

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

Volume 41 No. 3

September 2020

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.



Bringing Ireland Home to IOBG

August 12, 2020 - Irish Meet & Greet August 13, 2020 - Summer Regional Meeting





























Hoyt Nichols









paul clausen





2020 IOBG DIRECTORY

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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

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

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HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON 707-422-3510 Vern Bendsen

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS Mark Vadaj (Membership) 440-479-0064 Kathy Smith (Public Relations) 619-905-4581

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

US SAILING Mark Hansen

310-601-0710

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB (Formally U.S. Power Squadron) Audrey Rice 941-474-2426

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Southwestern vice Pres Shelia Anderson 1366 Mono Street Manteca, CA 95337 Cell: 626-484-7822 toymaker56@yahoo.com

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ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

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ANNUAL MEETING 2020

Robert "Buzz" Bisanz 770-337-8701

ELECTIONS

Robert "Buzz" Bisanz 770-337-8701

NOMINATIONS

Sherry Barone 310-720-9610 (Chairman)
Tony Durieux 740-242-4001 941-966-7494 216-347-7026 619-460-6118 Tony Durieux
Bud Higginson
Matthew Schmidt (East)

Reflects Updates Received as of August 29, 2020

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District 24

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2020 Executive Committee



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PAST PRESIDENT

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PRESIDENT-ELECT

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MARY NYE MEYERS (MIKE) P.O. Box 44130 Tacoma, WA 98448-0130

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President Sherry Barone

As the 2020 President of IOBG my mission statement is to cultivate RESPECT for our long-standing traditions and for each other.

As the pandemic continues so does the creativity of IOBG while protecting the health and safety of our IOBG members. To this end, the Executive Board made the decision to cancel our Summer Regional meeting in Dublin, Ireland and the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia and instead host the meetings via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Area Vice Presidents and two representatives from each region continued their roundtable discussions via Zoom to examine IOBG membership, increase participation and discuss growth and needs of members. The Zoom meetings reinforce the important information as well as letting people stay connected. It is important at this time. People want opportunities to connect. If you didn't take advantage of the opportunity for the Zoom meeting such as the IOBG Summer meeting and Meet and Greet...you are missing out. I want to continue to encourage Area Vice Presidents and Districts to hold meetings via video conferencing such as Zoom or teleconferencing via phone calling in order to keep the members connected to IOBG and each other and to use our IOBG Zoom account if needed.

Most of our yacht cubs are closed as well as regattas, sailing events, social activities during this paramedic. Video conferencing such as Zoom has enable IOBG to holds music events, classes, sailing instructions, speakers. Online get-togethers have exploded but it is not the same as our in-person meetings and sailing/boating events.

A number of suggestions were given to the IOBG Executive Committee at the June 4, 2020 Spring Regional meeting with some of them being implemented. IOBG is always open to discussion topics and we will continue to serve our membership and will follow rules and protocols established by our by-laws and policy manual online.

On July 16, 2020, a monetary stipend was sent to the treasurer of the IOBG Districts, the IOBG-HF and the IOBG Auxiliary to help the membership during the pandemic i.e. some districts having membership appreciation days as an example.



Summer Regional Meeting - August 12 & 13, 2020 "We Brought Ireland to IOBG...It's the Wearing of the Green" via Zoom"

IOBG had two days of events for the summer meeting via zoom.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020 was a Meet and Great with live Irish music by Bria Schecker-Con Brio Duo and piano player Rock It Man Jon Li.

Irish songs played were as followed:

The Fields of Athenry, The Gael Whiskey in the Jar, The Auld Triangle, Fainne Oir Ort, Cahir's Kitchen, A Celtic Duet, Molly Malone, Lost and Found, Arioso, Have a Drink with Me, The Cliffs of Moher, Scarborough Fair, The Irish Washer woman Coleraine Jig. The flute and guitar were a nice way to hear music.

Thanks to Karen Shea for the introduction to piano player Rock It Man Jon Li and for the great idea. Jon Li was interactive taking real-time requests and bought the piano bar feel to IOBG via zoom. The IOBG piano bar was a hybrid creature: part performance space...Jon sang while the IOBG members socialized during the evening via Zoom. While every factor counts, the most important thing was Jon's piano style of performance, the general tone and engaging IOBG for an evening of fun.

