

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

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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.

2021 Spring Regional Meeting April 24, 2021



2021 IOBG DIRECTORY

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Boat U.S. Membership

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(Formerly U.S. Power Squadron)

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Reflects Updates Received
as of May 27, 2021

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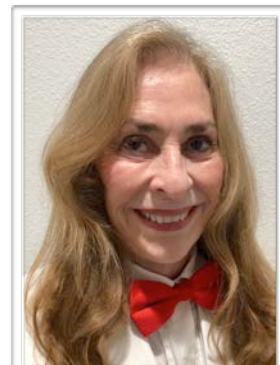
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Visit our web site at:
www.iobg.org



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www.facebook.com/InternationalOrderoftheBlueGavel



President
Robert P. "Buzz" Bisanz



Thank you to all of you that attended our Regional Meeting on April 24, 2021 via ZOOM. Your representation showed support for our organization and the Chapters you represented. I hope you felt the time you spent on the ZOOM call was worth your time and effort.

As reported and discussed during the Regional meeting IOBG progress in our first 6 months included the following:

- Analysis of our organizational annual expenses
- Our International dues structure which we were able to reduce by \$10 per year per member
- Analysis of our on-site meetings leading us to the reduction towards one Regional meeting at the end of April and our annual meeting in October. We will continue to hold ZOOM meetings monthly with our Executive Committee so our face to face meetings continue to be strong and expenses lower.
- Creation of our IOBG Facebook page. This page is up and running and ready for your support. It has already brought us an interested group that has inquired about joining our organization.
- We now offer and support IOBG online dues renewals using a debit or credit card. The payment automatically gets deposited for the District Treasurers into the District's bank account. This process is to support the Districts and our IOBG membership.

As your President my next priority is to build and offer our membership, access to boating and yacht club educational information accessible on our IOBG.org web site. This access will include YouTube produced classes by the Academy of Yachting and Joe Tringali.

This will also include educational information from US Sailing and our Liaison Mark Hanson. The National Boating Federation contributes a plethora of education classes. Marlene Barrington, our IOBG liaison to NBF, has offered her assistance in identifying related classes and education.

Thank you for your support. If you know of a past commodore that is not a member of IOBG, ask them to join us as an IOBG member. Share the Fun!



President - Elect Mark Vadaj

Welcome to the 2021 Boating Season as warm weather has finally arrived to our members in the Northern Hemisphere. Not only have many of our doors and windows become open but so has our borders and boundaries due to the nation's health pandemic. So has many of our Clubs and Chapters.

In our previous LOG newsletter issue, we talked about the tangible amenities of your membership. Should you wish to review those amenities, please pick up a copy, or find it online at WWW.IOBG.ORG or better yet for \$21.00 you can receive your very own printed copies, including postage, for every issue during the year.

With that said, it is time to dust off a few official policy and procedures as well as unofficial traditions and customs. After all, The International Order of The Blue Gavel is founded upon the fundamental principals of uniting Past Commodores to promote the highest ideals of yachting and to preserve its customs and traditions through social, educational, and humanitarian programs.

What better time than Spring, Boat Launching, Blessing of the Fleet and Club Opening Day to review one of the most important and sacred traditions, **Flag Etiquette**. Everything that a Yachtsman, Club or Individual needs to know about the handling of, displaying of and respect for our flag can be found on our website, WWW.IOBG.ORG Please take a moment to review not only the proper etiquette for your nations flag but also that of Club, Officers and Signal Flags. On the IOBG website, Click on Links in the blue tab, at the bottom of the page is the PDF or Power Point for Flag Etiquette by P/C Robert Sapita. Thank You Bob.

Another often asked topic is proper **Uniform Protocol**. While individual customs may vary from region to region, much is still common and observed. I invite you to view proper uniform protocol by opening the link towards the bottom of the home page of our website WWW.IOBG.ORG under IOBG Bylaws and IOBG Policy Manual. There is a short guide to helping all of our members.

Also found on our Website at WWW.IOBG.ORG is the New Member Application, New Chapter Application, Oath for New Member/New Chapter. Note: The Oath should be conducted at the Club Level whenever possible witnessed by its members with as many IOBG and Club Members possible. You can find District, Regional and Executive officers on the Website who would welcome every opportunity to be invited to conduct the formal ceremony. Just call and ask.

Lastly, The IOBG is not the Policy and Procedure Police for yacht clubs but rather a resource to support, and assist your club, its officers, and its members. May I suggest that you make every attempt to proactively offer your service, knowledge, and abilities with other past commodores as a benefit while never usurping anyone's authority.

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

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.



First Vice President
Kathleen Jo Smith

I am thrilled to report attending our first actual, in person, Opening Day, in over a year, this past weekend and it was glorious!

From the boats and clubhouse decked out, the delicious passed food, to everyone dressed in their blazers and whites, it was a beginning to returning to normalcy.



Next up, our local yachting organization, the San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC) is planning for the June meeting to be in person.

It's been a long time coming, and there is now a sense of optimism that we can start to resume some of our normal activities.

I am looking forward to upcoming IOBG meetings in Portland and Cleveland. The plan is for these meetings to be in person, and, as much as possible, in keeping with our usual traditions.

