

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL
An Association of Past Commodores

Volume 29 No. 4

September 2009

Mary Nye Meyers, Editor

The mission of IOBG is to recognize past commodores of the international yachting community and unite them in order to promote the highest ideals of yachting, and preserve its customs and traditions through social, educational and humanitarian programs.



2009 IOBG DIRECTORY

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ANNUAL MEETING 2009

Ray Thompson 386-445-5530

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

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President Jerry Rudd

As my term as your President is coming to a close, it has been quite an interesting year. Out of frustration came positive changes. We had a 98% return from our first mail-in ballot. From your emails and input the Executive Committee is working on new ideas and would like you to continue to communicate with any of the Flag Officers with your positive thoughts. The Bylaws Committee is hard at work making changes and recommendations and changes which will continue until they are completed.

A big hand goes to District 23 members; Francis D. Ramsey, Robert & Kay Sapita and Tower Harbour Yacht Club Commodore Rosemary Hughes for hosting one of the best Regional Meetings in a long time. They published the visit of the IOBG coming to Saugatuck/Douglas in the August 12th edition of the local paper. Bob Sapita stated "we need all the publicity in the area we can get to reinforce our efforts to increase local individual and Chapter memberships." You can read the entire newspaper article in the North Central section of this LOG.

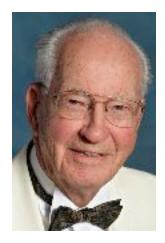
We had a total of 51 members from Districts 1-3-7-8-12-14-15-19-23-and 25 in attendance. All meetings went like clock work with good ideas and thoughts from the group. We took a group photo outside our meeting place "The Old School House", which Bob was able to have published. With that being said, Bob received a phone call from De Ramsey to say there is a new Chapter application from the Bayshore Yacht Club in Holland, Michigan... Way to go Team! One never knows, does one?



Bayshore Yacht Club Holland, Michigan

This proves that the best idea is better communication. We need your input so that we can all feel we are part of one of the greatest organizations and one big happy family with IOBG.





President Elect Ray Thompson

On August 1, 2009, I attended the reorganized District 8's summer meeting which was held at the Royal Palm Yacht Club in Ft. Myers, FL. Attendance was limited, however, it was rewarding to see and to hear the enthusiasm and concerns of these members.

A slate of officers was presented and will be voted on at the October Annual Meeting.

One topic of interest to IOBG that was discussed is the need for a new and original motto. It was suggested that perhaps a membership contest that offers a prize for the best motto might produce a very suitable one.

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Orlando Hotel at SeaWorld on October 21-25. Should members have doubts or concerns due to the misfortune of a false start, let them be assured this is a super hotel in a prime location.

We are looking forward to having productive meetings, as well as, enjoying the hotels amenities and the many surrounding attractions. With the hotel extending its reduced rates for three days prior to and after the meetings, this allows plenty of extra time to enjoy all the Orlando "Magic".

Come and Enjoy the Ride!

Rennaissance Orlando Hotel at SeaWorld http://renaissanceseaworldorlando.com



1-800-468-3571 or 407-351-5551

Discover Orlando

Discover a stunning Orlando, Florida resort hotel, boasting a prime location across from SeaWorld Orlando and near Aquatica, Discovery Cove, Walt Disney World and Universal Studios. The Renaissance Orlando, Florida SeaWorld Hotel combines the enchantment of America's favorite playground with imaginative style in an ocean-themed setting.

Let's just go through some of the highlights that you can enjoy while your in Orlando!

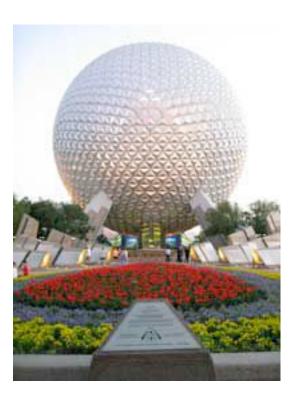
The Kennedy Space Center is a welcome break from Orlando's theme parks. Here, you'll learn the past, present, and future of space exploration. Visit the Astronaut Hall of Fame to see the largest collection of personal astronaut memorabilia ever assembled. You'll also see NASA's launching facilities, meet an astronaut,



and walk beneath the massive Saturn V rocket. Experience incredible IMAX movies and take some unique photos in the rocket garden. Discover for yourself what it takes to be an astronaut. It's history in the making.