Continued... Page 4

President's Report Continued...

He took requests such as Moon River, I Did It My Way, Piano Player, Sweet Caroline to name a few of the songs from IOBG members for a lovely evening. Jon was a lot of fun and added the personal touch to everyone's music request. He can be followed on Facebook for his evening Zoom concerts.

The Summer Regional Meeting was held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 with Summer White Shirts Uniform.

During the meeting two Bylaw changes were voted on and approved.

- 1. Adding the Executive Secretary to Executive Committee.
- 2. Adding authorization to use video conferencing for the Annual meeting during a national emergency

Dawn Schaffer, Mary Nye Meyers and Sherry Barone are reviewing the election voting software for the Annual meeting and have it finalized by 15 September 2020. Election software we have tried did not fully meet our requirements. We are looking into other options for voting that will allow us to accommodate the individual Districts weighted votes.



Mark Hansen the US sailing liaison to IOBG and SCYC Delegate was our guest speaker at the Summer meeting. Mark is a District 11 member and King Harbor Yacht Club Staff Commodore. We had the privilege of having Mark speak and educate members at our meeting.

Mark gave us the history, links, education, membership discounts and mission of US Sailing. Mary Nye Meyers will add and share all the links provided at our meeting to IOBG members such as...

Organizational Membership

www.ussailing.org/membership/organizations/

MVP Program – Membership Discounts + Goods & Services Credits for Club

www.ussailing.org/membership/organizations/our-programs/become-an-mvp-partner/

Education

www.ussailing.org/education/

Regan and I hope that IOBG members will join us for an Ireland trip in 2021. Stayed tuned for restrictions being lifted in Ireland. I spoke to the Howth Yacht Club and Malahide Yacht Club and they look forward to hosting us as previously planned.

IOBG Member Discounts

I have arranged some IOBG discounts with Hertz, Avis, Hilton Asia Pacific Business Program (9-15%+) Choice Hotels (10%), Batteries and Bulbs, National Purchasing Plan (Discounts), Harry and David, Tire Buyer, Skechers, Office Depot, Sherman Williams (10-30%), Hotelogical (up to 70% as an example which will be rolled out next month).

Stay healthy and safe, looking forward to boating, sailing as we venture forward.



Outstanding Service Awards



Three Outstanding Service Awards were awarded by President Sherry Barone to Marlene Barrington, Mary Nye Meyers and Marshall Nemoy.



Marlene Barrington, District 1 member and IOBG liaison to the National Boating Federation (NBF) is being presented this achievement award for her service to IOBG.

NBF is the largest, non-profit nationwide alliance of recreational boating organizations. NBF is composed of boating and yacht clubs and their associations representing over 2,000,000 of America's recreational boaters. NBF promotes safe boating through education, acts as a legislative watchdog and advocates for favorable boating legislation and regulations and best management practice. Visit their web site at: www.n-b-f.org

Marlene was Commodore of Delta Sailing Club in 1991. Employees of Delta Air Lines would plan 6 fly-in's every year and then charter boats for great fun. She became an IOBG member in 2000 from District 1. Her sailing trips included: the BVI, Sea of Cortez, Lake Lanier, Canal trip from England to Wales, several trips to Catalina Island and several trips into British Columbia and Puget Sound of Washington State.

Marlene became involved with the National Boating Federation in 2002 and held all the offices including President in 2006. In 2014 she became the IOBG Representative to the NBF.

I presented her with an IOBG Outstanding Service Award as IOBG liaison to National Boating Federation (NBF) on 13 August 2020 at our Summer meeting.



Mary Nye Meyers has been given the Outstanding Service Award for many years of service to IOBG as the Communications Director. As the IOBG Communications Director she is responsible for managing and directing IOBG internal and external communications.

Mary Nye joined IOBG in 2005, been engaged as the Communications Director, and has continuously served our community with her creativity with the website and amazing communications skills for the organization. She has previously received the IOBG Past Presidents' Award in 2008 for her work as Log Editor.