Here's to getting normal back to everything we have been missing out on for the past year.



Second Vice President Marsha Landreth

Community Service

The worst of the Covid-19 seems to be behind us and our yacht clubs are beginning to open up around the country. On-the-water activities are ongoing, as boating allows for social distancing. NWVP Jim Martinson reported that District 1 had a great turnout at their latest meeting with 45 members present. The gathering was outside at a marina with RV parking. Way to think outside the box, District 1!

As our chapters and districts start up again, please consider placing information and pictures on the IOBG Community Service page of the IOBG web site. Currently, the Venice Yacht Club Chapter's underwater cleanup, and District 16's Chowderfest to benefit the Channel Islands Maritime Museum are featured. To read the details, go to the Home page and click on the Community Service link. To share what you're doing in your communities, email blurbs and pictures to our Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers.

Online Payment of Dues

District 11 implemented online payment of dues five years ago. Southwestern Area VP Shelia Anderson reported higher membership. She also reported that about 70% of their members pay online, despite the \$2.75 transaction fees. This seems to indicate that online payment of dues might be an effective tool in increasing membership.

With this in mind, the Executive Committee voted to pilot online dues payments in District 1 and District 19. Thank you Northwestern Area VP Jim Martinson and Southwestern Area VP Shelia Anderson for your help finding pilot Districts. And a HUGE thank you to Executive Secretary & Communications Director Mary Nye Meyers for the computer programming, which will make this transition viable. The Executive Committee will look at the statistics next year, and if these two Districts embrace online payment of dues, perhaps more and more Districts will elect to go online.

New Members

Should inductions be public or private? Please make these ceremonies public. Belonging to IOBG is an honor; let the yacht club members share in the excitement. Most of the chapters here in District 16 (California) ask to have the induction at Opening Day in April. One club holds the induction at their Change of Watch in November. Although any member may induct the new candidate, try to have the highest ranking officer perform the ceremony. That would be the District Director unless your District has a Past International President, or visiting dignitaries: International President, President-Elect, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Treasurer, Secretary, or AVP. Take lots of pictures for the IOBG Facebook page. Thank you, President Elect Mark Vadaj, for setting up and managing the Facebook page.

IOBGA

Kudos to District 7 IOBGA for sponsoring a children's book project. The first year they stocked a new school's library with 118 brand new hardcover books. The next year they provided 400 books to two schools! Each book is stamped "Books by Boaters".

If your district does not have an Auxiliary, consider forming one. You will find that your gatherings are bigger and better. And who doesn't like a great party? Or like having an extremely rewarding book project for your community's young children?

Continued...

2nd Vice President's Report Continued...

Annual Convention

Thank you President Elect Mark Vadaj for your on-going hard work putting together an exciting experience for us in Cleveland this coming October 13-16. Several of the venues Mark thought we would enjoy have filed for bankruptcy, many hotels have shut off bookings for 2021 due to Covid-19, and area fundraisers have been canceled. Despite these adversities, he has persevered to find alternate venues and funding. Please attend the Annual Convention, meet members from other areas, and renew acquaintances.

What is your IOBG Membership Worth?

We have moved our sailboat to the Port Royal Marina (after being on a waiting list for three years) to be close to a grandchild and to have a closer sail to our mooring in Catalina. When we arrived at the marina, the office was closed until 9:00 the next morning. We were stranded without the magic card needed for gates and restrooms.

Port Royal Yacht Club was having a Cinco de Mayo party close to the marina office so we asked for guidance. They were friendly, told us the security guard might be around somewhere and might be able to let us in; however, when they learned that I was a member of IOBG, it was as if their long lost cousin had shown up! We were offered food and drink, talked about mutual friends in IOBG, and lent a card-key. What is your IOBG membership worth? Priceless.

See you soon (hopefully in person)

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800-315-7485
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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: _____



Immediate Past President

Sherry Barone

This has been another unusual year, but now there are vaccines with hope to get together in the summer.

Five years ago when I came up with the idea of an online dues payment system for District 11 with Mary Nye Meyers, it is refreshing to know it is being expanded this year since there has not been any additional interest in the past. A working, efficient model of the online payment system in District 11 was set up by Mary Nye Meyers, Communications Director and Past President Sherry Barone five years ago. I contacted Mary Nye with the idea and working with the district treasurer, we made it happen. Mary Nye coded 3 different platforms and 3 secure servers that will integrate with a live, encrypted cipher that will be utilized on a 'landing page' on the IOBG web site. District 1 and District 19 are being added to District 11's successful online billing as it has continued to grow to 70% of District 11 paying online according to Southwestern Area Vice President Sheila Anderson.

I supported President Elect Mark Vadaj at the January 2021 monthly Zoom meeting of adding an IOBG 'members only' Facebook account and provided additional information to help IOBG. I volunteered to look into yacht clubs using this tool. I spoke to Chandros from my yacht club (Del Rey Yacht Club) who set up our Facebook page and he stated it was pretty easy to set up but you need to have good guidelines and also an administrator that monitors the page and sets it up and allows and monitors/approve invites.

