



THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL
PAST COMMODORE'S CLUB

Volume XXV No. 5 December 2005 Mary R. Nye, 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.

*2005
Annual
Meeting*



*Palm
Beach
Garden
Florida*

*October
27 - 30,
2005*



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From the President by Harvey Sussef

Hurricane Wilma tried to HALT the Annual Meeting in October as she visited us in Palm Beach Gardens on Monday, two days before the Annual Meeting and Convention was to begin.

To make a long story short.....Wilma failed. She did dampen the event to a minor extent and forced some members to cancel their trip but the greater majority of people arrived and we had, what I consider, excellent meetings, roundtables, Annual Meeting and social functions, although the social functions were modified to some extent.

We have written in more detail about Wilma, her visit and how we fared afterwards, elsewhere in this issue of the Log. Check it out !!

Wilma has come and gone and we are still here, which brings me in essence to my thoughts I'd like to share with our Blue Gavel Membership. Once again, I thank you for the trust and opportunity to lead this wonderful organization but I

also have some very definite thoughts to vocalize about.

We did discuss at the meetings that we are run from the "bottom up." Although we want to believe this, the "bottom" in some areas as stated is in no way meant to demean. This area, needs some defining and strong suggestions to grow in this task of leading.

We have some 550 Chapters in IOBG and we have many, many chapters who are inactive, who meet once a year or never and do NOTHING to assist their Yacht Club as we agreed to do in our oaths we took when we began our membership in IOBG. We agreed to assist and promote our Yacht Clubs in any way we could without USURPING their authority, which means not getting in the way and letting the current leadership Run the Yacht Club.

We would like to offer our thoughts and assist the current Commodore if he or she asks but they generally want to do their own "thing" as did most of us when we sat in that Chair. But, we can still assist.....

A Chapter can take on various projects for the betterment of our Clubs. We can get together for lunches or dinner among our chapter or with other neighboring chapters. We can discuss various ways to help all of our Clubs. We can do our own project along with the Club and helping the Club. Some Chapters have taken over existing Club projects such as assisting with the Commodores Ball to maintain its continuity over the years. We can sponsor a Chapter affair such as a Pancake Breakfast, a Poker Run on land or water or both, Full Moon Raft-ups, Contests, Cook-outs, Chili Cook-offs & etc.

Also consider social affairs such as a Steak Roast or just a dinner served and/or cooked by the Blue Gavel members, who may also serve as waiters; or a reverse raffle with dinner and prizes. We can also do a Blue Jacket Social, where you must wear a Blue Jacket for admittance, or any other EXCUSE for a social event to bring the Yacht Clubs members together in a good time atmosphere. That's basically what Yachting is all about isn't it....fun for all.

I suppose I could go on and on but a "Chapter" is a "Happy Chapter" that is active and alive...not just existing. It has been said many times that "A successful Church ALWAYS has a mortgage." This is very true as the church members have a goal to pay off that mortgage and have the Church be "free and clear." But when the mortgage is paid off, the Church leaders take out another mortgage, just to keep the Church members active and working towards a goal.

By similar thoughts, a Blue Gavel Chapter needs a mortgage or driving force to get it up and running and working for the best interest of its own Yacht Club. It keeps the Chapter active, alive and gives the Chapter a goal and a vehicle to bring the Chapter members together in working towards a common goal, the continued success of its own Yacht Club. Then, we have a happy Chapter, few drop outs 'cause "we don't do nothin" but a Chapter membership that is active and interested in one our own Blue Gavel codes, to promote and assist in the continued growth and well being of our Yacht Clubs.

We have many chapters that are doing just that...but not enough Chapters are doing JUST THAT. We need a greater number of active Chapters who are involved, working together for the betterment of the Chapter and the Yacht Club. If your Chapter is not "involved", you owe it to yourself and your Chapter to consider some vehicle to make your chapter come "alive". It is time to get your Chapter working towards a "goal" such as The Successful Church, we can also have many more successful Chapters !!

I am as close as your e-mail via your computer or phone call with help and assistance in any matters that you may question. Send me an e-mail or phone call and I will do all I can to assist or answer questions you may have.



*From the President Elect
by Carol Promessi*

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and the confidence you placed in me to elect me as your President Elect, thank you. Congratulations to President Harvey Sussel and to the new Officers of IOBG.

Blue Gavel is a wonderful organization and as with any organization, it can only be as successful as its members are willing to make it.

This has been a very eventful, busy and productive year and sometimes very frustrating! The Executive Committee has listened to the concerns and issues of the membership and we have taken action to implement some of your ideas which included the web site, changes in The Log, obtaining a new Supply Officer, listing all IOBG Chapter clubs on the web site, creating a Mission Statement, and cutting costs where they would be most effective. These are some of the issues that we have corrected.

At the Annual Meeting we had separate workshops with the various areas, we had input from all Districts involved and it was a learning and development process. Concerns of the Districts were, membership retention, Chapter involvement, communication, commitment of officers and generating interest. The successes of the Districts were through social activities, round table meetings involving officers and members, Auxiliary and newsletters. Many of us walked away from this meeting with new ideas and positive attitudes and ways to improve and implement these suggestions in their prospective Districts.

This is the time of the year when all the Districts are in the process of finding qualified members to fill the District offices and they are trying to find the right individuals who want to be trained to do the job they accept and to handle the responsibilities of that office. Please get involved and help make this organization continue to improve its mission.

In closing, I have worked with all of you to make this year a smooth and informative one in regards to promoting the interest and camaraderie within IOBG, and I look forward to meeting as many of the membership as I can. Wishing you all a rewarding year in Blue Gavel.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful New Year!

LOG Minutes

The Executive Committee, in response to suggestions to reduce the publishing cost of the Blue Gavel LOG, has decided not to print the Minutes in future issues of the LOG.

The minutes will now be available on the IOBG web site, www.iobg.org - or to request a set by mail, please contact:

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From the First Vice President

by Richard Janiszewski

With the end of President Art Theobald's term of office, we can share in a sense of satisfaction. We look forward and also welcome President Harvey Sussel with eager positive expectations. Our Regional meetings during 2004-2005 were held in Hawaii, Portland, and Cleveland. They were fabulously well managed and productive from a business standpoint. They were truly experiences from which fond memories are made. A hearty well done to all host districts, and chapters is well deserved. For those who did not attend, you missed opportunities to help improve the Blue Gavel, to make many new acquaintances, and to share a broad range of memorable leisure activities. I strongly urge for you to attend the 2005-2006 meetings. You will not be disappointed!

Congratulations are also extended to our newest District – District 26, which was founded in 2005 and held its first annual meeting and District Charter presentation at the Mount Sinai Yacht Club in Mount Sinai, Long Island, New York on October 16, 2005. To all Blue Gavel members, Bridge officers, and in particular to District Director, Hal Salyer, and District President, John Thompson, "welcome aboard" and success in all your future endeavors. The executive committee pledges its support and assistance whenever and however necessary. It should be noted that since it's founding less than one year ago, District 26 has added two new yacht clubs. A fantastic start!

I am also pleased to report that Northwestern Vice President, Jerry Rudd (Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 24); Southwestern Vice President, Bill Thayer (Districts 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 21); Southeastern Vice President, Ray Thompson (Districts 8 and 18); and District Director, Mike Parish (District 51) reported productive and enjoyable summer seasons and year-to-date activities. Specific details were presented by each area Vice President/Director at the Florida Annual Meeting, and published in the LOG. My personal thanks to all of you. I recommend careful reading of their reports as they provide wonderful insight into goings on within their districts, and may offer ideas that could be adopted elsewhere. Over the years, activities such as those reported have demonstrably increased memberships, member interest, and active member participation. Give it a try!

In my past messages, I have taken the liberty of touching on specific activities which I feel are important and worthy of your attention. In this message, I want to comment on several Blue Gavel activities which are, to me, more than noteworthy and potentially beneficial to your chapter. The first is our Blue Gavel Auxiliary. A formal organization of Past Commodore spouses which provides many of the opportunities of Blue Gavel membership. Perhaps best said by the late Past Commodore Ken McLeod when he held the office of 2nd International Vice President, "If your district doesn't have an active and involved Auxiliary, you need to start one! I have found it amazing the difference that an involved Auxiliary makes. Almost without exception, every successful district will also have an active supportive and successful Auxiliary. It can only return benefits such as maintaining and increasing membership, harnessing a potent resource, and broadening the pleasure and enjoyment of Blue Gavel membership." Thanks Ken! Remember all spouses of IOBG members have an option to become Auxiliary members. For more information, contact your district director or Auxiliary President, Jackie Rudd.

Still another worthy element of the Blue Gavel is our Humanitarian Foundation. The Humanitarian Foundation provides our members with the ability to make real differences in others lives. The Foundation provides resources to existing charities and benefits communities through you and your initiatives. In the last three years, the Foundation granted over thirty-thousand dollars to local area programs by funding youth and handicapped sailing projects. We should have more of these programs in more parts of the country. The Foundation is currently working on a model community scholarship program that could be applicable to any chapter or district to provide water safety and sailing training to young people. In 2002 the Foundation introduced its memorial fund program. This is a wonderful way to honor special friends or family with a gift to charity. Please feel free to contact any member of the Board for information.

I must mention how pleased we are with our new LOG Editor-in-Chief, Mary R. Nye. The September 2005 issue of the LOG was all Mary's doing, and we, the Executive Committee, could not be more proud of it. I know you will find it informative and a big step in the right direction. Our sincere thanks, Mary.

It has been a productive and enjoyable year. Again, I want to thank Past President Art Theobald, and wish President Harvey Sussel every success for 2005-2006.

Let me leave you an old, but true adage, "Never forget that complacency is not a friend of progress."



From the Second Vice President

by Jerry Rudd

Thank you for having the confidence in me to be your 2nd Vice President. I wish to congratulate President Harvey Sussel and the new officers. I look forward to working with each of them.

Harvey said we would have an exciting time in Florida, what an understatement that was. "Wilma" came blowing though and what a problem she created for every one. With water damage in most of the rooms, occasional power outages and at times no food service delivery, the staff at the Hotel Marriott did a great job and came though for us.

District 8 and Harvey's team did an outstanding job changing venues such as menus, places to go, etc. They went from plan A to B and even C & D, but in the end it all worked out to be a very successful event.