I wanted to thank Mary Nye and presented her with an IOBG Outstanding Service Award as IOBG Communications Director on 13 August 2020 at our Summer meeting.

Continued...

Outstanding Service Award Continued...



Marshall Nemoy has been given the Outstanding Service Award for many years of service to IOBG as the Treasurer. Marshall was elected as the IOBG Treasurer in 1993 and has continuously served our community. He has previously received the IOBG Past Presidents' Award in 2003.

As IOBG Treasurer, Marshall has been doing an amazing job as a watchdog over all aspects of financial management, working closely with other members of the Executive Committee to safeguard the organization's finances. Yearly audits, general financial oversight, financial planning, budgeting, financial reporting, banking, bookkeeping and record keeping, travel reimbursements, and taxes are all part of Marshall's job.

Marshall has been the interface to the Portland Rosarians at our longstanding IOBG traditions and coordination of the knighting ceremony. It is an honor to be included in good company with many government, state and organizations around the world as well as our military.

I want to thank Marshall for all his help to me as President. I presented him with an IOBG Outstanding Service Award as IOBG Treasurer on 13 August 2020 at our Summer meeting.

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

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





The IOBG Annual Meeting is fast approaching with a starting date of October 16, 2020. It is now 6 weeks until our 2020 Annual meeting via Zoom.

This has been a challenging year as we have to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and not being able to hold meetings in person. A different world causes us to conduct business in unique ways. Our new found software friend, Zoom Video Conferencing, has allowed us to keep in touch and conduct business very successfully. We are thankful for that and look forward to a continuation of these online personal meetings as long as required.

In preparation for our IOBG Annual Meeting we have included the overall schedule for that meeting. We will be sending detailed information for accessing our meeting and detailed agendas as time progresses closer to our October 16 - 17, 2020 date. If you have not participated in a Zoom Video Conference meeting via the internet you don't have to worry. The process is easy and we will have it detailed and sent to you in advance of our meeting. We have conducted our IOBG Executive Committee meetings via Zoom successfully for many months now and we look forward to a successful Annual meeting.



Please mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting scheduled for October 16 and 17, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the Annual meeting please visit our web site at www.iobg.org or let me know by contacting me at buzz8521@comcast.net.

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL









SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



All Meetings Held in Your Own Home or Office via ZOOM



All times are Eastern Daylight Time

Friday, October 16 th Dress of the Day – Cas

IOBG Executive Committee 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

IOBGA Executive Committee 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (via phone conference call) IOBGA General Meeting 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (via phone conference call)

IOBG Board of Directors Meeting 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

IOBG Humanitarian Foundation Mtg 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (via phone conference call)

Saturday, October 17th Dress of the Day - White Uniform Shirt with Epaulettes

IOBG Executive Committee11:00 am - 11:30 amIOBG Annual General Meeting11:30 am - 3:00 pmFall Regional Meeting3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Off-Line to Change to IOBG Formal White Jacket with Red Bow Tie 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Induction of Officers – IOBG Executive Committee & Area Vice Pres. 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Pictures: (via Zoom Screen)

IOBG Executive Committee 6:00 pm - 6:15 pm IOBG Area Vice Presidents 6:15 pm - 6:30 pm



^{*} Break times will be taken as needed...



First Vice President Mark Vadaj

By the calendar Summer is in full swing along with the heat, long daylight hours and summer boating. The only thing missing is the normal activities of group boating activities, in person communication and club event participation. It is obvious with the absence of Summer Launch Parties, Regattas, Holiday Observations, Formal Events, Fundraising and more. Even in person club meetings have been altered by adapting online Zoom Sessions, Conference Calls, or other similar versions.

I.O.B.G. has also re-invented itself by inserting technology such as Zoom Online Meetings where travel and in person meetings were once the norm. These circumstances may be a tragedy and may be a blessing. Unfortunately, it will most likely be a bit of both as we have lost several of our IOBG members due to this virual disease.