First impressions can be the difference, POST A LOT, Engage with members, Having a set of House Rules or Community Guidelines that are clearly stated will not prevent a tirade, but will help set expectations for the consequences of this type of behavior, state the Page's Purpose. Clearly state the purpose of your Facebook Page, Provide Contact Information, private member only page and most important is to keep it Relevant.

A number of yacht clubs have a Facebook page and the following is a small example - DRYC, CYC, South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, San Diego Yacht Club, Lauderdale Yacht Club, Chicago Yacht Club, New York Yacht Club and St Francis Yacht Club. The IOBG Facebook is up and running thanks to Mark Vadaj.

I attended two fun events in February and March via Zoom with District 11 which included a cooking class with professionally trained chef Mike Meyers with amazing dishes and St Patrick event with international music by singer Dennis McNeil. I am proud of District 11's forward thinking methods to increase membership with new communication tools and interesting events.

I was the Chairman of the Audit Committee with committee members President Elect Mark Vadaj and 2nd Vice President Marsha Landreth via Zoom and audio call on March 24, 2021. All documents (financial statements, general ledger and bank statements) prepared on March 18, 2021 by the IOBG International Treasurer Marshall Nemoy were reviewed. The very detailed journal entries supported the payments made. It's clear the IOBG revenues were spent on the usual and customary expenses of the organization. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no travel was done for the Portland Spring Meeting and Ireland Summer Meetings, as well as, no travel for AVPs to district meetings or Opening Days, saving a large amount in travel and added to our 2020 financial profit. The audit committee agreed that financially everything is in good order.

On April 24, 2021 I attended the District 11 installation via Zoom of 3 new members - Marty Fliegel - Del Rey Yacht Club, Wendy Sarnoff - Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club and Charles Grant - Port Royal Yacht Club.

As things continue to open, we look forward to meeting in person wherever our travels shall take us.



Nominations Chairperson *Robert P. "Buzz" Bisanz*

2022

Call for Nominations...

The 2021 Nominating Committee consists of the President, the two immediate Past Presidents and two IOBG members, one from West of the Mississippi River and one from East of the Mississippi River.

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee, I am requesting all members interested in being nominated for the upcoming year to apply in writing to each of the following nominating committee members by June 30, 2021 :

President Robert 'Buzz' Bisanz (Chairman)	buzz8521@comcast.net
P/P Sherry Barone	seasidecon@aol.com
P/P Steve Willing	stevewilling12@gmail.com
Member (West) Jeanne Irwin (Term ends 2022)	otrcrzy@cox.net
Member (East) Chris Aune (Term ends 2023)	cgaune12@oh.rr.com

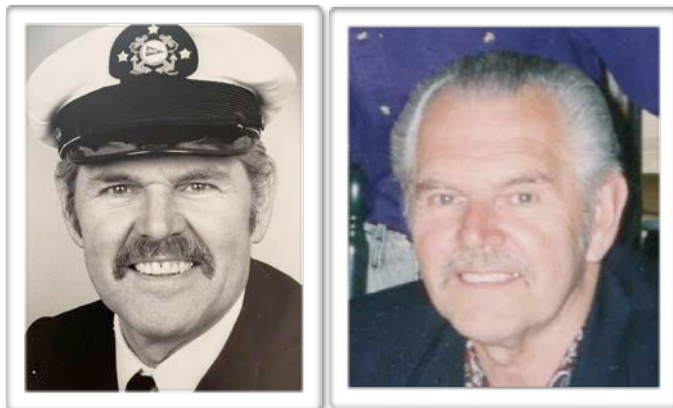
Open Offices:

President-Elect	Northeast Area Vice President
First Vice President	Southeast Area Vice President
Second Vice President	North Central Vice President
Treasurer	Northwest Area Vice President
Executive Secretary	Southwest Area Vice President

Questions should be directed to Buzz Bisanz, buzz8521@comcast.net or 770-337-8701

In Memorium

Louis A. Key, Jr.



2000 International President

June 13, 1931 - May 21, 2021

Louis A. Key, Jr., 89, of Wickliffe, Ohio., passed away peacefully on May 21, 2021, surrounded by his wife of 69 years, Geraldine Key, and his two sons, L. Mike Key and Jeffery A. Key. Louis is also survived by his 2 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Louis was born in Euclid, Ohio on June 13, 1931. He was a veteran of and served as an Army Sargent during the Korea in a MASH unit. He was an electrician by trade, and retired as the Wickliffe Building Commissioner. He was a past Worshipful Master Mason, and Education Officer of the 25th District and Father for DeMolay Boys. He was the 1980 Commodore of Chagrin River Yacht Club, Commander of G.C.B.A., and International Order of Blue Gavel President in 2000.

Services were held on May 25, 2021 in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.



US Sailing Representative *Mark Hansen*

www.ussailing.org



US Sailing has confirmed the names of the 13 sailors who will represent the United States at the Olympic Games this coming July and August near Tokyo, Japan. The team hails from nine U.S. states and territories including California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Wisconsin.

The finalization of the team roster comes after nearly five years campaigning by not only the 13 Olympic Team nominees, but dozens of additional American sailors who were part of U.S. Sailing's Olympic Team selection process.