We had a good meeting, round table discussion and positive achievement. Thanks again to President Harvey, Lady Bonnie and District 8 for a wonderful time.

Portland Rose Festival

June 8, 2006 - June 11, 2006

Start planning now for the Portland Rose Festival, let's get the word out early because President Elect Carol Promessi, will be knighted!!

The Portland Rose Festival, Oregon's premier civic celebration, has been a Northwest tradition for 98 years. This unique festival bursts into bloom each spring to celebrate the City of Roses with events, excitement and entertainment for all ages. More than two million spectators are in the know. Now here's your chance to get in on the fun!! With the theme "In Grand Style", the 2006 Portland Rose Festival kicks off June 1, 2006.

We will again be staying at the Governor Hotel, but there will also be other hotels available. The Spring Regional Meeting will be on Thursday, June 8th, the Knighting Ceremony will be Friday, June 9th at 10:00 AM, and the Grand Floral Parade will be Saturday, June 10th at 10:00 AM.

Details will be forthcoming in the next issue as to schedule of events and pricing.



From the Past President

by Art Theobald

It has been one year since the 2004 Annual Meeting and "Change of Watch" was held in Buffalo N. Y. The Executive Committee has been faced with several challenges. Challenges that came from the membership.

These challenges meant changes were not only required, but necessary to comply with the wishes of the members. Being aware of the constant aim to improve "service" to the organization and at the same time maintain the all important tradition of yachting, it became obvious realignment of assignments were in order.

Of prime concern was the work load that has been designated the responsibilities of the International Operation Center. This, of course, required considerable analyzing since the Treasurer has been wearing three hats; Financial Officer, Supply Officer and Web Master. With this in mind, Mary R. Nye has been appointed Assistant Web Master to maintain membership information, including listing of the Chapter and District information. Marshall Nemoy will continue posting Blue Gavel technical notices as well as the Bylaw and Policy Manual and Application forms. All of this information will continue to be available on the WEB SITE, www.iobg.org. P/C Marshall Nemoy will now be able to concentrate on being Financial Officer.

While the Supply Office is still being investigated, we will soon have information available as to the name and address of the Supply Officer and the details of ordering your supplies. District Supply Officers will be advised of their contacts for I.O.B.G. supplies. In the mean time, bear with us.

Having had the "helm" of the International Order of the Blue Gavel for the year 2005 has indeed been an honor and pleasure. My wife Betty and I express our sincere "Thanks and Appreciation" for the help and cooperation we have enjoyed. We look forward to many memorable get togethers with the friends we have come to know.

Turning the "Helm" over to P/C Harvey Sussel, a District 8 member, means the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the International Order of the Blue Gavel. I am confident that P/C Sussel and his Bridge will follow through and continue the tradition of camaraderie that has become so important to our growth.

We wish all the members "Good Health" and "Happy Sailing".

INTERNATIONAL ORDER of the BLUE GAVEL

2006 WINTER REGIONAL MEETING



**February 3-5, 2006
San Diego, California**

The next Regional Meeting will be held in San Diego on February 2 - 4, 2006. San Diego offers something for everybody. The weather is usually good and can even be warmer than Florida at this time of year. While the temperatures can be cool, it is not Buffalo or Cleveland either.

Hotel arrangements have been made with The Dana conveniently located on Mission Bay. The hotel provides free transportation from the airport to the hotel. Be sure to inquire about the service when making your reservation. Call the hotel at 1-800-445-3339 **before January 3, 2006** to make your reservation. The group name is International Order of the Blue Gavel. If you make your reservation online, Rate Code is GIOBG. The room rates are \$105.00 for the Marina View and \$149.00 for the new Bay View rooms. Check out their web site, www.thedana.net for more details. A free shuttle is available from the airport by calling the hotel at (619) 222-6440.

The meeting will be held Friday at the Mission Bay Yacht Club which offers a beautiful view of one of the best small boat sailing venues in the world. District 15 has set a goal to familiarize all those who attend with the many aspects of the San Diego boating world. The business meeting will begin at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served at the club. After the meeting everyone is invited for a short boat ride around Mission Bay Park. You will see how the Park was designed for the people of San Diego and may even view a part of a Sea World show from the "cheap seats". Friday night we will break into groups and try the many different restaurants that are nearby.



On Saturday we will ferry everyone over to the "other bay" and Southwestern Yacht Club for a boat tour of San Diego Bay. The tour will last about three hours and return to Southwestern Yacht Club for lunch. We will return to the hotel after lunch for some relaxation. Dinner Saturday evening will be at the Mission Bay Yacht Club. This is the District 15 annual new member welcome dinner. This year they will be inducted by our International President, Harvey Sussel. This is an excellent time for all Blue Gavel members to get acquainted.

Be sure to bring warm jackets and sweaters and boat shoes for the boat rides in addition to the usual blue blazer and gray slacks. The dress for the Friday evening is casual. The members of District 15 look forward to meeting you.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER of the BLUE GAVEL 2006 WINTER REGIONAL MEETING

February 3-5, 2006
San Diego, California



EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 2

Early Arrival
4:00 pm

Check-in at The Dana Inn at Mission Bay
(See web site for Map and directions)

Friday, February 3

9:00 am-3:00 pm

IOBG Regional Meeting (Mission Bay Yacht Club)
Continental Breakfast
(Dress Code: Blazer & Gray)

12:00-1:00 pm

LUNCH (Mission Bay Yacht Club)

4:00-5:30 pm

Mission Bay Tour
(Bring Warm Jackets) District 15 will provide munchies on boat

DINNER on Your Own.

There are many fine restaurants in the area.
(See Welcome Packet)

Saturday, February 4

10:00 am

San Diego Harbor Tour
Pick up boats at Southwestern Yacht Club
(Casual & Warm Dress)
Transportation will be provided by District 15 Members

1:00-3:00 pm

LUNCH (Southwestern Yacht Club)
(Cash or Charge/Order off Menu)

6:30 pm

SOCIAL HOUR (Mission Bay Yacht Club)

7:30 pm

DINNER (Mission Bay Yacht Club)
(Dress Code: Blazer & Gray)
Welcome New Members

Sunday, February 5

DEPARTURE

MBYC offers breakfast menu on Sunday at 8:30 am

QUESTIONS ?

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INTERNATIONAL ORDER of the BLUE GAVEL

2006 WINTER REGIONAL MEETING

February 3-5, 2006
San Diego, California



Hotel Registration

We hope you can join us in San Diego for a weekend of business and pleasure.
Make your plans early.

Note the early JANUARY 3rd deadline for hotel reservations.

(A registration form will also be posted to the IOBG web site, www.iobg.org)



Dana Inn at Mission Bay

(See web site for Map and directions)

The Dana at Mission Bay
1710 W. Mission Bay Drive
San Diego, CA 92109

Reservations:

1-800-445-3339

(619) 222-6440

or

www.thedana.net

Check-in after 4:00 pm

Check-out at noon

(Limit of 20 rooms)

When rooms fill up regular rates apply RSVP by Jan.3, 2006

Double Occupancy Room ___ @ \$105.00

Total \$ _____

Upgrade Room Double ___ @ \$149.00

Total \$ _____

Travel Arrangements:

Pickup available from Airport to The Dana Inn

Boat Shuttle from The Dana to MBYC available

Carpool from The Dana to Southwestern YC harbor boats available

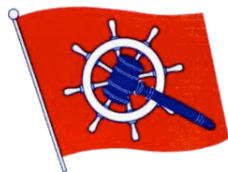
Meals also available at The Dana Food Service

Contact:

Marshall Nemoy (619) 282-5050

Linda Loftis (760) 632-2547

INTERNATIONAL ORDER of the BLUE GAVEL



2006 WINTER REGIONAL MEETING
February 3-5, 2006
San Diego, California



EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Thursday, February 2

Early Arrival
4:00 pm

Check-in at The Dana Inn at Mission Bay
(See web site for Map and directions)

Friday, February 3

9:00 am-3:00 pm

IOBG Regional Meeting (Mission Bay Yacht Club)
Continental Breakfast
(Dress Code: Blazer & Gray)

12:00-1:00 pm

LUNCH (Mission Bay Yacht Club)
(Chicken Caesar Salad with Coffee, Tea or Lemonade)

No. Persons: _____ Cost \$ 18.00 Total \$ _____

4:00-5:30 pm

Mission Bay Tour
(Bring Warm Jackets) District 15 will provide munchies on boat

DINNER on Your Own. There are many fine restaurants in the area. (See Welcome Packet)

Saturday, February 4

10:00 am

San Diego Harbor Tour
Pick up boats at Southwestern Yacht Club (Casual & Warm Dress)
Transportation will be provided by District 15 Members

1:00-3:00 pm

LUNCH (Southwestern Yacht Club) (Cash or Charge/Order off Menu)

6:30 pm

SOCIAL HOUR (Mission Bay Yacht Club)

7:30 pm

DINNER (Mission Bay Yacht Club) (Dress Code: Blazer & Gray)
Welcome New Members

No. Persons: _____ Cost \$ 38.00 Total \$ _____

Select One:

- _____ Filet Mignon with salad, vegetables, potatoes and dessert
_____ Salmon with salad, vegetables, potatoes and dessert.

We will accommodate most dietary restrictions if notified in advance.
Include your request with your registration.

Sunday, February 5

DEPARTURE

MBYC offers breakfast menu on Sunday at 8:30 am

Total Costs for Events Selected: \$ _____

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Please send your check payable to "IOBG DISTRICT 15" and send to:

Marshall Nemoy, Treasurer
3517 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 208
San Diego, CA 92108
Questions ... (619) 282-5050
Email: bgtreas@iobg.org

From the Office of the Treasurer
by Marshall Nemoy



October 19, 2005

To: All Officers, Directors and Members
From: Marshall Nemoy, International Treasurer
Subject: Treasurer's Report - Fall, 2005

This report was prepared for review and discussion by the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and members attending the Annual Meeting in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on October 29, 2005.

Financial Statements

The financial statements included in this report are as of September 30, 2005 and the nine months then ended. The financial position of the organization is shown on the Balance Sheet and the results of operations are shown on the Budget Comparison - Combined Operations. Statements for each activity are also provided.

Summary: As of September 30, 2005 our assets are approximately \$10,000 lower than last year primarily due to the \$15,369 loss in the third quarter. The loss was less than the \$21,473 expected for this period. Our year-to-date net income of \$16,746 is \$6,686 higher than was budgeted.