Through necessity we at the Executive Level and Regional Level have found abilities to communicate more frequently but possibly not more effectively and certainly not a 100% replacement to in-person meetings, conventions and formal events. Time will tell if these prove to beneficial and permanent or just temporary due to circumstances. Either way I can assure our members that the IOBG Executive Board will chose what is best for our members, most effective and most beneficial. Our goal is to come out stronger, more effective and with increased value for all. We have found methods to trim expenses, but nothing replaces the in-person contact for overall benefit.

What can our most important element (our members) do to be most effective and relevant? Insert yourself into every club event possible and not just your own. Recognize fellow IOBG members wherever you are, encourage a Past Commodore to rejoin the ranks of IOBG and participate in all Chapter, District, Regional and International events, meetings, and efforts.

How can I become more active? Engage with your current Club Bridge and offer support, guidance, and valuable information from experience. If you wish to expand the IOBG footprint in your club purchase an annual \$21.00 subscription to the IOBG Log Newsletter for all to view. (Go to www.iobg.org or use the form on the following page in this newsletter.)

Any IOBG member can engage with any IOBG officer. We do however encourage you to start with your Chapter or District. All points of contact are inside each issue of the IOBG Log newsletter. I assure you that we welcome and value your questions and suggestions. Lastly, invite me to all your events, efforts, and functions. I welcome the opportunity to provide an explanation of the What, Who, Why and How IOBG can benefit you and your club. Lastly, wear your stars and IOBG pin proudly, fly your IOBG flag on your boat and never pass up an opportunity to invite a Past Commodore to an IOBG event or meeting.

Thank You For Your Continued Commitment To "Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity"

International Order of the Blue Gavel

Printed LOG Newsletter Subscription Form







All IOBG members that have a valid email address receive an "electronic" version of our LOG Newsletter. Many of our members have inquired about receiving a printed version for their own use or as a gift to a Member, Club, Chapter or as a Memorial for a Past Member.

We are committed to improve communication and information to our membership. We welcome and encourage you to subscribe to a yearly subscription for only **\$21.00 per year** which includes printing, mailing and handling. Each subscription contains valuable information on local, regional and International events, schedules for activities and meetings, a directory of Officers, Officer reports, and our members. Also included is information from our IOBG Auxiliary and Humanitarian Foundation.

Subscriptions run from January - December of each year.

Make Check Payable To:	IOBG	Sub	omit Payment To:
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Second Vice President Kathleen Jo Smith

With little to report, as most group activities have been curtailed, I'd like to focus on giving some credit where credit is due.

First, our President Sherry Barone. This has not been a fun year to be President. We should have been in Dublin, Ireland for our Summer Regional meeting having an Irish Coffee. Sherry has stepped up and brought us all together via Zoom. There is still business to be done and Sherry makes sure we continue to work to make IOBG viable and relevant to our membership. She understands that the Districts are struggling, too, with limited options for local activities. With this in mind she directed a stipend to be paid to the Districts for them to use for their membership. That's leadership.

Next, Buzz has had to make difficult decisions this year regarding the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Ultimately he made the decision to hold our Annual Meeting by Zoom as well. There were deadlines with the hotel and other providers and no certainty that travel would be reinstated in time to make an Atlanta trip possible. Leaders have to make hard decisions. Well done, Buzz.

Thank you, too, to Marsha Landreth and Marshall Nemoy. Marsha is always right on top of getting minutes accurate and out in a timely fashion. Taking and preparing the minutes is time consuming, truly an important volunteer. And our Treasurer of decades Marshall, is already hard at work on the 2021 budget. This, too, takes multiple volunteer hours. We are grateful to you both for your professionalism and willingness to serve.

And then there is Mary Nye Meyers. We rely on her creativity, skill and enthusiasm with all our communications and publications. She is always an integral part of the organization, but in this year of quarantine and social distancing, her role, no her multiple roles, have been crucial.

In this year of "No Normal", thanks, too, to all of the Officers, Past Presidents, Area Vice Presidents and District Directors who have hung in there and worked to provide continuity to the organization and the membership.

Here's to making 2021 a year of shared activities, unrestricted travel, and renewed friendships.



Nominations Chairperson Sherry Barone

2021 Slate of Officers

The 2020 nominating committee consisted of President Sherry Barone, Past President Tony Durieux, Past President Joel Kay and two IOBG members, Jeanne Irwin from West of the Mississippi River and Matthew Schmidt from East of the Mississippi River.

