he would be honored to accept. The Executive Committee approved he be placed under District 8 as a new International Country since Cuba is only 90 miles from Key West and he works closely with Florida Yachts Clubs with regattas, fishing tournaments, etc.

I will now coordinate an IOBG induction ceremony in Cuba within the next 6 months. I will coordinate a hotel, induction ceremony and a few excursions for 3 or 4 nights. I also will be in charge of the Winter Regional Meeting Feb 6-10, 2019 in New Orleans at the Holiday Inn Downtown – Superdome.

I developed a recruiting display which I've brought to the Annual meeting. Total cost was about \$180 (\$100 for a 15.3" Digital Photo, video & music display, an embroidered IOBG table cloth \$70 and a brochure holder \$7). On the digital display, I have the IOBG presentation and pictures (thanks to Spencer) which still has room for improvement including figuring out how to add music.

On the table, I currently have our IOBG brochures, my IOBG business card, IOBG membership applications, Humanitarian Foundation information, Boat U.S. brochures, National Boating Federation Safety Brochures, and a US Coast Guard Auxiliary information paper. I intend to add two more brochures or info papers from all our US Sailing and US Power Squadron/America's Boating Club. Any other suggestions would be appreciated. These displays could be used at IOBG sponsored events as well as during our regional meetings to help with recruiting members

District 8
Karen Shea, District Director

I am dual hatted as both the District 8 Director and the Southeastern Vice President. D8 did not reach our 2017 membership goal of 230. As of August 1, 2018 we have 223 members plus 2 Past Presidents. We lost our position as the largest District to District 7 which had 233 members! Currently, D8 has a District Achievement Award calculation of 92.94% which places us 6 of 12 Districts as of July 2018.

Even though our District 8 spring meeting scheduled for June 1-3 at Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Ft Lauderdale was canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. I am positive we can supplement our 3 meetings a year with at least 3 additional teleconferences to once again regain our number one membership position.

We had two Chapters reactivate this year - Bird Key Yacht Club and Palm Beach Sailing Club, which gives us 25 Chapters. Palm Coast Yacht Club 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 Bosi sending out renewals in December, I will send out about 50 personalized letters to inactive Chapters along with our new brochures. In the letters, I also give reference to our www.iobg.org website and the great PowerPoint presentation that anyone can use. (Continued...)

District 8 Report Continued...

We will continue to try to activate our inactive Chapters especially those who are Florida Council of Yacht Club members. I think it is important to send out annual letters to inactivate chapters along with our new brochures which I will continue to do.

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 two Districts with a Membership Directory, not to mention our great website. We talked about our D8 membership roster which Mary Nye Meyers produces. I sent out a copy of our D8 Membership Directory to all VP's and the Executive Committee. This all helps in keeping our retention rate high.

I continue to ask our D8 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. We have 7 out of 25 yacht clubs who have IOBG info/tabs on their websites.
2. Have their yacht clubs add IOBG members to their reciprocity rules.
3. Be an ambassador for the IOBG when you have regattas and other events involving other yachts clubs. I've made up an IOBG display table which can be used at these events.

We are considering presenting our IOBG Chapters with IOBG flags for 25, 30, etc years of membership. We presented Venice Yacht Club with an IOBG Flag with 33 years on it to fly on their flagpole.

Our District 8 Change of Watch was held at the same time with International at Venice Yacht Club since our new President Joe Dombrowski is from Venice Yacht Club like our new International President Bud Higginson.

District 18 Dave Kowert, District Director

Over the course of the summer regatta season, I personally met with numerous past commodores from the various area yacht clubs regarding membership in Blue Gavel. Many agreed to come to a meeting but recommended that we hold it in November or December instead of October. I agreed to move the meeting back to accommodate more potential attendees. As of the writing of this report that meeting has not been set but we will get it together as soon as we have an open venue on a Friday evening. Will circulate date when set.







District 18 has made an offer to Charleston Ocean Racing Association to play a more active role in the Wednesday Night Race Series and to support or sponsor a Fall Rally Race around the harbor. This rally concept is also supported by the Charleston Race Week as they would like to add another event to the Race week activities. If we can get this underway, IOBG would have increased visibility by providing the check boats at each rally point. Our plan is to ask Past Commodores in the area who have boats to support the effort and get them engaged through action instead of just hospitality.

Randy Drafts is the Race Director for Charleston Race Week and we are in ongoing discussions with him to take over the rally event for CRW 2019. He has been very receptive to that.

Things are slowing down here in Charleston. I will make an additional effort to visit the yacht clubs with IOBG members in Hilton Head.

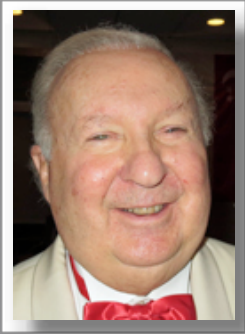
Finally, we will be working with IOBG leadership on what existing interest is in other area clubs that we can follow up on.