"I know how much work it takes to earn selection to Team USA, and what a special honor it is to represent your country in the Olympics," said Paul Cayard, Executive Director of U.S. Olympic Sailing. "I'm excited to support this group of 13 talented athletes as they race in Enoshima. I'm also proud of the larger community of U.S. Olympic-class sailors that competed in the selection process and pushed the Games team. The combined strength and depth of our Tokyo 2020 nominees, of our larger national team and of our development program is key to our success this summer and beyond."

The Games of the XXXII Olympiad will take place from July 23 to August 8, 2021, and the sailing events will be based on the island of Enoshima, approximately 35 miles southwest of Tokyo. The largest sporting event in the world, the Olympic Games will feature approximately 11,000 athletes from over 200 countries competing in 339 medal events. The sailing events will feature up to 350 athletes competing in ten classes.



US Power Squadron Rep. Audrey Rice

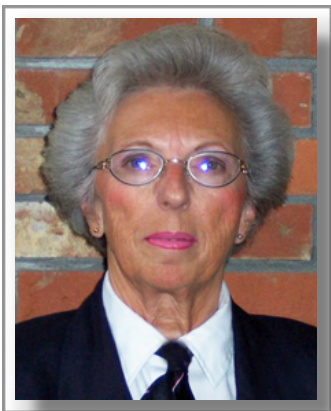
America's Boating Club® is for all types of boaters – novice or experienced, in coastal or inland waterways. We bring boaters together to improve their skills, make connections, or just enjoy time together. Our boating courses and seminars are just the beginning – beyond the classroom a world of boating fun awaits!

Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott was sworn in for her second term during the virtual annual meeting February 15 - 26, 2021.

LIFE MEMBERS, Emeritus Members, 50th Merit Mark and Department honorees received awards. Boat US Distinguished Civic Service Awards were presented along with 2020 Cooperative Charter top Performers, Horst Boettge Excellance in Cooperative Charting Awards and the Findley Sea Scout Service Award.

Topics covered were 2021 Vessel Examiner updates, recruiting and retaining members, ABC's of membership and retention and strategies for dealing with Covid-19.

USPS has added American's Boating Club along with their name and the Marketing Committee presented ideas on using this concept to market your Squadrons at Boat Shows, Yacht Clubs, Community Events and the Scouts.



N.B.F. Representative Marlene Barrington

NBF Past President - IOBG Delegate & District 1 Member

Congratulations to IOBG on a great Regional meeting. NBF thanks you for the generous support and we invite you to sign up individually for our free monthly eBulletin. Visit our web site at www.n-b-f.org and then click on the 'Sign-up for NBF eBulletin' link.

We also have a Facebook page where we share information from BoatUS, as well as NASBLA (National Association of Boating Law Administrator). Like us if you are on Facebook.

Attention...

Boaters need to prepare for a very busy boating season ahead in 2021. More than 81,000 boaters made requests for on-water assistance last year according to BoatUS and local TowBoatUS companies. This included battery jumps, soft ungrounding services and fuel drop-offs. TowBoat US recommends that vessel captains have patience, etiquette and safety is key. Slow down a bit and be considerate to fellow boaters - keep an extra lookout while running. Make sure you have all the safety gear, including an anchor, in case you break down. It will make everyone's day on the water better!

Earl Waesche, NBF Legislative Director

Email: ewaesche@comcast.net

Push on Capitol to give Chesapeake Bay National Park Status: Longtime efforts to give the Chesapeake Bay the national recognition it deserves are finally gaining traction. There's a push to make the Bay a National Recreation Area, designated by the National Park Service. U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, D-MD and other lawmakers are looking at making the Chesapeake Bay a National Park.

It could create new potential parks around the Bay and boost tourism.

A group of lawmakers from Maryland and Virginia, along with a "dream team" of 30 Bay groups (from watermen and sport-fisher to oyster restoration teams and conservationists), are getting to work on legislation to make it a reality.

Latta Introduces Legislation to Define Navigable Waters: WASHINGTON, D.C.— Today, Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH5) introduced the Withstanding Attempts to En-croach on our Resources (WATER) Act. The legislation would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and define the term "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS).

"In 2015, the Obama Administration's Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency revised regulations defining the scope of waters protected and regulated under the Clean Water Act," said Latta. "This significantly expanded Federal jurisdiction over virtually all waters and wet areas in the United States. This decision, known as the 2015 WOTUS rule, infringes on the rights of property owners, particularly in agricultural communities.

Continued on next page...

Report continued...

Landowners, farmers, home builders, and construction companies would have to use limited resources to apply for costly, time-consuming permits for ponds, ditches, or puddles, which they may not even be able to obtain. The rule is an alarming regulatory overreach of the executive branch into policy that should be addressed by Congress through the legislative process. I am proud to introduce the WATER Act because we need to codify and better define the definition of WOTUS and give back the rights to property owners."

Congressman David B. McKinley, P.E., Republican Leader of the House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee, is an original co-sponsor of the WATER Act.

"In 2020, the Trump Administration thankfully put an end to the Obama-era 'Waters of the U.S.' rule, which extended the federal government's reach to regulate waters on private lands," said McKinley. "Codifying the rule will help farmers and businesses operate without fearing overreach of the federal regulators. In so doing they can help us support the economy and build out critical infrastructure projects."