The IOBG nominating committee met by conference call on May 19, 2020 and reviewed all requests for nomination submitted by interested members. The committee thoroughly discussed each request. Our decision reflects the consensus of the committee.

The IOBG Executive Committee approved these nominees at the Spring Regional Meeting on June 4, 2020. They will be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the IOBG Board of Directors at the IOBG Annual Meeting on October 17, 2020.

President	Robert "Buzz" Bisanz (Automatic)	District 18
President-Elect	Mark Vadaj	District 7
1st Vice President	Kathleen Jo Smith	District 15
2 nd Vice President	Marsha Landreth	District 16
Immediate Past President	Sherry Barone (Automatic)	District 11
Treasurer	Marshall Nemoy	District 15
Executive Secretary	Mary Nye Meyers	District 1
Northeast Area Vice President	Stephen Tisack	District 3
Southeast Area Vice President	Karen E. Shea	District 8
North Central Area Vice President	Steven Hyder	District 9
Northwest Area Vice President	Jim Martinson	District 1
Southwest Area Vice President	Shelia Anderson	District 11

US Sailing Presentation to IOBG

US SAILING

Mark Hansen, SCYA Delegate to US Sailing August 13, 2020

Introduction

25 years at US Sailing representing SCYA
Government Relations Committee
Multihull Committee / Portsmouth Handicap Committee
markLhansen@aol.com 310-601-0710

History

- Formed in 1897 by 6 Sailing Associations 100th Anniversary in 1996/1997
- Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act of 1978
 - Congress mandated National Governing Body for the sport of Sailing
 - Olympic Sailing Committee works with the U.S. Olympic Committee
 - Delegation to World Sailing
- Reorganization 2005

Constituency-based board replaced w/ much smaller at-large board Sailing Associations and Yacht Clubs lost direct voice and vote Semi-annual meetings replaced with less than annual meetings Organizational memberships recently in decline

Structure and Representation

Board of Directors

www.ussailing.org/about/our-people/board-of-directors/

Zoom meetings: www.ussailing.org/about/our-people/board-of-directors/board-meeting-schedule/

Regional Sailing Associations Committee

www.ussailing.org/about/our-people/committee-directory/regional-sailing-associations-committee/Chair (new) Robert Sheppard bssailing1@gmail.com 614-746-4966
Staff Liaison Lucy Davidson lucydavidson@ussailing.org 401-342-7946
39 Regional Sailing Associations

11 Area Coordinators

Area Map: www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/area-map-and-representatives/ Find Judges and Race Officers

Disciplines – One Design, Offshore, Multihull, Board Sailing, Cruising... www.ussailing.org/about/our-people/committee-directory/

US Sailing's mission is to provide leadership for the sport of sailing in the United States, through a wide range of programs and events, including the administration of the Racing Rules and handicap systems.

Membership

www.ussailing.org/membership/

Organizational Membership

www.ussailing.org/membership/organizations/

MVP Program – Membership Discounts + Goods & Services Credits for Club www.ussailing.org/membership/organizations/our-programs/become-an-mvp-partner/

Burgee Insurance Programs

www.gowrie.com/USSailingprograms/burgeeprogram.aspx

Education

www.ussailing.org/education/

Instructor Courses

www.ussailing.org/education/instructor/

Race Officials - Race Officers, Judges, Umpire, Rules

www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/

Race Officer Seminars

www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/resources/find-a-seminar/race-officer-seminar-calendar/

Judge Seminars

www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/resources/find-a-seminar/judge-seminar-calendar/

Adult Sailing Courses

www.ussailing.org/education/adult/

Youth Sailing Courses

www.ussailing.org/education/youth/

Safety at Sea Courses

www.ussailing.org/education/adult/safety-at-sea-courses/

Junior Sailing Safety Manual

www.gowrie.com/pdfs/BurgeeProgramJRSailingSafetyManualExcerpt.pdf

Emergency Card Template

www.gowrie.com/pdfs/Emergency%20Card%20Template%20-%20Burgee%20Program.pdf

Optimize Your Emergency Action Plan

www.gowrie.com/pdfs/EmergencyPlanCard-BurgeeProgram-GowrieGroup-Top6Tips.pdf

Communication

Email Subscriptions:

https://ussailing.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9e7179c6be5d4ffc7b83d82dc&id=f0660e04e8