2016 Executive Committee

	<p>President</p>	<p>Gary Smith - Dist. 15 815 Ethel Pl National City, CA 91950 Tel: 619-479-6292 Email: gsaco@aol.com</p>
	<p>President- Elect</p>	<p>Robin Vadaj - Dist. 7 7505 Thatchum Lane Concord, OH 44060 Cell: 440-479-0065 Email: robinvadaj@gmail.com</p>
	<p>1st Vice President</p>	<p>Open</p>
	<p>2nd Vice President</p>	<p>Open</p>
	<p>Secretary</p>	<p>Nancy Bisanz - Dist. 18 529 Victoria Road Woodstock, GA 30189 Cell: 770-337-8700 Email: buzznan1111@yahoo.com</p>
	<p>Treasurer</p>	<p>Audrey Hall - Dist. 15 2063 Grandview St. Oceanside, CA 92054 Home: 760-757-6796 Email: hulakai2@cox.net</p>



International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President Gary Smith

The following actions were taken by the Executive Committee:

- Meeting called to order by President Elect Gary Smith
- A moment of silence was held in memory of Alan Eiffert recently deceased.
- Appointment of Nancy Bisanz as acting Secretary.
- Motion proposed and passed to make a \$100 donation in Alan's name to the IOBG Humanitarian fund.
- Approval of Minutes from Lake Erie meetings.
- Treasurers Report on Hand \$4841. Membership 326
- Approved Past President Willing to review Bylaws and Procedures for duplication and or conflicts.
- Approved payment for web site services
- Discussed ideas for increasing membership
- Received District Reports.
- Reviewed the progress of "Books by Boaters" District 7, praised the districts endeavors.
- Approved the sale of IOBGA pins for \$5.00, difference to be donated to the Humanitarian Foundation.
- Approved Motion to increase honorariums to \$25. Per meeting.
- Approved Motion to award Mary Romano for work on the data base project,
- Approved the nominations committee report: President Gary Smith, President Elect Robin Vadaj, Secretary Nancy Bisanz, Treasurer, Mary Kay Inguagiata.

North Central Director Ronda Rich, North East Director Margo Smith, Southwest Director Audrey Hall, Southeast Director June Thacker, Northwest Director Mike Myers.

We look forward to our next meeting in New Orleans and wish everyone Happy Holidays.

District 15
Grace Hansen, District President

On September 22nd, the 3rd annual IOBGA fundraiser for Elder-Help was held in conjunction with the IOBG Charity Regatta. The event was graciously hosted by Point Loma Yacht Club on Harbor Island, San Diego Bay. Between the jewelry sales and donations contributed by our members the fundraiser was successful. As usual, the raffle prizes and auction items generated interest and additional donations. The taco station was also well received. Our grand total for 2018 is \$857.

Gretchen Viehl, a representative from Elder-Help attended the event and expressed gratitude for our efforts as well as informing us how the funds are used. The next jewelry sale is scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2019 when we will unload yet another treasure trove of jewelry for a worthwhile cause.

2019 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

<p>#1 PRESIDENT-Northwest Richard "Butch" Brown (Sally) P.O. Box 307 Port Gamble, WA 98364 Home: 360-960-8337 Cell: 541-602-3220 butchbrown83@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</p>	<p>#8 PRESIDENT - Southeast Joseph Dombrowski (Diane) 453 Anchorage Drive Nokomis, FL 34275 Tel: 941-412-1436 steeldreams1124@comcast.net SECRETARY Kathy Hockenberry (Doug) 1863 W Caroline Path Lecanto, FL 34461 Tel: 813-716-5699 Carrk98@gmail.com</p>	<p>#16 PRESIDENT- Southwest Keith 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</p>	<p>#24 PRESIDENT- Northwest Carol Zumpano 60 Calgary Ave. Penticton, BC V2A 2T6 Canada Tel: 250-292-8750 czumpano@vip.net SECRETARY Yvonne Crawford (Steven) 1547 Klien Rd. Kelowna, BC V1Z 3H5 Canada Tel: 250-769-7325 skicondo@telus.net</p>
<p>#2 PRESIDENT - Canada Ed Ackerman (Marilyn) 308-10461 Resthaven Dr. 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</p>	<p>#9 PRESIDENT- North Central Donald Teczynski (Kristin) 6930 Forest Run Drive Temperance, MI 48182 Cell: 419-360-0507 kteczynski@bex.net SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#18 PRESIDENT- Southeast Open SECRETARY/TREASURER Open</p>	<p>#25 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 glycrose06@hotmail.com</p>
<p>#3 PRESIDENT- Northeast Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St 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 reanjer@aol.com</p>	<p>#10 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</p>	<p>#19 PRESIDENT- Southwest David Breninger (Linda) 425 Websters Court Roseville, CA 95747 Tel: 916-771-5685 Cell: 916-798-3980 dbreninger@surewest.net SECRETARY Karen Mann (Scott) 4815 Discovery Point Discovery Bay, CA 94505 Cell: 510-612-5122 karen@mannappraisal.com</p>	<p>#26 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>
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Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Meetings...

<p>WINTER REGIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 6 - 10, 2019 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA</p>	<p>SPRING REGIONAL MEETING JUNE 6 - 9, 2019 PORTLAND, OREGON</p>	<p>ANNUAL MEETING & CHANGE OF WATCH OCTOBER 17 - 20, 2019 MARINA DEL REY, CALIFORNIA</p>
		