The Obama Administration's WOTUS rule significantly expands the scope and jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corp of Engineers to include the majority of all waters and wet areas in the United States.

On June 22, 2020, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers under the Trump Administration revisited the 2015 WOTUS rule and finalized a revised definition of WOTUS through their Navigable Waters Protection Rule to address legal, economic, and jurisdictional concerns surrounding the previous definition.

This legislation would codify the definition of WOTUS as revised under the June 22, 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule. By codifying the rule, this will ensure that any future efforts to expand the definition of WOTUS that will infringe on the rights of our constituents will need to be considered in Congress.

Coast Guard Cutter Munro's \$330M Counter-Drug Op: Congratulations to the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Munro who recently returned from their incredible January-March counter-drug patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The crew and its helicopter detachment were responsible for 12 major interdictions seizing cocaine and marijuana worth over \$330 million.



(Pictured...The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Munro gather in formation behind seized contraband during a drug offload in Alameda, California.)

"National security cutters like Munro are national-level assets and are game changers for the United States government's maritime interdiction capability," said Vice Adm. Linda Fagan, the commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area.

"As your Coast Guard, we use our unique capabilities and authorities as a military service and a law enforcement agency to secure the nation's maritime border and to disrupt illegal activity of dangerous cartels. This offload demonstrates another successful cycle of justice."

Coast Guard Vice Adm. Linda Fagan, the commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area, speaks to members of the media during a drug offload from the Coast Guard Cutter Munro in Alameda, California.

"Transnational criminal organizations have not slowed down due to the pandemic, and the Coast Guard women and men continue to protect our nation on the front lines," said Capt. Blake Novak, the commanding officer of the Munro.

Northwestern V.P. Jim Martinson

Districts 1 & 5



The Northwest region is slowly awakening from a long cold, wet winter. Coupled with the continued Covid restrictions, our member clubs continued to have online meetings, with minimal cruising opportunities. Springtime has brought improving weather and some easing of restrictions on in-person activities. There have been some clubs that have had cruises with good attendance.

I have forwarded to Districts 1 and 5 the information that we have a new social media presence with a Facebook page and invited as many as I could to participate and spread the word.

District 5 continues to be a bit of a “black hole” in that I have had no response from any of the 8 dues-paying members there. I sent a personal letter, with my business card to each member thanking them for their membership and appreciated their presence. I updated them with the discounts available, the lower dues, and the activation of the Facebook page and encouraged them to join the group and please pass it along to those who may be interested in the Blue Gavel. As I previously stated there has been no response from them.

District 1 on the other hand is moving forward with optimism towards growth. The Spring meeting was held at Fidalgo Bay RV Resort in Anacortes, Washington on April 16-17, 2021. We had a wonderful turnout of 45 people and were blessed with such good weather that all the activities were held outside. Everyone was excited that we could finally have a meeting in person after the long delay due to Covid.



District 1 Report Continued...



We welcomed and inducted two new members, Shane Amodie from Seabacs Yacht Club and Neal Duett from West Seattle Yacht Club.



We also welcomed former District 6 member Dean Smith who came to us from Pearl Harbor Yacht Club, Hawaii, to our District 1 family. We thank them for joining the Blue Gavel. There was great enthusiasm the whole weekend and everyone said it was one of the best Spring meetings in a long time.

A big thanks to the District 1 Board for their efforts, especially Chris Heide, 2nd Vice President for his yeoman work on getting this meeting set up during a time when groups are having great difficulties with finding venues.

As Summer gets here and hopefully more clubs can get together, we will see some of the fruition of everyone's efforts in recruiting, retention and furthering the good of the Order in District 1.



Southwestern V.P. Shelia Anderson



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

As we all know 2021 has started out slow due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We are still holding meeting and events on Zoom. Some districts have done some fun events during the first quarter of the year. I will not steal the thunder of their individual reports.

As the country starts to open up safely, we are seeing yacht clubs doing the same, with social distancing and outside events. We are looking forward to brighter year.

I also am serving on the Membership Online Payment committee. District 19 has agreed to use the Online payment system. District 11 continues to use the online system very successfully.

In the meantime, we are focusing of membership renewals and retention.

District 6

Tom Youngblood, District Director

Not much to report from District 6. We are happy here since we have a new mayor who is proactive in getting business establishments back up to speed by modifying some restrictions, especially on bars and restaurants. This has allowed yacht clubs to open up on a broader schedule.

However, we are still under COVID restrictions, such as maximum ten people at a table or event and masks everywhere except when eating or drinking. Bottom line is we haven't done any substantial planning at this point.

The TRANSPAC Race will be a "go" but with no shore activities. IOBG normally sponsors a boat with members actively involved on committees, but it won't happen this year .

Our membership has remained steady throughout. We look forward to participating in special events and reviving our traditional events in the fall.

District 10
Rodney Coomber, District Director

Hello IOBG members...Welcome to Los Angeles county, home of the 2020 DODGERS baseball champions. At this time we would normally be attending many yacht club opening days, however due to the restrictions mandated by the corona pandemic, some clubs are canceling opening day celebrations or having "members only" events.