This year the dues collections are \$373 less than was budgeted. The primary budget variance was in Supply Officer sales. On the expense side we had \$1,075 in filing fees and related expenses to renew our trademarks in the United States, increased printing costs for the *Blue Gavel Log* and increased airfares. In spite of the increased airfares we are still below our budgeted amount at this point in the year.

International Operations Center: Overall expenses in this area are \$1,193 less than budgeted. The variances are mostly due to timing differences in that the expenses are occurring at different times than was budgeted. We have kept the postage expense in check by not re-mailing the *Blue Gavel Logs* that are returned to us for changes of address, temporarily away or undeliverable.

Executive Committee: The committee's travel expenses are \$9,876 less than was budgeted while being \$4,655 more than last year. This year we have had excused absences again which accounts for the lower than budgeted results. It is higher than last year because of airfare increases and more eligible persons attending the regional meetings.

Supply Officer: The operation is breaking even in spite of lower than estimated sales. Our cost of goods sold percentage is lower than estimated by 2%. The inventory is based on a physical count at September 30, 2005. The lower sales is most likely due to members purchasing merchandise from unauthorized purveyors.

It was announced that Tom Cieslewicz would be the new supply officer. There has been no signed agreement as of September 30, 2005. A request for proposal has been sent to three interested parties.

Area Vice Presidents: The activity is \$1,989 less than has been budgeted. All area vice presidents are submitting expenses for reimbursement.

Annual Meeting: The activity is \$170 greater than budget because certain expenses were paid in September and the budgeted for October. The remaining expenses will occur in October and November.

Treasurer's Report Continued...

Blue Gavel Log: The publication shows a negative variance of \$5,139 which is due to the cost of printing. With the change in Editor for the *Log*, and the reduction of \$650 of layout expenses, the newsletter should return to economical operations. The printing cost for the September issue reflects such savings. Efforts are continuing to reduce costs.

Membership Statistics

The membership statistics attached to this report are as of August 1, 2005, the date for determination of the votes for each district at the Annual Meeting. Since August 1 we have had 70 more members pay dues for 2005.

2006 Budget

A budget for 2006 has been prepared by the President-Elect, Harvey Sussel, and will be presented at the Annual Meeting as required by the bylaws.

International Operations Center

The IOC provides certain centralized services, membership card processing, sales of supplies and other tasks assigned by the Executive Committee. It is under the direction of the Treasurer and is available to all members. Some of the current developments are:

Dues received after October 1 are generally considered the next years dues unless instructed otherwise. When sending dues be sure to include all necessary information. We must have the member's name, district, address **and** chapter to process a membership card. If any of the information is missing the members record is placed on hold status.

The *Blue Gavel Log* is returned to us when a member files a temporarily away notice with the Post Office. An alternative is to notify us each time you change residences and we will change the mailing address on our records. Another option is to ask us not to send you a *Blue Gavel Log* and download a copy from our web site, www.iobg.org. The September issue is there now and successive issues will be placed on the web site before the printed version arrives in the mail.

The Bylaws and Policy Manual are available on the web site for free. There also is chapter and member application forms and the Oath of Induction (in 18 point type) for you to download when needed.

We stand ready to assist you in any way we can. We can answer most questions efficiently but, occasionally, some questions require research or are the responsibility of another officer. Please have patience in these circumstances.

This completes my thirteenth year as your treasurer. It has been my pleasure to serve and meet many of you over the years. I especially thank all the district treasurers who help make the membership card process go smoothly. I am sad to say that we have lost one of those faithful persons. Bruce Dunn, former North Central Vice President and long-time Treasurer of District 7 passed away last weekend. My condolences to his wife, Jeri and his family.

When you become involved in the IOBG operations and work with people all over the country and world, you make many friends - or should I call them debating partners - every where you go. That is the secret of our organization and the reason I enjoy it so much. Thank you all for your support.

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL
Proposed Budget for I.O.B.G. Operations
For the Year Ending December 31, 2006

	U.S. Dollars \$	Canadian Dollars \$	British Pounds £	New Zealand Dollars \$
REVENUES:				
Dues (\$30 per member)	87,000	101,790	46,980	122,670
Interest	600	702	324	846
Other	500	585	270	705
Total Revenue	88,100	103,077	47,574	124,221
EXPENSES				
Annual Meeting:				
Meeting Expenses	3,000	3,510	1,620	4,230
Gifts, Awards and Supplies	2,000	2,340	1,080	2,820
Delegate Travel Allowances	12,400	14,508	6,696	17,484
Total Annual Meeting	17,400	20,358	9,396	24,534
Executive Committee:				
Office Expenses	600	702	324	846
Travel	30,025	35,129	16,214	42,335
Total Executive Committee	30,625	35,831	16,538	43,181
Area Vice Presidents:				
Office Expenses	800	936	432	1,128
Travel	6,700	7,839	3,618	9,447
Total Area Vice Presidents	7,500	8,775	4,050	10,575
Blue Gavel Log:				
Printing	18,210	21,306	9,833	25,676
U.S. Postage	5,100	5,967	2,754	7,191
Handling	350	410	189	494
Supplies	650	761	351	917
Total Blue Gavel Log	24,310	28,443	13,127	34,277
International Operations Center				
Accounting	600	702	324	846
Bank Charges	25	29	14	35
Clerical Services	7,500	8,775	4,050	10,575
Conferences & Meetings	0	0	0	0
Dues (USSA-\$250, NBF-\$200 & RNLI-\$150)	600	702	324	846
Equipment Rental	3,600	4,212	1,944	5,076
Legal Service	500			
Meeting Expenses	100	117	54	141
Miscellaneous	100	117	54	141
Office Expense	1,000	1,170	540	1,410
Postage	3,000	3,510	1,620	4,230
Printing	500	585	270	705
Supplies	300			
Telephone	900	1,053	486	1,269
Web Site Maintenance	500	585	270	705
Taxes	100	117	54	141
Total I.O.C.	19,325	21,674	10,004	26,120
TOTAL EXPENSES	99,160	115,081	53,114	138,688
EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENSES) FROM DUES	(11,060)	(12,004)	(5,540)	(14,467)



District News

Northwestern

Districts 1-2-4-5-24

Mike Parish

Northwestern Vice President

Submitted by Past Northwest VP Jerry Rudd

Now that Fall is upon us, local clubs are busy with meetings, getting ready for their Change of Watch, sprucing up their clubhouse & grounds, after all winter is just around the corner. Even the lucky boaters are getting in the act, having to winterize their boats or even having them hauled out for the winter. Just in time to settle down in their cozy homes to their favorite sport of all. The annual winter "Food Festival"... Happy Holidays to All.

District 1 held their annual meeting and change of watch September 17th, a list of Officers was sent to the Log Editor. District 1 has formed a committee to brainstorm ideas and programs that will create camaraderie, purpose and fundraisers. With those in place, membership and meeting attendance will increase. It will also be beneficial to the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation and charitable organizations within their local communities.

District 2 - Held their annual/general meeting Sept 17th at Capital City Yacht club.

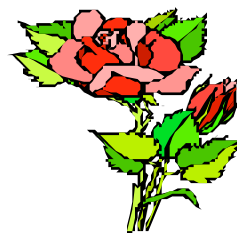
District 4 - Held their annual meeting October 17th at West Vancouver Yacht Club.

District 5 held their annual meeting November 5th at Tyee Yacht Club.

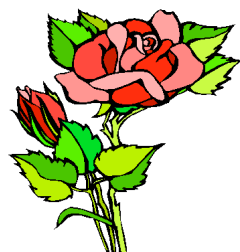
Ev Roberts is working on new programs to get his District more involved with IOBG, which should increase membership.

District 24 - Held their annual Invasion the weekend of September 9th - 11th. District 1 was well represented with Dist 1 P/P and International Past President Marion Hughes & International Past President of IOBGA Gerva Hughes, along with Jim & Betty Hinckley, and International Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert and Al.

District 5
Evertt Roberts, District Director



District 5 again invites the Executive Board to hold the summer meeting in Portland during the Portland Rose Festival



Our goal for 2006 is to be the True Keeper of the Flame.

No Photo Available	<h1>District News</h1>
	<h2>North Central</h2> <p>Districts 7-9-23-25</p> <h3>Don Krale</h3> <p>North Central Vice President</p>

I would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce myself to the Officers and members of the Blue Gavel. My name is Don Krale and I know there are a number of you out there who remember me. To those of you who do remember me, I am anxious to have the pleasure of rekindling our friendship.

I have been absent from Gavel activities recently and have missed being involved. I have been elected to the office of Vice President for the North Central area. I will promise you that I will hit the ground running and perform the duties of the Office to the best of my ability. I will admit it may take a bit of polish and oil to have the machine working 100%, but I do not think it will take too long to get back in the harness.

I may be asking for some guidance from some of my old friends, so don't be surprised if I should call you and pick your brain. I will close now and hope to see you all in person soon.

I wish to thank those of you who proposed and supported my nomination. I will not let you down.

Submitted by
Past North Central VP Stephen Willing

This is my last report as North Central Vice-President. The past ten years have been a wonderful experience for Shirley and I. We will never forget the people we have had the pleasure to meet and work with, along with the many yacht clubs we have visited.

We have had many accomplishments over the years. Shirley initiated the Auxiliary in Districts 9 and then 25, after the districts split. She then worked at the international level, serving as International Auxiliary President in 2002. She created the Auxiliary's web page and continues as its Webmaster. I started with District 9, helped with the split to form District 25, and served as District President in 2000. After a year as District Director, I became the Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer for the Humanitarian Foundation for two years. These past two years, I have been the North Central Vice President. The highlight for me in the IOBG, was receiving the 2004 International Past Presidents Award for Service.

While the last ten years have been very rewarding personally, I have not always been able to convey the wishes of the membership from the Great Lakes area, to the International Board. All of us, whether in our personal lives, or at work, or in our clubs or organizations, are reluctant to change. A desire for change should not be construed as an attack on anyone, but rather a desire to improve upon what we already have. Can you imagine a company such as Microsoft, using 1995 technology today? IOBG has wonderful dedicated people at its helm, and I encourage them to be more open to suggestions for reforming the organization. Five and ten year growth plans may help us to achieve our goals.