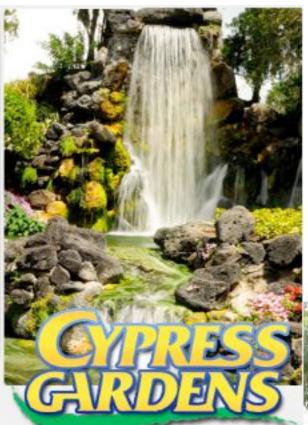
This is a place where you receive hands-on experience that is literally out of this world. The Kennedy Space Center is much different from your typical museum as it is designed to give you an inspirational, educational and extremely fun look at the Space Program.

The Kennedy Space Center is less than an hour away from most Orlando hotels. It is a 45-minute drive east, to get you to Cape Canaveral, Florida. Here, at the Kennedy Space Center, you can take a tour of the NASA facilities including actual larger-than-life shuttle launch pads.



Next stop, Epcot, the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow, opened in 1982. It was conceived by Walt Disney to "take its cue from the new ideas and new technologies that are now emerging from the creative centers of American industry. "This concept is best exemplified by Spaceship Earth, the glistening geosphere, which has become Epcot's icon. Epcot consists of two themed areas, Future World and World Future World features attractions that focus on Showcase. energy, communication, health, the land and our environment, the ocean, imagination, transportation and space exploration. Spaceship Earth traces the history of communication as it evolved The Universe of Energy humorously over the centuries. transports you back to prehistoric times to find the origin of energy, as we know it today.

Wander into the Italy Pavilion where it is a cultural area within Epcot theme park where you can experience the flavor of Italy. Enter this beautiful pavilion filled with architecture reminiscent of the city of Venice and feel the allure and romance of this remarkable locale. Find true attention to detail in the bridges, gondolas, colorful barber poles, the Neptune fountain in the central Plaza del Teatro and a stunning 83-foot version of the bell tower, Campanile of St. Mark's Square. Bon fiomo!



Enjoy the historic botanical gardens, Cypress Gardens has continued to grow much like the garden its roots were planted in more than 72 years ago.

Native plants and exotic species combine in a magnificent display creating a horticultural masterpiece across more than 30 acres. Standing sentinel in the historic gardens is the giant Banyan tree, which was plated in 1939 from a seedling during the Gardens' early years. The botanical garden's world-famous vista are complimented by the pristine wedding gazebo, where couples from around the world continue to share their vows to this very day.



Topiary Trail features a collection of colorful topiaries, including a variety of animals such as a rabbit, swan, inchworm and ladybug. The crowning gem in this trail of jewels is the waterfall, a sparkling cascade accented by brilliant floral blossoms.

The Plantation Gardens grace the manicured landscape of Snively Mansion and include the aromatic herb garden, a glorious rose garden and the butterfly garden adjoining Wings of Wonder, the Gardens' butterfly conservatory.

Or just simply embark on a narrated boat tour along the picturesque Crystal River with a team of professional manatee experts. Masks and snorkels are provided so you can swim in the home of the Florida manatees while under the guidance of certified dive masters.

Or jump on the Super Queen to go deep-sea fishing, which is the largest catamaran fishing boat on Florida's west coast. Journey up to 10 miles into the Gulf of Mexico and fish some of West Central Florida's most productive natural reefs. Expect to catch a variety of reef fish including gray snapper, sea bass and occasional grouper and perhaps even a shark.

Just have fun!!!!



Courtesy Bioinfo



First Vice President Vern Bendsen

What does Blue Gavel do for me? It brought me to beautiful Saugatuck, Michigan. Linda and I renewed friendships, met new people and potential Blue Gavel members. There were Blue Gavel members from all



sectors of the USA and Canada. It never ceases to amaze me how interesting the places are that we go for our Regional Meetings.

District 23 and Tower Harbour Yacht Club, hosted our Summer meeting at Saugatuck, Michigan. What a beautiful place! To the THYC Commodore and their members, THANK YOU for all you have done for the Blue Gavel!