Government Relations Committee

Comprehensive newsletters posted regarding boating issues www.ussailing.org/about/our-people/committee-directory/government-relations-committee/

Resources and COVID-19 Information for Member Organizations www.ussailing.org/membership/organizations/resources/

Quarterdeck

A special newsletter supporting those in leadership roles at sailing organizations www.ussailing.org/membership/organizations/resources/org-mem-access/

Starboard Portal

A new video channel keeps sailors connected to the sport with video resources and live content www.ussailing.org/starboard-portal/

National Events

US Sailing Championships (14) – Postponed or canceled www.ussailing.org/competition/championships/

National Conference – Fall 2020 www.ussailing.org/events/national-conference/

Regional Symposiums - TBA www.ussailing.org/events/regional-symposiums/

National Sailing Programs Symposiums – 2022 https://nsps.ussailing.org

Sailing Leadership Forum – Most recent: February 2020, San Diego https://sailingleadership.org

Portsmouth Handicap System

Time on time primarily for centerboard boats including catamarans Includes a conversion equation to PHRF www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/dpn/



N.B.F. Representative Marlene Barrington

NBF Past President - IOBG Delegate & District 1 Member



Committee Leaders Applaud House Passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020:

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Elijah Cummins Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020, legislation to authorize funds for, reinforce, and support the U.S. Coast Guard, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House passed similar legislation in July of 2019, but the Senate failed to act. The bill passed recently has been negotiated with Senate committee leaders and now heads to the Senate to be reconciled in conference with the Senate NDAA. The men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard work tirelessly to keep our coastal communities safe, maintain the security of our ports and waterways, carry out critically important drug interdictions, and respond to emergencies and disasters. As one of the five armed services, the Coast Guard protects the safety and security of vessels and those who sail on them along our Nation's extensive maritime borders.

The Great American Outdoors Act:

To establish funds and provide for the use of those funds in a National Parks and Public Land Restoration, to address the huge maintenance backlog of the National Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other related agencies. This landmark legislation would fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as well as address the \$ 20 billion backlog on America's public lands and waters and waters. It passed Congress, and President Trump is expected to sign it. The growing backlog of unmet maintenance has already closed trails, restrooms and campgrounds. This bill is a once-in-a lifetime to protect and restore America's precious natural heritage.

The Great American Outdoors Act has bipartisan support and the endorsement of more than 1,000 environmental, tourism and other groups. Though support is broad, it is not unanimous. Some groups and legislators, especially in the West, oppose continuance of the fund because they think the federal government already controls too much land.

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund:

This bill reauthorizes through FY2024 the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund which provides funding fisheries, conservation and management, water and boating infrastructure, and recreational boating safety. This bill provides \$650 million annually. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office to report on the increasing use of non-motorized vessels and their impacts on motorized and non-motorized vessel access, user conflicts at waterway access points, the use of Sport Fish Restoration Program funds to improve non-motorized vessel access and the reasons for providing such access, and the use of Recreational Boating Safety Program funds for non-motorized boating safety programs.

(Article Continued...)

National Boating Federation Report Continued...

The Water Resources Development Act Of 2020:

This Act (H.R.7575) provides for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States and for the conservation and development of water and related resources. It also provides for budgetary treatment expansion and adjustment for the Harbor Maintenance Trust, funding for navigation, annual report to Congress on the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, additional measures at donor ports and energy transfer ports, assumption of maintenance of a locally preferred plan, Coast Guard anchorages, inland waterway projects and implementation of water resources principles and requirements. It passed the House of Representatives.

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

Quantity



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.