Past North Central VP Stephen Willing
Continued

Recently a delegation travelled to a district to assist them with some misunderstandings that had arisen. These efforts are an indication of a Board taking an active role in explaining the goals of the organization. I would rather see our funds used to support these types of initiatives, and less spent on regional meetings. While meetings are important, and fun, when you have limited resources, it is imperative that you utilize them to your best advantage.

I would like to thank the District Officers I have had the pleasure to work with this past year. Their reports show how strong the organization is in the North Central area. While Shirley and I have had the support of many people, too numerous to mention, I must thank two couples for their unwavering support and friendship; Art and Carole Garside, and Louie and Gerry Key. Their friendship and counsel has helped us manoeuvre through uncharted waters, in our efforts to reach our goals.

I thank the International Order of the Blue Gavel and its members for allowing me the privilege of serving in these capacities for these past years. While Shirley and I will not be as active as we have been, we will still show up occasionally to show our support for this worthwhile organization.

Congratulations to President Art Theobald for his year, and we look forward to incoming President Harvey Sussel, leading us into the year 2006.

District 9
Damian Pflgebraar, District Director

Membership in District 9 is alive and well with 31 new members in 2005, this is a total increase of 10 over last year, resulting in 350 paid members.

The Annual meeting took place at Maumee River Yacht Club in Toledo, Ohio on October 2nd. Members were welcomed by Chapter President John Lark following the clubs monthly Champagne Breakfast. At this meeting elections were held for the 2006 officers and the change-of-watch followed, with Mark Hupp as the incoming President. In addition to this annual meeting the District had a Spring meeting in April and five Executive Board meetings throughout the year.

The members were glad to hear of the International's balanced budget, as a dues increase would still meet with much resistance.

A District website was established this past year and is being maintained by Rich Vail. The website includes District and Chapter events as well as the District Log.

Our 4th Annual Pig Roast was held in May which raised nearly \$1200.00 for our Humanitarian projects. The money was divided among The Spinal Cord Injury Association, The American Heart Association and a local Youth Sailing Program.

September 18th was the date of the District Annual Rendezvous. This year Riverview Yacht Club hosted this event. A good time was had by all.

Members attended memorial services this year for District members John Lehman and Charlie Parker. Also services were attended for Jerry Fillip who was Director of District 25, our neighbor to the north and for Ken McLeod, First Vice President of the International. They will all be missed.

With Steve Willing not continuing as North Central Area Vice President, I must mention that I personally will miss him in that position. Steve has been a big supporter of Blue Gavel and was always able to provide answers to my questions. Thanks Steve for your years of service.



District News

Northeastern

Districts 3-12-20-22-26

Marc Connelly

Northeastern Vice President

District 3

Lewis W. Smith, District Director

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since District #3 hosted the International meeting. The hard work of so many of our members are becoming distant memory, but will never be forgotten.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to outgoing President Art Theobald. Not only has Art performed the duties of International President, he has continued on as Treasurer and Supply Officer of District #3. Art has worked tirelessly to promote the Blue Gavel organization locally and internationally for many years. He and his wife Betty have our admiration and gratitude.

Our year in District #3 has gone well. We have maintained our membership numbers and our financial position is sound. We have held several executive board meetings, which resulted in the formulation of plans for more vigorous support of a local handicapped boating program. Our summer party attracted a good turnout to the Olcott Yacht Club on Lake Ontario and our general membership meeting at the Buffalo Launch Club was also well attended.

A strong slate of officers were elected at the meeting. We are confident that President Warren Schafer and his fellow officers will lead us through another successful year.

District 20

Arnie Epstein, District Director

At the August monthly meeting, District #20 had a visit from President Art Theobald, 2nd Vice President Dick Janiszewski, and Northeastern Vice President Marc Connelly. Along with the officers, many of the District delegates had a chance to meet and discuss ideas that District #20 have in mind to better the IOBG. Prior to the meeting everyone sat down to an informal dinner at the Raritan Yacht Club in Perth Amboy, NJ. There were 23 delegates and officers present and a lively discussion followed.

District #20 sponsors a perpetual trophy for a junior sailing program, and this years winning yacht club was Shrewsbury River Yacht Club. Congratulations to all that participated!

As everyone knows of the destruction that Hurricane Katrina caused, many people were displaced and without food, shelter and jobs. My own family in New Orleans was directly affected, 27 of our family members were temporarily displaced and many still are. Morgan Creek Yacht Club raised over \$700 and many donations of clothes to help meet the immediate needs. I can't thank them enough for their generosity and good wishes. It's wonderful to know that in times of trouble there are so many in the boating community that are willing to give of themselves. Again, many thanks to anyone who has extended their hands to those in need.

District 26
Hal Salyer, District Director

An event has occurred on Long Island, NY that has made some of us in the Blue Gavel very pleased. We have formed a new district that will do away with our trips through New York City to attend the monthly District #20 meetings. For the uninitiated, these meetings involved 5 hour ride through very heavy traffic.

The new district was formed by taking 5 Blue Gavel clubs that were a part of District #20 and realigning to form District #26. Since the change we have acquired 2 more clubs into our district, this brings our present group to 7 clubs. It does not stop there because we now have had inquires from several other clubs. The main reason for the renewed interest in the Blue Gavel on Long Island was that members no longer wanted to make the trip through New York City to attend a function.

Most of the credit for the formation of this new district goes to P/C John Thompson who spent many hours organizing this district. John stayed on top of things, sent endless E-mails, made many phone calls, and even kept in touch by cell phone when he was away on his many golf trips. John is the type of person who can ask you to do something and you just can't refuse him.

Our first District #26 annual meeting was held at Mount Sinai Yacht Club. The menu was steak or lobster prepared perfectly by our chef. We had over 40 members in attendance and all 7 of our clubs were represented. After a period of libation and fellowship we decided that it was time to get down to business.

The charter for District #26 was presented to the membership by Second Vice President Richard Janiszewski. A summation of the mission of the Blue Gavel was very ably given by the Second Vice President. Many people were enlightened by this summation and many questions were also answered.

Next on the agenda was the swearing in and presentation of membership certificates to the new members. The charters were presented to the representatives of The Harbor Boating Club of Huntington and Ketewomoke Yacht Club of Huntington by District #26 President P/C John Thompson. The new members were also then sworn in by P/C John Thompson.

It was decided to continue the practice of holding board meetings on a monthly basis. The next monthly board meeting will be scheduled by the President and the membership will be informed.



P/P Norm Gallagher was presented the Past Presidents' Award at the 2005 Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida. Norm was acknowledged for service above and beyond the call of duty. He served as President of the IOBG in 1993 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Humanitarian Foundation. Norm continues to step up to the plate to serve the organization in any way that he can. Congratulations Norm for a job well done!!



District News

Southwestern

Districts 6-10-11-14-15-16-19-21

Bill Thayer

Southwestern Vice President

The Southwestern area has 8 districts with 752 members for 2005. The area Districts had a very successful year in 2005 with many noteworthy accomplishments. We gained only one new chapter this year and we remain in discussions with two more.

My involvement for the year included two round table discussions held in Southern California, District 15's Yacht Club Management Seminar, an unusually large amount of Opening Day Celebrations, District meetings and Change of Watch dinners. Marybeth and I also attended the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association CHISPA/Youth Regatta hosted by District 14 in Clipper Cove and Treasure Island Yacht Club.

I will highlight some of the more noteworthy events from the Southwestern Area:

District 6, Hawaii, held a very informative Winter Regional meeting. Oahu proved to be a perfect venue for the event. They were also involved in the finish of the Transpac Sailboat Race and were especially helpful to the Challenge America Crew, a physically challenged crew with one able bodied sailor.

District 10 was involved with hosting the start of the Transpac activities, including the start via the Shoreline Yacht Club of Long Beach and our own Director of Director's Anne Fox.

District 14 hosted the 67th Annual South Bay Opening Days, awarded two IOBG trophies and provided the venue for the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association's CHISPA/Youth Regatta as coordinator, race committee, and chief cook and bottle washer. A nice touch was digital photos taken by President Rich Ahlf shown on the TV screen at the club house for all the participants to watch. Participants included CHISPA in Lasers, Youth in single-handed Optimists and Double-handed in Flying Js.

District 19 attended and participated in District 14's South Bay Opening Day and CHISPA/Youth Regatta. They also visited southern California to assist District 10 in the Transpac endeavors.



District 6 members visit the Fish Auction in Honolulu.

District 6
Reported by Sue Roach, President

District 6 members are winding down from a busy summer and looking forward to end of year activities and the holidays. September 10th was the Annual Chili Cook-off at Iroquois Lagoon Yacht Club in Ewa Beach. The event was a huge success with 13 entries in the competition. Five of eight judges were IOBG members.

A special tour of the Honolulu Fish Auction was arranged for District 6 members on Sep 24th. This commercial fish auction is the only active fish auction in the U.S. where all fish are sold by the bidding process. The amount of fish sold each day averages 40,000 to 60,000 pounds and daily value of fish sold can range up to \$2 million.

Bigeye and Yellow Fin Tuna are the predominate fish and are shipped across the U.S. as well as Canada and Japan. The early morning rise on a Saturday was well worth it, and included breakfast at Nico's Restaurant, at Pacific Ocean Producers.

October 19th was the annual election meeting, with installation of 2006 officers on Nov 12th, and the Christmas party on Dec 15th. Aloha!

District 14

George C. Knies, District Director

As of this writing District 14 has 54 members.

On October 9, 2004 District 14 celebrated Fleet Week with P/C Larry Foote and his wife Carol and P/C's Phil and Carol Promessi at the Treasure Island Yacht Club Cruise/Drive-In Rib-Feed.

On October 9 & 10, 2004 District 14 contributed financial support and P/C Rich Ahlf, President District 14 and his wife Shirley participated in the two-day "Northern California Women's Sailing Seminar" that took place at the Island Yacht Club.

On January 9, 2005 District 14 celebrated their Change-of-Watch at the TIYC Crab Feed.

The 67th Annual South Bay Opening Day was held Saturday, April 16, 2005, organized by south bay yacht clubs in conjunction with the Port of Redwood City. The festivities took place in the Port of Redwood City and Redwood Creek turning basin. District 14 has been a sponsor of the South Bay Opening Day for thirteen years and presents the Trumbull Trophy for the club providing the most boats in the parade and the Ward Cleaveland Trophy (Best Youth Decorated Boat). Carol Promessi, 1st.VP and her husband Phil, Director District 19 joined Rich Ahlf, President District 14 and me as parade judges.