If you recall, in the last issue of the LOG, I asked for input for Bylaws changes from the members via the Area Vice Presidents and the District Directors. To say the least, it was rather embarrassing to have some of our Summer meeting attendees tell me that they were not contacted by their District Director or their Chapter President about the Bylaws Changes in Progress.

If we can not communicate with each other, Officers to members, and members to Officers, how can we be an effective organization? Without our member's input, we can not grow to be the premier organization that we can be? The Executive Committee can not make decisions that are best and appropriate for the IOBG as a whole without you - the member's input.

I know that for years our members had every little to say out how and what the IOBG should do. The Executive Committee is committed to change this.

We can not make positive changes without your input. So come on; let us COMMUNICATE! COMMUNICATE!

For those of you who would like to see and get your own copy of the Bylaw Changes in Progress, click onto the IOBG web site, www.iobg.org. If you have any suggestions or comments, just click on my e-mail address.

Through all your boating activities,don't forget to 'Follow Your Rainbow'. There is always something pleasant at the end of your Rainbow.

Let me leave you with this.

I was taught to respect my elders - - - - But it keeps getting harder to find one

Meeting 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:

P/C Marybeth Thayer
IOBG Recording Secretary
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760-632-9058 Email: bethtnbillt@sbcglobal.net



Second Vice President Marc Connelly

The August meeting in Saugatuck, Michigan was not only well done but also well attended and fruitful. "Many Thanks" to Bob and Kay Sapita for their organizing efforts but above all their IOBG friendships.

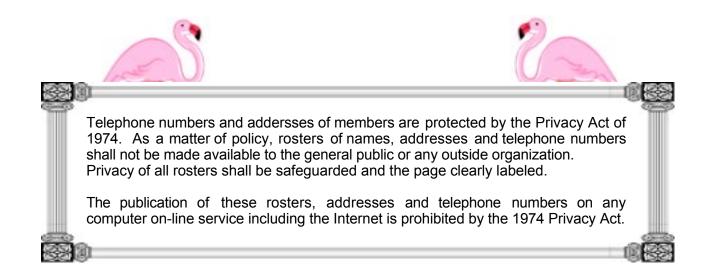
The meeting attendance provided a strong forum of discussions for items such as the 2010 budget, bylaw review and District concerns.

As the liaison to the Auxiliary, I was again privileged to spend some valuable discussion time. Big as day, our Humanitarian Foundation became the main topic of interest. The program's values, benefits and how to's were covered. "Thank You" to Audrey and the attending members of the Auxiliary.

One item that keeps popping up is receiving the LOG newsletter via email. Not only does this save your organization the printing and mailing costs but you receive it earlier, view the entire issue in full color and can save it as a download for anytime use...no more losing your copy of the newsletter. For the snowbirds this is especially beneficial. It is another mail/address change you do not have to worry about. To sign up for your email LOG newsletter delivery, simply contact Mary Nye Meyers, LOG Editor/Web Master at fire_n_ice104@hotmail.com OR the International Operations Center at bgtreas@iobg.org All requests must be received by email correspondence for verification of your email address.

Applause to 1st Vice President Vern Bendsen. Vern has logged many hours reviewing the bylaws. The benefit of the review is to identify areas to strengthen your organization and add benefits. Your ideas are always appreciated.

Kathy and I look forward to the International Annual meeting. Hopefully you have made your reservations. Since the meeting is in Florida I am sure we will welcome a large District 8 participation.





Freasurer Marshall Nemoy

The following has been excerpted from the Treasurer's Report that was presented at the Regional meeting in Saugatuck, Michigan on August 21, 2009:

As of July 31, 2009 our total assets are \$9,919 lower than at June 30, 2008. The cash in our primary bank account is down \$10,092. The primary reason for the reduction is that dues revenues are \$11,070 lower than last year. Our total liabilities are \$1,087 higher than last year however the variation is due to normal accounts payable and district dues collected for District 18. The end result is

our members' equity has been reduced \$11,006. The income statement for combined operations shows that the loss of dues revenue accounts for the differences in year-to-year and negative budget comparisons. On the expense side of the ledger we have experienced an increase over the past year in clerical services, printing, and travel. The increase in clerical hours was the result of a combination of the mail ballot project and other mailings directed by the executive committee, increased time processing dues payments from District 8 including reconciliations of member dues payments, and increased requests from district directors for data that should have been supplied by their district treasurers. The increase in printing expenses was due to the late billing of the printing of items for the Annual Meeting in Seattle last year. This late billing has been reported in previous treasurer's reports. Travel is presently \$2,696 greater than last year but \$5,709 less than budget primarily because certain area vice presidents have submitted travel reimbursement requests earlier in the year.