Navy

Unit Price

Total

	IOBG Blazer Emblem				
	Auxiliary Blazer Emblem				
Please	Print		-		
I am a p	paid up member of IOBG Distric IOBGA Distric	ct # ct #	Ya	cht Club _	Year
Signatu	re			Ship to:	
	ove will be verified. Member wilns when shipped.	l be bille	d for	_	
		Contact	Phone Nu	mber: _	
Email Addresses:				sses: _	

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775-782-3380

800-315-7485



Community Service in Action IOBG Gives Back to the Community



1st Underwater Clean-up of the Venice Yacht Club Marina

Sponsored by the District 8 IOBG - Venice Yacht Club Chapter Venice, Florida

August 15, 2020 - The International Order of Blue Gavel - Chapter of the Venice Yacht Club hosted the 1st underwater cleanup of the Venice Yacht Club Marina on Saturday, August 15, 2020. SunCoast Reef Rovers (Venice Dive Club) conducted an underwater clean-up using 13 Divers, 5 topside helpers, Venice Sea Tow, Sarasota County Sheriff Marine Patrol, City of Venice Marine Patrol along with several volunteers to bring up approximately 1,250 pounds of debris.





Items included anchor, crab traps, numerous ropes, few bottles, several boat ladders, some miscellaneous boat parts, fishing pole, sign, brooms, pieces of cement and two dock pylons.

The limited amount of debris collected compared to prior year Higel Park Underwater Clean-up is a testament to the Venice Yacht Club members overall commitment to environmental stewardship and shows how we are doing to keep trash out of the local waters.



The IOBG hosted a wine grab on May 20th to raise funds for this event. Donations included bottles of wine as well as cash donations from the IOBG and VYC membership. The wine grab raised a total of \$833.00. These dollars were used to cover expenses along with presenting a check to SunCoast Reef Rovers.

Upon completion of the event, P/C Melinda Short, President of the IOBG Chapter, Commodore of the Venice Yacht Club Kitch Keitchen and Board Of Director Vince Pelliccia presented a check for \$725.00 to SunCoast Reef Rovers/Volunteer Coordinator Ken Lackmann. This donation is to be used for future underwater cleanups in the Venice area.

Articles were placed in the Herald Tribune and the Venice Gondolier newspapers.

The IOBG and Venice Yacht Club are committed to the environmental stewardship of our waterways. Photos by Bill Bowen.





Oistricts 1 & 5

The Northwest is cruising!

Despite the rough year, after the wet weather gave way to some sunshine and with a bit of relaxation of the lock down problems here in the Northwest our clubs are on the water. They have reported enjoyable cruises and a good crabbing season but the salmon fishing has been fair.

One of the mainstays of cruising in the Puget Sound and the Salish Sea is a cruise to the Canadian Islands. However since the U.S/Canadian border remains closed boaters are always reminded that crossing the Water Border is a severe violation and the Canadian authorities have been quick to react to it.

We always encourage good seamanship and stewardship on the water especially for our wildlife.

District 1 continues to hold monthly online meetings and already making tentative plans for 2021 activities. We hope that we can get back to some kind of normalcy so we can effectively communicate with our members and continue to share the good work of I.O.B.G to prospective members and clubs. In the meantime we also keep working on strategizing our membership goals.

I am formulating a strategy and hopefully with some help from District 1 we can help District 5 to retain its membership and future recruitment too.

I also report to the District on the International news. The District appreciated the stipend support from the International.

Each I.O.B.G. member is important to me and I humbly appreciate every one of them.





(1) istricts 6, 10, 11,14, 15, 16, 19 & 21

This is difficult to write. We had hoped to travel to Ireland for the first international meeting. With the pandemic still at large the yachting community is at a standstill. There is not much to report from the June meeting. We are focusing on the membership retention awards.

Most of the Districts have nothing to report...

District 11 reported 53 renewed members for 2020. One member, Kristin Tyminski, passed away.

District 19 had nothing to report except membership as we have not been able to meet except virtually. We had 15 new members join in 2020 and they were inducted on March 1st at our General Meeting and Induction ceremony. At present District 19 has 143 members, 19 members from 2019 did not renew for various reasons.