District 14 celebrated the Fourth of July fireworks over San Francisco Bay at our annual Treasure Island Cruise/Drive-in event.

On Thursday, July 28, P/C Jim Aberer sailed "El Nido" from Marin YC to the Golden Gate YC where we embarked photographers and other media types to welcome the "International Parade of Ships". "El Nido" was the "Media Boat" as well as the "Parade Control Boat". The order of parade was devised by me in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard. I was on board as the parade coordinator. The parade commenced at 1100 hours as the CUAUHEMOC, Mexico's 270' 1,800 ton Barque passed under the Golden Gate Bridge led by the San Francisco Fire Boat PHOENIX. The parade of 32 vessels passed along the San Francisco Waterfront then under the Bay Bridge to piers 30, 32 and 40. Those vessels with cannon on board rendered cannon salutes as they passed the Hyde Street Pier, Pier 39 and the Bay Bridge.

Treasure Island Yacht Club provided the venue for the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association CHISPA/Youth Regattas that were held on Saturday August 13, 2005. The impressive turnout of volunteers from the IOBG included P/C Rich Ahlf (President D-14) and his wife Shirley, P/C Lynette Harter Breed (D-14) and her husband Russ, P/C George Knies (Director D-14) and his wife Ann Knies (D-14 IOBGA), P/C Carol Promessi (1st V.P.), P/C Phil Promessi (Director D-19), P/C Bill Thayer (SW V.P.) and his wife Marybeth among many others who enjoyed an exciting and rewarding day with the competitors and visitors. District 14 provided the lunch for all participants as well as providing the Race Committee and safety boats.

Members of District 14 participated in, as well as, contributed financial support to the annual "Wheelchair Regatta" held at the Encinal Yacht Club on September 25. One third of the yachts participating in this event were from Districts 14 and 19 all flying the Blue Gavel Burgees.

District 15

Gary Hall, District Director

This past year has been good for the San Diego area. Beside near perfect weather we have put on all our usual events: the "Yacht Club 101" class for new officers and the "Member Appreciation" barbecue for all District 15 members. I thank Marshall Nemoy for getting us a great place at Mission Bay Yacht Club, President David Wood for organizing the event, and Vice President Linda Loftis for making the shish-kabobs.

The Auxiliary sponsored our next event. This was a wine tasting and picnic at a winery in hills above San Diego. Our most recent event was the Raft-Up and Dinner at Southwestern Yacht Club. This makes a great late summer get together. This works well because most of our clubs are in this area.

Our last event is, of course, the installation of new officers. The director succeeding me is David Wood. The President is Linda Loftis. The Vice President is Skip Gunther. The Secretary is Linda Whipple. Our Treasurer remains Marshall Nemoy.

This has been a busy year. I really enjoyed the regional meeting in Portland, Oregon. It was great getting the new President and Vice President of my district to also attend. I have been encouraging everyone in District 15 to get involved and enjoy the IOBG. I do regret some of us were unable to make the Cleveland, Ohio Meeting.

I congratulate all new officers, local and international. It has been a pleasure to work with the many IOBG office holders these past five years. I may, however see many of you at the Queen Mary.

District 19

Phil Promessi, District Director

The year started out wet and wild. The weather was not so good, but we had a pretty successful year. Our first meeting was a board meeting at Benicia Yacht Club. They provided a Sunday Brunch after the meeting. We were disappointed with the turnout, but there was a lot of discussion about the proposed raise in dues.

On February 13th the first General Meeting was held at the San Joaquin Yacht Club, where we inducted 12 new Commodores into District 19. The issues of the International meeting in Buffalo were discussed including how the vote went regarding the dues increase, the Log problem and several other issues that were of interest.

By May the weather was settling down and we had a cruise-out and Board Meeting at Westgate Park in the Delta near Tower Park Marina. It was an interesting place. It had spots for camping and RV hookups. There was docking available but no hookups. One of the issues that were discussed was retaining membership and communication. As always, that seems to be the most important issue.

The highlight of the year was the Membership Appreciation BBQ that was held on July 23-24. As always, when something is for free, they come out of the woodwork. It was well attended. We held a 50/50 raffle; a portion of the proceeds was donated to the Humanitarian Foundation.

District #19 participated with District #14 when they held their Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association CHISPA/YOUTH Regattas on Saturday August 13th. There were several classes of boats that raced in several races. They included *lasers*, *optimists*, and *flying js*. It was entertaining watching all the kids race against each other. There was this one sailor that every time he would jibe and tried to switch sides the boat would capsize and he would spend a lot of time getting it upright. He would then sail to the next mark and when he jibed to make the turn, the boat would capsize, but he never gave up and finished the race. He was one wet puppy. He received the perseverance award. It was a great day at Treasure Island Yacht Club.

The Girl Sea Scout Troop had some cute delegates at our meeting at Village West Yacht Club on Sept. 11th. They were there to receive a donation from District 19 Auxiliary that was presented to them at this meeting. The Girls Sea Scout Troop #777 of Sacramento are a group of hard-working girls, ages 12 to 18, that are refurbishing a 95 ft. aluminum PT boat, the last of its kind. Under the keen-eye and knowledgeable supervision of Capt. J. West (a licensed 1600 ton Master), they have learned all aspects of operating and building a boat, literally, from the water line up. After 7 years of hard work, their efforts paid off with a two week cruise down the coast of California. What a fulfilling experience to know that you did the work and know how to operate such a big boat. IOBGA, District # 19 has been raising and donating money for this group of gals, and when you see how enthusiastic and motivated they are, it makes you proud. They are amazing.

The last function of the year is the Change of Watch that was held at the Pittsburg Yacht Club. There were approximately 60 members in attendance. The regular meeting was suspended, (as it always is), so that awards can be given out and the new officers inducted into their prospective offices. This is a formal affair and the evening went well with the Liberty Hotel catering the affair. After dinner there was dancing until late into the night.

It has been a pleasure serving as the Director of District #19. There were challenges and successes, but all in all, I feel that it has been a successful year.



District News

Southeastern

Districts 8 & 18

Ray Thompson

Southeastern Vice President

Navy Yacht Club-Pensacola has submitted a chapter application and has asked if they can be transferred into District #8. Their original application placed them in District #50. However, with little or no District activity chapter membership has dwindled.

P/C Claude Mullen a past member of Navy Yacht Club-Pensacola has asked for the reinstatement and relocation. P/C Mullen is currently a member of the Pensacola Yacht Club. The application has been submitted to District #8 Membership Committee.

Lighthouse Point Yacht Club member, P/C Thomas Selecten, a Past President of District #8 and recent President/Treasurer of their chapter resigned. P/C Bert Gartenhaus acting President and P/C Donald Willis acting Treasurer have stepped up to keep this chapter active. The planned social events include a dinner and show, a brunch to welcome the new bridge officers and their annual Christmas party.

The Palm Coast Yacht Club held its 3rd annual "Hammer Ball"; this was a Black Tie event and was well attended and successful. A \$5,000.00 check was presented to the Habitat For Humanity organization. Their next planned event will be the Children's Home picnic and boat cruise.

The Isles Yacht Club that was demolished by Hurricane Charley had been operating out of a large tent and has moved into a modular building and will operate from there until the full rebuilding program is completed, hopefully by the end of 2006.

I have no damage reports as yet concerning Hurricane Wilma.

District 51
Mike Parish, District Director

A little background:

After accepting the position of District 51 Director and making initial contact with the members in Texas I felt that a personal visit would achieve more than phone calls and letters.

A member at the Austin Yacht Club (John Mandell) was contacted and also one at Houston (Tony Nunnes) and Lakewood Yacht Club (Gary Anderson). They agreed to help put together a meeting/get together, one in Austin and one in the Houston/Lakewood area.

A date was set for each meeting, October 7 in Austin and October 8 in Houston. These dates turned out to be conflict for both John and Tony but the reins were passed on to Clift Price at Austin and Ned Van Maanen in Houston.

We actually pulled into Austin Yacht Club on October 6 secured a spot for the RV and Clift and Sue Price came over and picked us up around 7:00 p.m. We spent a wonderful evening at their lakefront home discussing IOBG and what we expected to get done the next night.

On Friday evening we had 9 past commodores, their spouses and the current Commodore of Austin Yacht Club attend a potluck barbeque at Clift and Sue's home. It was informal but I had the chance to present IOBG one to one as well as a group. The group was very interested in getting a chapter going in that area but would like to have a more definitive idea as to what IOBG can accomplish for them before joining a district.

We received a check for one membership that evening and an email in a few days for 2 more. We also made a promise to return at a later time for more feedback and exchange of ideas.

Houston. Tony Nunnes was to be our contact but due to prior commitments the torch was passed to Ned Van Maanen.

Along came Hurricane Katrina, the cocktail party would go on as planned but Ned might be busy judging a sailboat race. Houston YC was filling in for the Bay Waveland YC of Bay St. Luis, Florida which was destroyed during the storm. Not a problem he would arrive as soon as he could.

Enter, Hurricane Rita, Houston is to be evacuated. Many emails passed back and forth, no damage but no power. Power back on, so is the race.

We arrive at the YC and are met by Ned who gives us the grand tour, treats us to lunch and then needs to take care of some business.

Luckily there are no protests during the race and at 6:30 we are joined by him and 4 other Past Commodores and the current Vice Commodore of Houston as well as Gary and Vicki Anderson of Lakewood YC.

This group already has an active group of Past Commodores just not under the auspices of IOBG. They are active in club affairs, races and as advisors. They are just not sure where the IOBG organization fits in. They are ready to get a separate district started and also inviting IOBG back to the Houston area for a regional meeting

There needs to be a definitive answer to "What does IOBG do for me" other than social. These two groups are looking at the humanitarian aspect and how it could help them in the activities they are already engaged in.

Austin

Currently little IOBG activity
9 Past Commodores in attendance
Current Commodore in attendance
Wants to become more active before starting their own district
Several potential candidates for leadership
Interested in the foundation
Interested in the web site and how it can be better utilized by the chapters
The role of advisors should be emphasized more
Would like to see a template for information to be included on the chapter website.