In spite of the reduction in cash balances, IOBG is still positioned to meet all of its foreseeable obligations with ease and will, with the continued support of the membership, continue to thrive.

Membership Statistics

For 2009 we have 2055 paid members, which is 275 less than last year. There were few surprises concerning the loss of members. District 8 had the largest loss with 222 members followed by District 25 with 39 and district 12 with 22. On the positive side District 20 gained 33 members because NEVP Chuck Browning requested the IOC to mail dues billings to the members. Another observation is that most of the membership losses came from Districts whose membership tends to spend their winters in Florida. Whatever the reasons, it appears most of the dissidents have left the organization and now we can return to the business at hand.

2010 Budget

A budget for 2010 will be discussed by the Executive Committee in detail. Once approved, the 2010 budget will be mailed to all District Directors and Officers for discussion at the District level. It is anticipated the District Directors will attend the Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida on October 24, 2009 and bring with them the thoughts of their membership. Some facts to keep in mind: Based on the year ended December 31, 2008:

98.3% of our total revenue comes from dues. Travel is 43.3% of our total revenues. Printing is 14.5% of our total revenues. Clerical services are 9.9% of total revenues. Postage is 9.3% of our total revenues. Everything else is 13.5% of total revenues.

Please feel free to contact the International Operations Center for a complete copy of the Treasurer's Report.

IOBG NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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The IOBG Nominating Committee has made the following nominations for Officers for the year 2009-2010.

The election shall take place at the Annual Meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, October 24, 2009.

The Nominations are:

President Ray Thompson, Dist. 8 (automatic as per bylaws)

President Elect Vern Bendsen, Dist. 19

First Vice President Marc Connelly, Dist. 3

Second Vice President Stephen H. Willing, Dist. 25

Immediate Past President Jerry Rudd, Dist. 1

Financial Officer Marshall Nemoy, Dist. 15

Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert, Dist. 1

Northeastern Vice President Chuck Browning, Dist. 27

Northwestern Vice President Arthur Kovarnik, Dist. 1

North Central Vice President Tom Lyon, Dist. 25

Southwestern Vice President Gary McGrath, Dist. 19
Southeastern Vice President Tom Sullivan, Dist. 8

Southeastern Vice President Tom Sullivan, Dist. 8

District 50 Director Damian Pfleghaar, Dist. 9

(East of Mississippi River)

District 51 Director Walt Kadyk, Dist. 21 (West of Mississippi River)

Respectfully Submitted:

Richard Janiszewski, Past President & Chairman Jerry Rudd, President Ray Thompson, President Elect



2009 Annual Meeting **Events Schedule**

Renaissance Orlando Hotel at SeaWorld

Sea Harbor Drive

Orlando, FL 32821

1-800-468-3571 or 407-351-5551



	<u>Time</u>	No Persons	Event Cost	<u>Total</u>
Wednesday, October 21				
Registration Hospitality Room Dinner - On Your Own	2 :00 - 5:00 PM 4 :00 - 6:00 PM Open		No Charge	
Thursday, October 22	All Meetings - Dres	ss Whites		
Registration Area VP's Round Table Discussion IOBGA - Attractions Lunch - IOBG Area VPs/Dist.Directors Round Table (cont) Hospitality Room Dinner - On Your Own	8:00 - 4:00 PM 9:00 - 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 12:00 - 1:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM 4:00 - 5:30 PM (Three Restaurants in	@ n Hotel)	\$25.00 No Charge	\$
Friday, October 23	IOBG & IOBGA Me	etings - Dress	s Whites	
Registration IOBG Pre-Meeting Discussion IOBGA Pre-Meeting Discussion Joint Lunch District #8 Meeting IOBGHF Meeting Hospitality Room Makahiki Luau Dinner Show at SeaWorld	8:00 - 4:00 PM 9:00 - 11:30 AM 9:00 - 11:30 AM 12:00 - 2:00 PM 1:00 - 4:00 PM 2:00 - 4:00 PM 2:00 - 4:00 PM 5:00 PM - ?	@	\$25.00 \$53.00	\$ \$
Saturday, October 24	IOBG & IOBGA Me	etings - Dress	s Whites	
Registration IOBG Annual Meeting IOBGA Annual Meeting Joint Lunch - Speaker District #8 Meeting (continued if necessary) GRAND BALL (Formal Dress) Dinner and Dancing Installation of Officers	8:00 - 9:00 AM 9:00 - 11:30 AM 9:00 - 11:30 AM 12:00 - 2:00 PM 2:00 - 4:00 PM 7:00 - 12:00 AM	@	\$25.00 \$68.00	\$ \$