Southeastern V.P. Karen Shea



Districts 8 & 18

District 8
Karen Shea, District Director

District 8 final count as of August 1, 2020 is 207 paid members plus 3 Past Presidents (P/P's Richard Janiszewski (2008), Joe Dowdell (2016) and Bud Higginson (2019) compared to 218 members in 2019. We now have 20 Chapters. We will continue to try to activate our inactive Chapters especially those who are Florida Council of Yacht Club members. Our last active physical meeting was in February 2020 at Palm Beach Sailing Club. Due to the cancelation of our May regional meeting we have changed to teleconferences. There is still no decision as to the October Change of Watch.

All our chapters are working hard during this pandemic. All clubs were ordered closed and we now continue to be only in Phase 2 as Florida has the second highest number of Covid cases in the US. However most clubs are open with social distancing. IOBG Chapters normally do not meet during the summer months.

There is one Chapter I would like to highlight. St Augustine Yacht Club IOBG Chapter President Anthony Palazzo who has continued to support the St Augustine YC on Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations. The Commodore Barbara Dolan is also a Past Commodore and a member of IOBG and has been their IOBG Chapter President too. She never stops. In addition, they are in their 10th week of Youth Sail Camp. So kudos for taking on that challenge during this pandemic.

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.
- 2. Add a link to both our D8 and International website. We have 5 out of 20 YC's who have IOBG info/tabs on their website. (Dunedin Boat Club, Gulf Harbors YC, Isles YC, Pelican Isle YC & Venice YC)
- 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 to join you.

We approved presenting our IOBG Chapters with an outdoor IOBG flag (24" X 40") with the number of years as chapter for hosting a meeting. It always looks good on the outdoor flag poles at Yacht Clubs. If anyone wants the information please see me. It's a great idea instead of a plaque.

District 18
Dave Kowert, District Director

Membership went back down from 8 to 6 in 2020 which includes one Past President Chuck Browning (2013) from three yacht clubs in two states which I'm sure is due to the temporary closing of all clubs.

Unfortunately District 18 yacht clubs have been hit pretty hard by Covid 19. Most went through a "closed" period and are now open for limited hours and a restricted number of people. We have tried several times to organize an informal gathering or a "dock party" with social distancing, but quite frankly, nobody has been willing to come and meet. Offers to share ideas through ZOOM have also gone out but the area PCs appear to be hunkered down and not responsive to joining a virtual organization. (By virtual...I mean only short term... through COVID)

I think things will pick up again once we can move about freely and club life gets back to normal. I'm expecting that to happen in December / January based on what we are hearing from current club leadership and our local medical community.

In the meantime, all the local clubs have membership information in the form of IOBG brochures which were handed out recently and my phone number to give to anyone who expresses an interest. I plan to start trying to coordinate face to face meetings with 2019 Past Commodores as soon as the positivity rate in South Carolina (Charleston specifically) drops to 5% or less. Until then I think it's prudent to lay low.

If you hear of things that are working well in other districts I would be very interested in hearing about them and trying to implement something similar here in District 18. To all my fellow PCs, please stay well and remain careful.

020 Executive



President

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President- Elect

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1st Vice President



2nd Vice President Open



Secretary

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International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President Gary Smith

The IOBGA board met by phone from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.

Actions taken include:

Approved \$100 to District 7 for their book project.

Approved Treasurer's Report: \$3020 in Treasury. Membership is at 213 which is down from 300.

Added to Standing Orders - Non profit status and dissolution intent per IRS regulations.

Discussion of donations to members families in case of deaths, illness,etc. Tabled to be resumed at October meeting. President Smith to present motion at that time for discussion.

Discussion regarding the October meeting to be Zoom video conference or teleconference (phone). Past President Sandi Durieux requested nomination interest letters be sent to her.

Meeting adjourned 10:45 AM.

2020 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

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

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PRESIDENT- Southwest #16 Keith Moore (Mary Ann) 277 Sunset Drive
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PRESIDENT- Northwest #24 Open

#25

#26

PRESIDENT - Canada #2 Open

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> SECRETARY/TREASURER Open

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SECRETARY Open

#11

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SECRETARY Open

PRESIDENT- Canada Open

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> **SECRETARY** Open

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> **SECRETARY** Open

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SECRETARY

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> **SECRETARY** Open



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