Here at District 10 we have had a Zoom meeting in January then an 'in-person' board meeting in February at an Italian restaurant owned by a member. It was such a pleasant board meeting and environment, we decided to have our March meeting there also. It was a perfect opportunity to invite the general membership and so we did. These meetings afforded us the ability to raffle off gift baskets that were appreciated by all in attendance.

Our April meeting will also be an in person meeting at Huntington Harbor Yacht Club. I have received a request to hold our meetings on different days in the calendar to prevent conflicts with different yacht club meetings. Our board will look into that to see if it is possible.

First Vice President Dave Speakman is a docent at the Lyon Air Museum. We are planning a day trip to the museum, as well as other activities for our members.

To date we have inducted 3 new members and there are 4 more scheduled for the near future.

District 11
Gisele Ozeri, District Director

District 11 goals for this year 2021 are being accomplished! We have successfully held two membership virtual events via Zoom. The first being a live cooking demo featuring Chef Mike Meyers. His cooking skills gave members a grand tour of his professional kitchen with great, easy to follow recipe instructions. Our second virtual event was a St. Paddy's Day Happy Hour to kick off Irish Festivities. Dennis McNeil sang live on our Zoom Event. There was also a fun hat contest. We also had our first "Starbucks Birthday" recipient, as we are very excited about this new incentive. Members will receive a coupon for a free drink on their birthday month!

April is our IOBG District 11 induction for new members. An updated invitation will be sent out to all IOBG members to attend our Zoom Event. I was able to attend DRYC's 69th opening day via Zoom with over 85 in attendance.

We have an exciting calendar with more events to come. We are planning our annual Wine and Cheese Tasting fundraiser supporting Youth Special Olympics to be held in a beautiful back yard setting in Westchester at the home of our Treasurer Alan and Melissa Rock. Added to this year District 11 will host an IOBG float in the Marina Del Rey Boat Parade aboard District Director Gisele Ozeri's 40 ft Carver "Let's Go".



We now are pleased to announce 3 new inductees and we now have 61 District 11 IOBG members and are currently gaining more renewals.

Stay safe! See you on the water soon



District 15
Roger Robinson, District Director

The COVID 19 restrictions imposed on District 15's events, fundraisers, and social gatherings in 2020 have continued to take its toll in 2021. However, we have been successful in keeping the District 15 membership basically at the pre-COVID level. District 15 held our business meeting and Change of Watch in a well-attended on-line meeting. Thanking and dismissing the 2020 Officers and Board and installing the 2021 Officers and Board on January 8, 2021.

District 15 conducted our annual (and free) Yacht Club Management Seminar on January 23 this year, our first-time, on-line management seminar. The diligent preparation and presentation of the speakers was shown by the appreciation of the 87 participants from officers and board members of 18 yacht clubs in the San Diego and Orange counties. Building on the success of this on-line event, we are preparing a number of additional 'mini' management seminars focused on specific subject areas of interest for yacht clubs in the Southwestern Region for presentation to be scheduled on-line later this year.

The ability to attend the IOBG Spring Regional Meeting on April 24th on-line without having to travel is convenient...however...the yacht club sailing races have started to appear in San Diego bay, and we are looking forward to the renewal of the camaraderie of our in-person activities in District 15 as we approach the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2021. As the restrictions continue to ease, we are waking up from our forced hibernation, hungry to revive and reactivate the plans to get back on the water, races, dinners, business meetings, and just plain get togethers.

New 2021 District 15 Officers; President, Simon Dekker; Vice President, Michael, Kirchgestner; Secretary, Brian Goetz; Treasurer/Supply Officer, Marshall Nemoy; Director, Roger Robinson

District 16
Tom Shideler, District Director

The current trend is positive. Although we are far from normal in District 16, many safely-managed activities are being held. Some races have resumed. Although Opening Days have not yet been held in traditional manner, some are being held via video and managed attendance. Traditional Opening Day Boat Parades are being held. Several new members have joined in spite of the challenges.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to improve we expect the activity of yacht clubs in our district to rebound.

District 19
Paul Clausen, District Director

Delta District 19 elected the same officers to serve in 2021 as we had in 2020. The year was lost to COVID and we were unable to hold proper nomination and election meetings. The Officers are George Iaconis, President; Jan Cutaia-Iaconis, Vice President; Ben Blair, Treasurer; Patricia Atkins, Secretary; Paul Clausen, District Director; and Roger Beebe, Past District Director.

Continued...

District 19 Report Continued...

We are also very fortunate to have as District 19 members two International Past Presidents, Vern Bendsen and Gary McGrath. We sadly report that International Past President and District 19 member Carol Promessi passed away in January this year. An Eight Bells ceremony was performed for her at our Induction Zoom meeting in February. A wonderful lady that we will all miss.

2020 was a very difficult year for us, as well as the other chapters, I'm sure. We had no in person meetings and some members lost interest in our Order. Of the 143 members we enjoyed in 2020 only 117 renewed for 2021, despite our best efforts. We hope as COVID restrictions diminish more members will renew. We inducted 5 new members in February making our total membership 122.

Delta District 19 donated \$3000 to the scholarship fund of the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association Foundation. The scholarship will help with the tuition of a deserving young person in the boating community that has shown exemplary scholarship and community service. While we are happy to be part of such a worthwhile program, we also want our chapters to see that we are healthy, engaged, and an important part of boating in California.