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Sunday, October 25

IOBG Fall Regional Meeting 9:00 - 11:00 AM

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2009 Annual Meeting Mail-In Registration Form



Mail-In Reg	gistration F	orm	//
Renaissance Orla	ndo Hotel at	SeaWorld	4
6677 Sea Harbor Drive			Orlando, FL 32821
Wednesday, October 21 Hospitality Room	No Persons	Event Cost	<u>Total</u>
Thursday, October 22 Lunch - IOBG (The Renaissance Chicken Caesar)	@	\$25.00	\$
Friday, October 23 Joint Lunch (The Deli Plate)	@	\$25.00	\$
Makahiki Luau Dinner Show	@	\$53.00	\$
Saturday, October 24 Joint Lunch - Speaker (The Plated French Connection)	@	\$25.00	\$
Dinner and Dancing Installation of Officers	@	\$68.00	\$
# Persons Broiled Atlantic Salmon on Sauteed Spinach with Roasted Tomato Coulis OR Chicken Breast Stuffed with Spinach & Fontina Cheese with Mustard Cognac Sauce Dessert: White Chocolate Cheesecake with Raspberry Sauce. If there is a special diet plate that you need please contact me.			
Please call the Hotel for room reservations at 1-800-468-3571 before Sept. 25, 2009. When making your reservations mention IOBG for the special rate of \$109.00 for Single or Double This rate is also available for 3 days prior & 3 days after the conference for your leisure			
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "IOBG 2009" AND SEND THIS ENTIRE FORM TO: P/C Clifford Lewis P.O. Box 350886 Palm Coast, FL 32135			
District Number		Office Held	!
NAME		SPOUSE/GUE	ST
ADDRESS			i
STATE ZIP CODE		PHONE: ()
Spouse/Guest is a member of IOBG IOBGA			
	TOTAL	AMOUNT SUB	MITTED: \$



Shuttle To Orlando International Airport \$17.00 per person – Reservations Required

Departures from Renaissance Orlando to The Airport Reservations are required and can be obtained at the Service Desk

Should this schedule not be convenient for you, taxi service is available at any time at the bell stand.

The rate to Orlando International Airport is approximately \$55.00.

Shuttle Schedule to Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Disney's Hollywood Studios and Disney's Animal Kingdom \$16.00 per person Roundtrip – Reservations Required

<u>Departures from Renaissance Orlando</u> 7:05AM, 8:05AM, 9:05AM, 10:05AM, 3:05PM, 4:35PM

Returns begin at the following times:
Hollywood Studios 3:00PM
Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom 3:30PM
EPCOT 3:45

Returns continue hourly through 1 hour past scheduled park closing and require reservations at least 90 minutes prior to desired departure time.

For Flights Departing Between		Your Shuttle Pick up time is
5:50 AM	6:45AM	2:55AM
6:50	7:45	3:55
7:50	8:45	4:55
8:50	9:45	5"55
9:50	10:45	6:55
10:50	11:45	7:55
11:50	12:45	8:55
12:50	1:45PM	9:55
1:50PM	2:45PM	10:55
2:50	3:45	11:55
3:50	4:45	12:55PM
4:50	5:45	1:55
5:50	6:45	2:55
6:50	7:45	3:55
7:50	8:45	4:55
5:50	9:45	5:55
9:50	10:45	6:55
10:50	11:45	7:5