Houston

IOBG active with club functions
6 Past Commodores in attendance plus 1 from Lakewood
Current Vice Commodore in attendance
Is interested in starting their own district with Austin, Corpus Christie, maybe Dallas and Fort Worth
Several potential candidates for leadership
Very interested in the foundation
Would like to see the web site expanded
The role of advisors should be emphasized more

Annual Meeting & Convention Wrap Up

October 27-30, 2005

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida



HURRICANE WILMA fails to HALT the IOBG 2005 Annual Meeting & Convention

With reservations for almost 200 people for the 2005 International Annual Meeting and District 8 Convention, Monday, October 24th, Hurricane Wilma hit the Palm Beach Gardens, Florida area. Damage to the area was quite extensive with many power outages, trees down and many homes with roofs in need of repair and some people homeless.

The Convention was scheduled to start on Thursday, October 27th with most people arriving Wednesday, October 26th. Palm Beach International, Ft. Lauderdale and Miami airports were closed Tuesday and partially Wednesday due to lack of power. We had about four advance cancellations but the majority of people were still expected. The area around the Palm Beach Marriott Hotel, however, was spared loss of power and was open and “up & running”, to the surprise of many. In all, some 15 couples were forced to cancel to our sorrow and theirs, but the show went on as scheduled.

Meetings and events were planned for our Blue Gavel attendees but we had to reschedule times & etc. to make it all come out well.....and it did !!!

Thursday morning’s Area Vice Presidents and District Directors meeting was turned into a round table discussion group with great participation and success. Thursday evening we were scheduled to be taken by the bus to the Palm Beach Princess for an evening dinner cruise. The cruise was cancelled since the ship was further north in South Carolina hiding from “Wilma” along with her sistership “The Big Easy”, our back up vessel.

Instead, the Marriott Hotel helped us schedule a Luau, poolside party with a Hawaiian theme and dinner. The North Palm Beach Yacht Club members ran out and got bags & bags of Hawaiian “stuff”. The hotel wasn’t sure if they had enough food for 100 plus people but they managed quite a tasty dinner. We didn’t cruise but we had a taste of Hawaii. We send a special “thanks” to the Marriott staff for a quickie schedule that saved the day.

We gave five people room keys to “run” the Hospitality Suite, which was set and ready to go. The scheduled hours were thrown out the window and we “opened” early and closed late. Our Blue Gavelers enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones and all the libations, snacks and other goodies which were plentiful and tasty. This continued for the entire weekend.

A new Auxiliary event was unveiled known as the “Meet & Greet”, which brought together many of the Auxiliary members and other spouses for a morning coffee get acquainted session.

Annual Meeting & Convention Wrap Up Continued

October 27-30, 2005

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida



Friday morning's workshop meeting was very well attended and covered a great deal of information in preparation for Saturday's Annual Meeting. The Friday afternoon cocktail party, scheduled for the Old Port Yacht Club was cancelled due to lack of power. The Friday evening bus ride to the Palm Beach Kennel Club was also cancelled due to lack of power but we executed plan "B". Instead of going to Old Port Yacht Club and the Kennel Club, we boarded the busses for the Abacoa Country Club, a four star location, for a sumptuous dinner, dancing to a great band which made a "super" evening out of a would be disaster.

The Saturday Annual Meeting and the Awards Luncheon went on as scheduled. Both were well attended and the Annual meeting was concluded by mid-afternoon, then ...AGAIN, ON TO THE HOSPITALITY SUITE. It was SRO...(standing room only) and everyone was enjoying the day. Thankfully, someone (we don't know who) brought in more libations and the happy times continued.

The Installation Grand Ball Saturday evening at the Hotel went off almost as planned. The "Sea Cadets" Honor Guard did not arrive and the Hotel could not get the "Grouper" from their supplier. Instead the Hotel was forced to substitute Chicken for Grouper but added many Prime Rib dinners for those who didn't want chicken. It all seemed to work out and no one went hungry. Again, thank you "Marriott Hotel Staff" for saving the day.

We recognized, via the Grand March, all the incoming officers past Presidents. The Installation of the International, Auxiliary and District 8 officers was conducted followed by short speeches and comments. The program was kept at a minimum. We then danced the balance of the evening to the music of The Ray Marrone Orchestra, which climaxed a weekend that could have been a disaster but the good will and pleasant attitudes of our Blue Gavel people, made the weekend a huge success...one to be talked about for the next few years with happiness and reverence.

We certainly hope those who attended truly enjoyed the weekend, even the "minor" problems of "Wilma" that were encountered. We thank those who managed to arrive and extend our sorrow to those few who had to cancel.

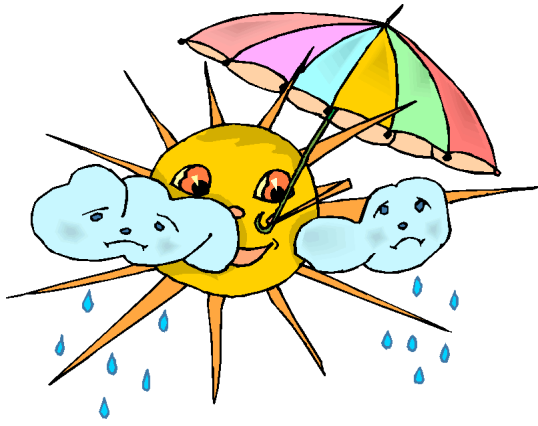
A special "thanks" goes to all those people who helped to make this a memorable weekend.

See 'y'all next year on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California.

Harvey Sussel, President

Tom Sullivan, Program Chairman





HURRICANE WILMA DIDN'T STOP I.O.B.G.

Despite what Wilma threw at us, the 2005 Annual IOBG Meeting/Change of Watch did take place!

Flights were cancelled/airports closed

Tri-rail was out of service

Power was out for 665,000 persons

Many telephones were out

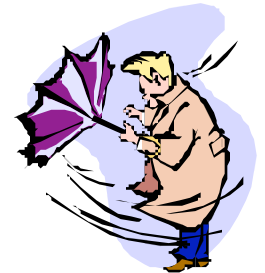
Traffic lights were damaged or destroyed

Gas stations were without power or gas, if open they had long lines

Condos/hotels were closed if they didn't have emergency power

Trees, power lines and debris was everywhere

Curfews were imposed, causing local members to leave events early



Harvey and Bonnie were on the telephone constantly, many called them about their problems getting to West Palm Beach. Ev and Vi Roberts arrived before Wilma and were evicted from a condo afterwards--the condo had no power. They found lodging at the Sussels and were able to get a room at the Marriott on Wednesday. It took Marc Connelly 5 days to get there.

After four hours on the phone with airlines and three different reservations, Eifferts arrived in Orlando and were picked up by the Parishs. Upon arrival found that the condo was closed and no rooms available at the hotel. The Parishs had no problem getting to West Palm Beach, but the RV park had no water, no power, and lots of damage so they and guests, the Eifferts, stayed parked in the hotel parking lot among the downed trees and pieces of roof tiles.

Bill and Sue Young from England probably had the most excitement. They were told that their flight was on schedule, upon arrival at airport they were told it was cancelled. Were told to return home (2 1/2 hours away), then offered an overnight hotel. Next day, after delays at Heathrow, the pilot said "I believe we have enough fuel for the trip." On arrival in Miami, found that tri-rail had been closed. No cars available, last resort--taxi shared with another person; cost \$200.00. Success they arrived--tired.

Betty Elmer arrived via a very dark road at 2:00 am. Phil Arms reserved cars at 4 airports, others couldn't get cars, and/or got cars with no gas. Almost everyone had some difficulty due to Hurricane Wilma. Some could not make connections and cancelled. Joe Tringali managed 3 1/2 miles without incident.

Harvey and Bonnie plus their crew and the Marriott staff were great!

Al and Mary Eiffert



NEW SUPPLY OFFICER

1380 Centerville Lane #32
 Gardnerville, NV 89410-9715
 (800) 315-7485
 www.commodoreinsignia.com

The Executive Committee, at its meeting on October 27, 2005, in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida voted to accept the proposal from Commodore Insignia to take over the Supply Officer function for IOBG. The details have been worked out and a contract prepared by our Legal Officer. The contract is in the signature process at the time this article is being written. With all parties in agreement, the inventory will be shipped to Commodore Insignia on or about December 1. During the transfer process inventory will not be available for sale.

Commodore Insignia is owned by Blue Gavel member, Earl Hohlmayer. He has a very established business, deals with many yacht clubs, the U.S. Power Squadron and has been the supplier of our crossed burgee pocket patch for many years. The company maintains a web site, www.commodoreinsignia.com, where orders may be placed. At the present time only the pocket patch may be ordered, however, plans are already underway to create web pages for Blue Gavel items.

Commodore Insignia will sell to district supply officers at discounted prices only to those districts that have supply officers. The IOBG Treasurer will provide a list of district supply officers to Commodore Insignia. Members of districts that do not have a supply officer such as Districts 50 and 51, will be able to order directly from Commodore Insignia but will pay a retail price for the merchandise. Membership lists for districts without supply officers will be supplied to Commodore Insignia by the IOBG Treasurer.

Commodore Insignia is the only company authorized to sell merchandise with the IOBG trademarked logo. You are urged to support this venture and have some patience during the transition. In the long run it will be good for all of us.

COMMODORE INSIGNIA

1380 Centerville Lane, #32
 Gardnerville, NV 89410
 Telephone: (775) 782-3380 – (800) 315-7485
 Fax: (775) 782-4003
 Email: Comsignia@aol.com
 Web: www.commodoreinsignia.com

IOBG Blazer emblems are authorized for sale by Commodore Insignia. These emblems have the Blue Gavel Burgee on the left staff and the Commodore's club on the right staff. They are available in a white or black background and the price is \$30.00 each, 2-4 \$24.00 each, and 5 and up \$21.00 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		Navy Blue	Black	White	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. _____



In Remembrance...

ROBERT B. CLUNE March 18, 1926 – September 13, 2005

P/C Bob Clune was 79 years young when he passed on after suffering several years of declining health. Bob was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1945 and served in the Atlantic and Pacific during World War II. After the war he became a Senior Vice President of the Home Insurance Company and then the CEO of Flamer Company Insurance Brokerage, and then served as President of the San Francisco division of the Royal Insurance Company.