We are scheduling only one in-person event at this time and it is our annual Members Appreciation Picnic at San Joaquin Yacht Club. It's an outdoor event, so we are very hopeful for good attendance. The rest of our calendar will rely on restrictions for gathering, but we are getting quite proficient with Zoom meetings and will hold all necessary meetings with the full membership.

District 21

Leo Vortouni, District Director

We are in the process of billing the membership their annual dues which we reduced by \$10.00, due to the inactivity resulting from the COVID crisis.

North Central V.P. Steven Hyder



Districts 7, 9, 23 & 25

No Reports Submitted...

Northeastern V.P. Steve Tisack



Districts 3, 12, 20, 22, 26 & 27

No Reports Submitted...

Southeastern V.P. Karen Shea



Districts 8 & 18

No Reports Submitted...

IOBG Auxiliary

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International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President
Robin Vadaj

It's finally time to say the three words all of us love to hear ... It's Boating Season!!!

While the pandemic prevented us from meeting in person, the IOBGA Bridge and Directors collaborated through a conference call on April 24, 2021.

We have districts that would like to be active again, so our Bridge and Directors are working to obtain that goal.

If you are interested in becoming an Officer in our organization, please contact me as we search for prospects for the 2022 slates.

Our 2021 International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary Membership Cards are out, and we have Treasurer Mary Kay Inguagiato to graciously thank for that.

An immense thank you is in order to Mary Nye Meyers as well for her tremendous work with The LOG newsletter and for splendidly redesigning and maintaining our Auxiliary page and web site at www.iobga.org.

All of these are tangible representations of our organization, and they turned out wonderfully, just like we knew they would at the hands of these diligent women.

Until we meet again, I encourage you to go to www.iobga.org to read and download the newly updated **By-Laws and Policies and Procedures**.

To help others in your community in the name of our organization in a time where it's needed more than ever, consider completing a Books by Boaters project. For inspiration, read District 7's experience on the IOBGA website by scrolling down to IOBGA Book Project.

I am humbly honored to serve you as your President. While these waters are still rough, we will stay together to ensure this organization not only stays afloat, but triumphantly sails back into the harbor more unified than ever!

IOBGA Southwest Director
Audrey Hall

This is not the year we expected. Some of the stay at home order has been great, so that we could spend some quality time with our families and enjoying some fun activities.

Some of our yacht clubs have had their wonderful Opening Days, racing and some events were put on hold. But, we are holding together and are starting to open again to be able to see our yacht club friends.

The April meeting this year will be held on Zoom. Check the IOBGA website for information. We hope you can join in to see what is happening for all of us. We plan to encourage the IOBGA and their districts to let them know that the International is still here and working to help where we can. Our members who need our support can contact us and the information is also in the LOG newsletter.

The Change of Watch meeting on October 17th was on Zoom. The LOG has all the information, and pictures for you to see. I do hope some of you attended.

I know this has been a difficult year for many of us but we are putting ideas together to make the year 2021 much better. All the districts will be able to see how strong the IOBGA is and we will get through this so we can have a great 2021 and 2022.

Our IOBG-HF has been trying to help where needed, but since some yacht clubs have not been open, we couldn't help our clubs. But we still need their help with much needed donations to be ready for the scholarships that will be needed during the rest of this year and for 2022. Please check the IOBG-HF web site at www.iobg-hf.org and the LOG newsletter for our information.

We hope all of our districts stay well and we will be together again soon.

District 1
Patti Dahl, Treasurer

Due to the pandemic we were unable to hold the 2020 Spring and Fall meetings where we normally raise money via raffles and silent auctions to give to the three children's charities our IOBGA District 1 supports. I asked instead that members help out by donating a little more along with their annual Auxiliary dues since they were not spending the money traveling to the meetings. I am happy to say I was able to send checks in the amount of \$500 each to the 'Make A Wish', 'Wishing Star' and 'Cast for Kids' Foundations.



District 1 Report Continued...

Our Spring 2021 meeting was held on April 16 & 17th at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort in Anacortes, Washington. This is in the Pacific Northwest where Washington State ferries depart with travelers heading to the San Juan Islands. It is a beautiful location on the water and the weather cooperated with sunshine the whole weekend. We had a grand turnout of 45 IOBG & IOBGA members.

Saturday morning the District 1 IOBG members led by President Neil Kelly met in full Blue Gavel uniform at picnic tables next to the water. That evening a spaghetti dinner hosted by 2nd Vice President Chris Heide was appreciated by all as we gathered around his motor home in camping chairs and picnic tables. There were fire pits to keep us warm as the night cooled down. Covid rules were observed and most of us had our 2nd vaccinations.

The 10 IOBG Auxiliary members met in one of the charming rental cabins where President Cathy Betts-Reding conducted business. We sold raffle tickets and received donations to the tune of \$125.



Following dinner, we held our gift basket raffle and silent auction. IOBG collected \$585 from the basket raffle and the Auxiliary earned \$582 from the silent auction. Kudos for District 1 IOBG & IOBGA.