COMPLIMENTARY Shuttle To SeaWorld and Aquatica Universal Studios, Island of Adventure and City Walk

<u>Departures from Renaissance Orlando</u> 8:25AM, 9:25AM, 10:25AM, 3:25PM, 4:55PM, 6:25PM

> SeaWorld – 3:30PM Aquatica – 3:20PM Universal Studios – 3:15PM Island of Adventure – 3:15PM City Walk – 3:15PM through 2:15AM

Returns continue hourly through 2 hours past scheduled park closing times and require reservations

Shuttle Schedule to Downtown Disney, Blizzard Beach and Typhoon Lagoon

\$16.00 per person Roundtrip – Reservations Required

Departures from Renaissance Orlando 7:25AM, 8:25AM, 9:25AM, 10:25AM, 3:25PM, 4:55PM



US Sailing Representative Report

by Bill Thayer

This year was the 9th annual Summer Sailstice, the International Sailing Holiday held on the weekend closest to the summer solstice was sailed on 20 and 21 June. 12,000 sailors worldwide from 50 states and 20 countries were expected. By last report they far exceeded that estimate. US Sailing and its membership have been key promoters of this endeavor.

The 2008 Annual Report to Members was made available to all members in June both on the website and printed copy by mail. US Sailing has launched an on-line Member Benefits Store for members to log on and access discounts on purchases.

Bow Down Training has signed an agreement to become the official physical training of the US Sailing Team Alpha Graphics. Bow Down Training is a fitness training program geared specifically towards sailor athletes.

US Sailing and Team Alpha Graphics are promoting a "THANK YOUR RACE COMMITTEE" campaign. US Sailing Team Alpha Graphics (USSTAG) sailors represent US Sailing in sailing competition all over the world. These multi talented sailors compete on every conceivable piece of sail powered fiberglass or plywood imaginable that has a class rating.

America's Cup 12 meter charters are becoming more and more popular for group and business charters on both coasts. They bring most of us back to what America's Cup used to be.

Rule 18, Mark Rounding, in the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2009-2012 is still causing some problems. There seems to be too many interpretations of the "ZONE". It seems on triangular courses with big boats they reach the reaching mark with the main sheet trimmer with the sheet in one hand and a red flag in the other.



IOBG and IOBGA

Clothing and Accessories

Approved Vendors

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e-mail: PiersidePromos@aol.com

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Embroidery Factory

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Fax: M/W/F: (609) 698-6735
e-mail: yachtalettering@comcast.net
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Thanks for the Pictures...
Contributing LOG
photographers
for this issue...

Bob & Kay Sapita Rosemary Hughes Marybeth Thayer Phil Promessi



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

SUMMER REGIONAL MEETING

Workshop Conducted by Phil Promessi, Education & Development Officer

August 22, 2009

Saugatuck/Douglas, Michigan

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.

At the Regional meeting in Saugatuck, Michigan, I presided over a round table discussion of what the duties and responsibilities are for all Officers except the Executive Committee. After the discussion I passed out a list of questions to be answered by all that were present. The following is an example of some of the answers I received from everyone.

What good things are going on in your District?

Answers: Joint functions with chapter events

Member activities Social activities

Fundraising for the Humanitarian Foundation

Interact with other chapters

What do you do to motivate attendance?

Answers: Provide the notion that here is something of periodic interest that will be derived from

attendance.

Communicate, follow up, respond

Give members a job.

Send out notices, District newsletter.

Discuss radical topics

Getting together with friends.

Have an occasional speaker, cruises.

What problems are you having?

Answers: Lack of leadership, volunteering

Old guard is getting old. Negative feelings Attendance, turn-out. Keeping members.

Officers not taking responsibilities.

Officers not communicating.

Motivation.

Difficult to get new officers.



What can each District do to enhance communication?

Answers: Call each other.

Newsletter, send three fliers for each function, E-mail, phone tree.

Attend Chapter meetings in person.

Be active, creative, responsive, open minded.

Communicate.

More contact between districts.

Web Sites Act with civility

This problem does not seem to have a solution.

Establish a phone committee and send out flyers.

Districts should have at least one annual meeting of Area Vice President and District Directors. Put things in writing to members via e-mil, and snail mail at least three times before an event.