He enjoyed boating and was a member of the Pittsburg Yacht Club in California for 26 years and held many offices including Commodore in 1985. He also served on many committees through the years. He was a charter member of the Pittsburg YC chapter of the IOBG and became active in District 19. His wife Joan Marsh Clune also a Past Commodore of Pittsburg YC is active in IOBG and served as President of the Humanitarian Foundation.

Bob was very well liked in the boating community in the San Francisco Bay Area and served as a delegate to the Pacific Interclub Yachting Association for many years. Bob was a very giving person and he never hesitated to help anyone that needed help in the boating community and always maintained a positive attitude toward life. He will be sorely missed.



Bruce Dunn January 22, 1935 – October 15, 2005



P/C Bruce Dunn was very active in many boating organizations including Fairport Harbor Yacht Club, the Greater Cleveland Boating Association & IOBG to mention a few. Bruce was Past Commodore of FHYC and continued to be a very active member of his club along with his wife Jeri. His stint as Commodore brought him into the International Order of the Blue Gavel of which he rose to District 7's President and eventually became the International North Central Vice President. He continued to stay extremely active locally within the organization holding the position of Treasurer for at least 5 years until his passing. His position as Treasurer is a bit misleading because Bruce did MUCH more than the duties of Treasurer – in fact Bruce held our District together in many ways. It was always Bruce that ordered the name tags, kept inventory, ordered plaques, organized and distributed our roster, sent dues reminders with personal letters to people, paid our bills, dealt with International, schlucked the party materials around, came up with great ideas, was at every event before everyone and stayed until everyone was gone, reminded us of protocol, helped us achieve our goals with all his knowledge, developed and presented our successful Hypothermia Presentation – only to mention a few things.

But more than all the titles he held and all the things he accomplished on all our behalves, what we remember most about Bruce is the fabulous person he was. He was always willing to help anyone with anything and never sought to receive the credit for all the good he did. A friend from Cape Coral, FL, P/C Paul Jones. emailed me "I am so sorry to hear about Bruce's passing – he was so kind to me." He was always our backbone and a stronghold for all of us – someone we all could count on for so many things.

To many of us in District 7 he was our mentor, our confidante, and one of our dearest friends. He always had time for everyone and took many people "under his wing". We enjoyed his intelligence, sensitivity, no nonsense attitude and enthusiasm for life.

When I was President of our District, I called Bruce at least 5 times a day for guidance and he always had time for all my questions and helped me every step of the way. He was my right hand. I could go on and on with personal stories about Bruce and the person he was. I am a better person for knowing him.

People have asked what the Blue Gavel does – Well, it gave us in District 7 Bruce Dunn and we are very thankful to have him in our lives – he has helped make it so much richer for so many of us.

1955 - 2005 *I.O.B.G. Past Presidents*

2005	Art Theobald Sandy Beach Yacht Club	1988*	George Cooper Lighthouse Point Yacht Club	1967*	Ken Wise Edmonds Yacht Club
2004	Larry Foote San Joaquin Yacht Club	1987	Dr. Burton Jay Southwestern Yacht Club	1966	Randy Rockhill Rainier Yacht Club
2003	Art Garside Elba Mar Boat Club	1986*	Ernie R. Villaire Wyandotte Yacht Club	1965*	Sam Crawford Olympic Yacht Club
2002	Marion Hughes Clover Island Yacht Club	1985*	Walter Bertram Hayden Island Yacht Club	1964*	Story Birdseye Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club
2001*	Robert Miller San Joaquin Yacht Club	1984*	James Topping Naples Sailing Yacht Club	1963*	Dr. Ed Chase Everett Yacht Club
2000	Louis A. Key, Jr. Chagrin River Yacht Club	1983	E. Carl Schiewe Columbia River Yacht Club	1962*	Leroy Strasser Totem Yacht Club
1999*	Frank Valdes Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1982	Belding H. McCurdy Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1961*	Frank Metz Queen City Yacht Club
1998	Ted Kendrick San Joaquin Yacht Club	1981*	Everett E. Weil Portland Yacht Club	1960*	H.E. Richmond Seattle Yacht Club
1997	Phil Arms Navy Yacht Club San Diego	1980*	Fred Roth Cleveland Yacht Club	1959*	Harold Fowler Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club
1996	Ira Nies Columbia River Yacht Club	1979*	Willis Angel Bremerton Yacht Club	1958*	Richard McCann Queen City Yacht Club
1995	Rolf R. Tinge The Captains Yacht Club	1978*	Leonard St. Lewis Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1957	Harry Gundlach Bremerton Yacht Club
	The Point Yacht Club	1975-77*	Wesley W. Ortnor Portland Yacht Club	1956*	Art Russel Seattle Yacht Club
1994	Dr. Richard Disraeli Southwestern Yacht Club	1974*	G. Dudley Henderson Salem Yacht Club	1955*	Ev G. Henry – Founder of IOBG Rainier Yacht Club
1993	Norman Gallagher Chagrin Yacht Club	1972-73*	Raymond Hash		
1992*	Wesley Holtzhauser Pass-A-Grille Yacht Club	1971*	Ed Haecker Hayden Island Yacht Club		*Deceased
1991	Everett Roberts Columbia River Yacht Club	1970*	Bruce Calhoun Elks Yacht Club		
1990*	Thomas R. Elmer Tonawanda Island Launch Club	1969*	Robert McDermaid West Vancouver Yacht Club		
1989*	Norval "Cav" Cavett Hawaii Yacht Club	1968*	Charles McCurdy Des Moines Yacht Club		





NATIONAL REPORT
Michigan City, IN – October 14-15, 2005

NOAA Weather - We have all been advised of the legislation entered by Senator Rick Santorum, S.786 that would have ended NOAA weather forecasts on our VHF FM radios as we currently know it. Along with this was the possibility of a commercial service providing the forecasts for a fee. This of course would require the boating public to pay twice, once by our taxes for the National Weather Service and second to the commercial provider. A large hue and cry was heard by the Congress, mainly from the members of NBF, and the bill is dead. I have heard however that a coalition of weather providers is making efforts to resurrect this. They engaged some individuals on the Hill who will attempt to include the bill as part of other legislation. Stay tuned.

GMDSS – The GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) Task Force met in Washington DC on 11 August. GMDSS is a major effort to modernize the USCG stations, provide added capabilities and better communications for enhanced Coast Guard efforts under the Rescue 21 Program. CG Groups Eastern Shore and Atlantic City (now called Sectors) are expected to be operational by the end of calendar year 2005. By the middle of CY 06, Groups St Petersburg, Mobile, Seattle and Port Angeles will be on-line. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that, for the 2006 boating season, VHF-FM radios should be equipped with the new emergency DSC (Digital Selective Calling) feature. With this feature, when the DSC button is pressed, an emergency broadcast is automatically sent over channel 70. Even better, if your VHF is interfaced to your GPS, your boat's Lat/Lon location will be sent as well.

UN Resolution 40 - International Certificate for operators of pleasures craft - The members of the European Union (EU) have adopted new standards for all pleasure craft operators called the International Certificate of Competency (ICC) under UN Resolution 40. Unfortunately the US did not approve Resolution 40 and thus there is no reciprocity between the US and Europe. Therefore, a US citizen wishing to charter a boat in Europe must hire a local captain or cannot charter at all. At the request of some NBF member organizations, we have written Admiral Collins, USCG, and others requesting their support in having the State Department adopt UN Resolution 40. We will work with the Coast Guard, the State Dept. and the NTSB to achieve resolution. We have heard from the NTSB on this and they asked if NBF accepted Mandatory Boating Education. I indicated we did and they requested that we formally advise them of such. I wrote the chairman in this regard. They have further suggested we have a meeting of all parties to see if we can achieve resolution. While not many of us charter overseas, to those that do, this is a real problem.

Federal Legislation – HR3, the "Highway Bill," was signed by the President on 10 August. The bill has been two years in the process and required House/Senate conference to resolve the many differences in the bill and its total funding (\$286B). Included in the bill is the reauthorization of the Wallop/Breaux program which returns our tax dollars on gasoline and fishing equipment to boating programs. Included are State Boating Safety Grants, Clean Vessel Act (pump outs), Boating Infrastructure (Transient slips), Wetlands restoration and Sport Fish Restoration. The reauthorization will recover \$110M of boater tax dollars which was being diverted to the general treasury. With the capture of the fuel tax, total funding for boating programs will rise to approximately \$570M per year. As reported earlier, NASBLA has requested a more equitable funds distribution to Boating Safety. Sports fish restoration receives 42% of the funds and Boating Safety only 18.5%. NBF supports NASBLA in this effort.

The Energy Bill - Congress passed and the President has signed the Energy bill. This does not portend more fuel or lower gas prices, at least in the near term. It does provide huge tax breaks and subsidies for the energy providers to encourage more production. For those navigating the Delaware, a proposed site Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) site, and other high traffic ports there may be some concern as the bill does ease the way for more imports of LNG by giving federal regulators final say over import terminal locations. Specifically, the legislation provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with exclusive authority to authorize the citing, construction, expansion, or operation of LNG facilities located ashore or in state waters.

H.R. 3824 - Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act This bill implements major revisions to the 1973 Act. In essence it will be more difficult to reject sites for public access to waterways do to the presence of "an endangered species". Prior to this bill, applicants required approval by both the Dept. of Commerce and the Dept. of the Interior (DOI) for construction on a waterway. The new bill would now require only DOI approval. Also included are considerations of personal property rights, more public input and compensation to property owners if measures to protect species thwart development plans. The bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate.



Coast Guard Authorization Act passes House (includes Delaware River Oil Spill Committee) - By a unanimous vote, the House of Representatives approved the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005 (H.R. 889). A variety of amendments were added, including an authorization for an additional \$60 million for Hurricane Katrina relief operations; a requirement to notify the Coast Guard if an object that creates an unauthorized obstruction to navigation is released into the water; a phased increase in limits of liability from tank vessels for oil spills, a program to detect, monitor, and evaluate the effects of submerged oil; and establishment of a Delaware River and Bay Oil Spill Advisory Committee. Passage of the legislation was accompanied by numerous speeches by members lauding the work of the Coast Guard in the Hurricane Katrina response effort. The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration. (From Holland and Knight LLP)

US Army Corps of Engineers USCOE, Maintenance Funding – Citing inadequate funds the USACOE may close the Dismal Swamp Canal, a portion of the East Coast Inter Coastal Waterway connecting Hampton Roads VA to Albemarle Sound NC. This 22 mile waterway has been in operation for 200 years. As we have learned previously from the Corps, funds for the Municipal Works Program have been in jeopardy for years with funds being cut for much of the ICW last year. Again the formula for funds allocation is based on commercial tonnage which does not take place on the Dismal Swamp Canal. Clearly the formula needs to include tourist boating which contributes to the local economies and National economy as well.