The rest of the evening was spent visiting and sharing stories. It was an unconventional venue and an extremely rewarding weekend. Everyone was so grateful to see one another again! We are planning and looking forward to the Summer picnic and Fall Change of Watch meeting.



Well, 2021 is here and because of Covid-19 the IOBGA D7 Annual Nautica Brunch Cruise was cancelled like so many other yacht club related events. We have optimistically requested our down payment for the 2021 cruise be used to book the Nautica Queen for April 24, 2022. The Nautica event is our big money maker and we use the proceeds from our basket raffle at this event to fund our "Books by Boaters" project.

How it all started...Pre-Covid - Past International IOBGA President Sandi Durieux approached then D7 President Rhonda Rich with the idea of the Books by Boaters project and from there the amazing women of D7 took the initiative to work with local schools in the tri-county area, to purchase books for elementary school children. We coordinated the purchase of the books thru the school administrators to get the best price so that we can purchase as many books as possible in our \$300 - \$500 range per school depending on how many schools we were working with.

We have stamps for the inside cover of the books that indicates that the books have been donated by "Books by Boaters" and either we stamp the books or have the children stamp the books depending on how the administrators want to handle it.

We then come to the school in uniform for a special reading program organized by the school administrators and do a little presentation and hand out the books to the children.

We were in the beginning stages of working with a Shriners Children's Hospital Board Member to visit and donate books at the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Erie, PA prior to the Covid outbreak and we hope to be able to fulfill their request once we have all been vaccinated and the hospital allows visitors again.

2021 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

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<p>#2 PRESIDENT - Canada Open</p>	<p>#9 PRESIDENT- North Central Jimmy Greenwood (Stacy) 1227 Arbor Ave Monroe, MI 48162 Cell: 734-755-1547 jgreenwood1219@gmail.com SECRETARY Diane Gonzales-Wright (Chris) 1037 Cole Rd Monroe, MI 48162 dlwright328@aol.com</p>	<p>#18 PRESIDENT- Southeast Open SECRETARY/TREASURER Open</p>	<p>#25 PRESIDENT- North Central Mark Balazy (Heather) 322 N Shore Dr Lincoln Park, MI 48146 Cell: 313-461-1752 mballzito@aol.com SECRETARY John Rose (Fran) 21667 Meridian Grosse Ile, MI 48183 Tel: 734-904-9801 glycrose06@hotmail.com</p>
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<p>#4 PRESIDENT- Canada Open</p>	<p>#11 PRESIDENT- Southwest Brian Keown (Stacy) P.O. Box 11833 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 Cell: 310-625-2299 brian@keown.net SECRETARY Wally Hammons (Heidi) Tel: 310-625-1053 whammons@hblegal.com Craig Funabashi Tel: 310-387-0928 craigfun@verizon.net</p>	<p>#20 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#27 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>
<p>#5 PRESIDENT-Northwest Open SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#12 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#21 PRESIDENT- Southwest Stephen Sawdon 25422 Trabuco Rd Lake Forest, CA 92630 Tel: 949-279-6262 sailing7777@gmail.com SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#70 PRESIDENT- England Open</p>
<p>#6 PRESIDENT - Southwest Tom Wood (Sandy Ragley) 44-101 B Kalenakai Place Kaneohe, HI 96744 Tel: 808-234-7934 Cell: 808-561-8350 tomwoodkyc@gmail.com SECRETARY Donna B. Salisbury (Ed) 98-988 Palula Way Aiea, HI 96701 Cell: 808-256-3731 Tel: 808-485-0002 donnanned@earthlink.net</p>	<p>#14 PRESIDENT- Southwest Open SECRETARY Brad Snyder (Tim Eaker) 909 Marina Village Pkwy #471 Alameda, CA 94501 brad.snyder@gmail.com</p>	<p>#22 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#75 PRESIDENT- New Zealand John Budden (Sydney) 253 Old Highway RD8 Tauranga, New Zealand 3180 Tel: 0064-07-548-1180 budding@gmail.com SECRETARY Sydney Budden (John) 253 Old Highway RD8 Tauranga, New Zealand 3180 Tel: 0064-07-548-1180 bluegavel@gmail.com</p>
<p>#7 PRESIDENT - North Central Kathy McCarthy (Edward) 8577 Hilltop Dr. Mentor, OH 44060 Tel: 440-257-3617 Cell: 216-470-2857 kmccarthy725@yahoo.com SECRETARY Warren Dempster (Marianne) 12045 Concord Hambdon Rd Concord Twp, OH 44077 Tel: 440-725-7731 wcyc40@yahoo.com</p>	<p>#15 PRESIDENT- Southwest Simon Dekker c/o SGYC 2091 Shelter Island Drive San Diego, CA 92106 Tel: 909-215-5756 s.dekker@dekkerltd.com SECRETARY Brian Goelz (Debbie) 30 Caribe Cay Blvd Coronado, CA 92118 Tel: 619-869-6561 bgoelz@hotmail.com</p>	<p>#23 PRESIDENT- North Central Open SECRETARY Open</p>	



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

Return Service Requested



Mark Your Calendars

2021 Annual Meeting

October 13 - 16, 2021

Hosted by

President-Elect Mark Vadaj & Lady Robin

Mentor Harbor Yacht Club Mentor, Ohio