There are a number of additional bills which we are monitoring for their implication or any real impact they may have on recreational boating. Among these are bills resulting from the Presidents Commission on Ocean Policy and the two new commissions that have been established and are active. It is difficult to sift through the many bills in Congress for those that may effect boating. Members are encouraged to advise NBF of any significant boating issues which they become aware of.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Waesche, Legislative Director
National Boating Federation

National
Boating
Federation

Executive
Committee



Annual Meeting October 25, 2006 – October 29, 2006

The Queen Mary is more than a hotel; she is a legend. She is the grandest ocean liner ever built. During her illustrious career, she has played many roles, from elegant ocean liner to World War II troopship. In her heyday, the rich and famous considered a trans-Atlantic crossing aboard the Queen Mary the only civilized way to travel.

Now, more than 65 years after embarking on her Maiden Voyage, the allure of this Art Deco masterpiece remains timeless.

Stay in an original Art Deco stateroom and transport yourself back in time. Explore the engine room, wheelhouse and many exciting attractions and exhibits. Stroll along the decks overlooking the Long Beach skyline; dine in one of the award-winning, harborview restaurants; and purchase treasures in the unique shops aboard as well as ashore.

Considered the crown jewel of Southern California, the Queen Mary has emerged a favorite attraction, hotel, meeting facility and world-class destination.

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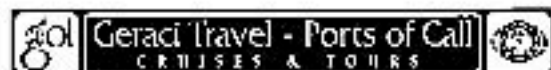
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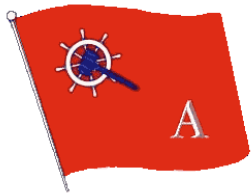
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International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary

From the President

by Jackie Evans Rudd

First, thank you for electing me as your President this year, for it's an honor and a privilege to represent you.

Even with "Wilma" in attendance they couldn't stop us from having a great time in Florida. The hotel staff and District 8 came through with flying colors. They all deserve a big thanks and gratitude for a job well done. It wasn't easy for them, coming up with all the last minute challenges that faced them, but like true boaters they all pitched in and got the job done.

The Friday morning "Meet and Greet" was a hit; even some of the Main Body came over to help themselves to the goodies. We were having such a good time that they (Main Body) had to quiet us down. Would love to do this again, you just never know what interesting tid-bits you might learn about a fellow member. Of course we will have to be further down the hall from the "Main Body" so we don't interrupt their meeting.

On a serious note, our work is cut out for us this year; membership is our top priority, not only to get new members, but the retention of members. It's my personal goal to try to find a solution to this major problem, but I need your help also. Do you feel the IOBGA does enough, what direction would you like to see the IOBGA go in the future?

We are working on instigating a new project, The Solo Mate Club (sample name). You have many friends and support in IOBGA, you don't want to miss the meetings, but you have lost your mate, (we know it's hard) but you don't want to travel alone to meetings, and events, we will gather a list of others who feel the same and want to continue to participate in the IOBGA events, but not alone, so why not two of you travel together and share the cost.

Let me introduce my Officers:

President Elect	Pat Graven	A very talented woman with great ideas.
First Vice President, Treasurer, IOBGA Log Editor -	Pat Janiszewski	What can I say, she just doesn't know how to say no, but ask her about her pet ground hog.
Second Vice President	Betty Theobald	a gracious lady who loves people.
Secretary	Bonnie Sussel	Even with an injured hand/arm she still keeps the minutes.
Immediate Past President	Hope McLeod	What an inspiration, hard act to follow.
Senior Past President	Carol Garside	Can't say enough, she has done it all.
IOBGA Web Master	Shirley Willing	Talk about TALENT, check out our web site.

With a team like them how can we go wrong? Our next meeting is February 4th in San Diego. I ask that you email or call me with your concerns, suggestions or ideas for I can present them at the meeting.

PAST PRESIDENTS	
1991	Rose Prell
1992-93	Mary Gallagher
1994-95	Pat Cleland
1996	Leona Nies
1997	Jerry Key
1998	Judy Miller
1999	Wila Wade
2000	Gerva Hughes
2001	Carol Foote
2002	Shirley Willing
2003-04	Carol Garside
2005	Hope McLeod

From the Past President

by Hope McLeod

Just settled down from the trip to hurricane ridden Florida. It makes you appreciate the snow and ice we have to look forward to here in Ohio. I know now that that will be much easier to deal with!

In spite of conditions, the meeting went well and the camaraderie was there, as usual. I always enjoy seeing everyone.

The Auxiliary had a wonderful "Meet and Greet" coffee on Friday morning and it turned out to be very productive. I know that I personally met other members, whom I did not know and hope to stay in touch.

Congratulations are due to District 70. They managed to increase their membership by 200% !!!!! They got the award for that accomplishment and Sue Young transported it and our "thanks" back to England. Way to go!! From what I hear, there will be another challenge for membership in 2006. Perhaps they will do it a second time.

Well, the elections are over and the new officers are installed. My best wishes to them all for the upcoming year. I will be here to help in any way I can. And the rest of you also feel free to keep in touch with me. Its been a rewarding year and I know there are many more to come, with good friends and great IOBGA members.

Thanks to all of you.



Happy Holidays

From Your International Blue Gavel Friends

With a donation to the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation, the following members of IOBG & IOBGA would like to wish you all a very Loving and Joyous Holiday Season.

Art & Betty Theobald, Bob & Carol Shogren, Ray & Dorothy Thompson, Geraldine Key, Ethel Keith, Lou Danielle, Marshall & Dawn Nemoy, Dick & Pat Janiszewski, Phil Bouckaert, Joan Marsh-Clune, Richard Hardy, Vern & Linda Bendsen, Skip & Ruth Bateman, Gene & Tanya Currier, Dave & Joan Phelps, Joel & Nancy Kay, Norm & Mary Gallagher, Larry Drapen, Deanna Toner, Ronald & Innes N, Marion & Gerva Hughes, Judy Miller, Jerry & Jackie Rudd, Art & Carol Garside, George Demos, Betty Elmer, Sue Brauner, Mike & Roxanne Parish, Frank & Chris Snedaker, Hope McLeod, Damian & Barb Pflighaar, Roy & Sandi Adger, Phil & Carol Promessi, Pat Sheffield, Bob & Pat Graven, Joe & Mary Lou Tringali, Jim & Betts Hinckley, Joe & Jackie King, and Marc Connelly.

.....
District 15
Audrey Hall, District President
.....

Our 2005 schedule has kept District 15 Auxiliary very busy with fun and fundraisers. We raised enough funds to donate \$500 to "Challenged America" and \$100 to Father Joe's Village in memory of one of our past presidents, beloved husband, and a dear friend to all of us. We will miss you, Bruce Gordon.

We joined with IOBG on the September 17th-19th raft-up and dinner at Southwestern Yacht Club.

Our ballots for 2006 were counted and the new officers are: Vice President, Liz Piazzoni; Secretary, Gerry Lounsbury; Treasurer, Liz and Gary Piazzoni, and I will be proud to serve as president for another year. We will have our installation of the new officers on October 22nd with a great dinner at Silvergate Yacht Club.

We have already started to make plans for the installation of our new members in February 2006 and we will keep you posted so that you may join us in some of the fun.



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IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

IOBG Humanitarian Foundations, Inc.

PATRON OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM

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

From the President ...George Demos

At 10:00 PM Tuesday night the phone rang..."Your flight to Palm Beach, FL via Houston, TX, has been cancelled due to Hurricane Wilma". The airports in Florida were all closed and therefore we had to try and get a flight on Thursday, one day later. So plans were made to fly into Ft. Lauderdale on Thursday and then rent a car for the 50 mile drive to West Palm Beach that night, despite a curfew that precluded driving after 9:00 PM.

There were very few street lights on, most electricity to homes was out (95%), most trees were down, debris was everywhere obstructing streets and highways, traffic lights were inoperable, and needless to say, it was precarious to drive anywhere in Florida. Nevertheless, I had to be installed as President of the IOBGHF, and I couldn't miss the remaining 2 1/2 days of convention. So, off I went by myself despite my trepidation!

I finally made it, as did many IOBG members from throughout the country and the United Kingdom. It turned out to be a marvelous gathering of Past Commodores, and alternate plans were made due to lack of buses, closed facilities, difficulty getting food, curfews, etc., but we were flexible and literally 'rolled with the punches".

While noting on T.V. and reading in the newspaper, there was a great need for volunteers to help with emergency services to provide food, supplies, water, ice, and tarps for the many thousands of people trapped in nursing homes, apartments, homes, etc. with no electricity for the past week. They needed help! So the new President of the Humanitarian Foundation and officer in the USSC reported for duty for 2 days at a distribution center (Lyte Park) near the airport in Palm Beach, FL. We filled many trucks and vans with boxes of food, bags of ice brought by large refrigerator semi-trucks, thousands of bottles of water, and tarps to cover damaged and leaking roofs, etc.

On my second day, the leader Bruce F., a remarkable man, asked if I would be a "flagman". This entailed stopping the trucks as they were coming in to pick up supplies and hold them and/or direct them to various areas in the park. I kibitzed with the drivers, asked them to be patient as lines of 20 or more trucks were common. Cars were also coming to the park to drop off people, supplies, etc.

These were a remarkable group of volunteers - all donating their time and energy to help others in need. It was truly a humanitarian gesture by all concerned. I also met a Florida elected representative, Shelly Vana, who was pleased with the efforts of the volunteers. I believe only in America would this occur at this great a magnitude - young, middle aged and older, males and females, students and businessmen, all types pulling together. It was indeed a spiritual experience and I loved it, and would have like to have stayed much longer.

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

This is the Mission Statement of the Humanitarian Foundation.

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Happy New Year from your Blue Gavel Friends...

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