Better communication between Area Vice Presidents and District Directors.

What suggestions do you have to make IOBG a better organization?

Answers: Commitment

Stay tuned

Communicate, cooperate, compassion.

Have more fun.

Making Mission Statement work.

Be honest and open. More personal contacts.

Find one or two special projects and get everyone involved.

Develop people skills. Adherence to protocol, support individual chapters.

Get rid of Past Presidents that bad mouth IOBG instead of helping solve problems.

What activities does your District sponsor or participate in?

Answers: Social activities, sailing, community.

All of them.

Raising money, volunteering on local handicap boating functions and several social events.

Summer rendezvous.

Chapters have varied activities.

Fundraisers for the Humanitarian Foundation and other causes. Wine tasting events, cruise outs, BBQ's, Member Appreciation Day.

Yacht Club management seminars and spouse seminar. Sponsor certain club events.

Host annual Boating Association cocktail party.

Funeral services.

Better understanding of IOBG mission.

Other items you wish to discuss.

Answers:

Titles of officers.

How to make IOBG a better organization.

Meetings should include a speaker, not just business.

Interest in having a District Web Page with a link to Chapters and International site.

The importance and mission of IOBG.

Eliminate members who bad mouth the organization and are detrimental to the organization.

Has this discussion and activity been of help to you as a member of IOBG?

Answers:

Yes.

No, same old, same old.

Yes, if we had a full day to throw around ideas.

No, it is repetitive, has been done before, several times.

It has shown me that we need more work.

It has been repeated a lot.

Let's see!!

Very helpful, made me write down the good things we do in Dist. 7.

Yes. If members would send in reports and let everyone know what is going on.

Yes, it is always good to compare and use other Districts' idea.

According to the above answers, it can be concluded that at every Regional Meeting the same subjects are discussed and we always get the same answers. This is because the very same people always attend these meetings. The seminars are meant to be informative to the new members that attend. It is assumed that every new year produces a new Director to represent the District. It seems that we are not getting the attendance from the new Directors that we should, so those that have attended all the meetings get bored with the same old discussions. However; at this meeting there were two members that attended for the first time and they felt that the seminar was very informative and requested copies of the transcript.

In conclusion, I feel that if these discussions can benefit two new members it has been worthwhile because they can now go back to their Districts and be well informed as to what their duties and responsibilities are.

We keep discussing the same old issues, but it seems that there are certain areas that never get accomplished either because the information is not getting back to the Districts, or they are receiving misinformation from their officers or none at all.

We must all work together to make this organization move forward.

VACATION TIME FOR IOBG SUPPLY OFFICE

Finally a vacation for the able bodied workers Commodore Insignia. IOBG Supply Officer Earl Hohlmayer is sending Dixie and her husband Sandy to Greece on the Oceania cruise line ship -The Nautica. Dixie (the Greek) and Sandy have been working hard keeping the IOBG supply office in excellent condition.

Commodore Insignia will be closed between October 15 -November 2, 2009. There will be no shipping of products. Order early for items you might need for the 2009 ANNUAL MEETING in Orlando, Florida this October 21-25, such as ties cummerbunds belts, etc.

CUSTOM made items, ie IOBG Blazer Emblems, IOBG Name Tags and Shoulder Epaulets take 4 to 5 weeks for delivery, again place custom orders early if you need them in October! Place custom orders in by August.



(775) 782-3380

(800) 315-7485 Fax: (775) 782-4003

We are working on an IOBG logo patch for shirts or hats

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Email: Comsignia@aol.com www.commodoreinsignia.com

Quantity



IOBG Blazer emblems are authorized for sale by Commodore Insignia. These emblems have the Blue Gavel Burgee on the left staff and the Commodore's club on the right staff. They are available in a white or black background and the price is \$20.95 each plus shipping and tax.

BLAZER EMBLEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE AUXILIARY

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

White

Unit Price

Total

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	i	1	1	1		
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I am a paid up member of IOBG District #YachtClubYear						
Sig	nature	Ship to	:			
The above will be verified.						
Member will be billed for emblems when shipped.						
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Email Addresses:						



Worthwestern V.P.

Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 & 24

Art Kovarnik

District 1
Mary Nye Meyers, Director

On August 20-23, Jerry, Jackie and I attended the Summer Regional Meeting held in Saugatuck/Douglas, Michigan. It was fun, as well as, productive. From the IOBG visit and the publicity from the local newspaper, we actually welcomed a new Chapter into the organization - The Bayshore Yacht Club in Holland, Michigan. You can read the entire news article about the Blue Gavel in the North Central section of this LOG. It made me proud to be a member of IOBG.

Thank you to District 23. They truly overwhelmed us with their graciousness and organization. The friendships that were formed again shows us that IOBG is indeed a "family of friends".

The 35 members of District 1 returned from the '2009 Okanogan Invasion', hosted by our Canadian friends in District 24, with reports that fun was had by all. Through our shared meetings and social activities, District 1 continues to strengthen the growing bond between the U.S. and Canadian Districts. We are looking forward to the 2010 Okanogan Invasion.



Our Fall 'Change of Watch' meeting will be held on September 19 and is hosted by Des Moines Yacht Club in Des Moines, Washington.. Bob Weber will be installed as the new District 1 President and Jim Hinckley will be the new District Director. We anticipate 15 new Past Commodores will be joining our District at the meeting.

Plans have been announced for the Spring meeting to be held on April 15-17, 2010 at Clover Island Yacht Club in Kennewick, Washington. Rumors are that the theme is Mexican Fiesta so get your sombraro, throw on your serape, and come join the fun.

I am planning to attend the District 5 Annual meeting when the event date is determined. Ira Nies, Bob Gedde and A-net Crawford of District 5 are making the arrangements and will contact everyone when the date is set. I am looking forward to seeing all our District 5 friends again.

This will be my last report as District Director. My many thanks to District 1's Board and members for keeping me informed of all the activities and ideas that make District 1 such an incredible District. Thank you for your support and friendship.



Southwestern V.SP.

Districts 6, 10, 11,14,15,16, 19, 21 Larry Draper



District 14
Lenworth Gordon, President

Greetings from District 14, Northern California. We are located in the San Francisco immediate Bay Area extending north to the mouth of the Delta and Marin County.

I am honored to make this report on behalf of our Director Shirley Ahlf, who I have been told, has been suffering from some acute bronchial problem associated with a severe flu.

District 14 has, and continues to participate in most all the areas of organized boating events in the Greater Bay Area. Our contributions are noted locally and nationally. Recognizing such valor and selfless contributions is paramount in our efforts to reward our members, but more importantly, to emphasize their integrity and honor them for their good works, helps create the relationship and nurture the IOBG's mandate in fellowship

Our Fog Log, June 2009 newsletter will illuminate a small window into the participation with several activities in the Spring of 2009, to include; our induction of a new IOBG Chapter at Marin Yacht Club. They followed up with major contributions at the Summer Solstice event at Treasure Island Yacht Club.

District 14
Lenworth Gordon, President

Continued...

We continue this notion through a new format event "Coming Together" on September 20, 2009 at the Berkeley Yacht Club. This reception is an opportunity to formally reintroduce our mission to our mission while introducing other worthy Past Commodores to the opportunity for service beyond their individual Clubs and, increase our numbers within District 14.

Among the activities we look forward to this Summer and Fall is the Wheelchair Regatta. This is a standing event presented by the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA) and is hosted by Encinal Yacht Club. This high profile event brings our local veterans out of their isolation once a year to a day on the San Francisco Bay which concludes with a lavish BBQ at Encinal Yacht Club. The local Fire Department assists with logistics, embarkation and disembarkation of the veterans on board vessels volunteered by members of several Yacht Clubs throughout the Greater Bay Area.

The youth are also catered to with our Youth Regattas, other education and recreational activities supported in part or whole by members and Chapters of District 14.

District 15 Linda Loftis, Dist. Director

This has been a hectic summer with yacht club constructions and plenty of cruising and racing events taking place.

Oceanside Yacht Club has been a go-getter in supporting all coastal and charity racers and Bryon Jessup keeps coming through with events for their IOBG members.

The member directories were mailed out and a big thank you to Jeanne Irwin for completing this project. Everyone has been thrilled with the book.

I have received several canvas boating bags to pass out for members, after filling out a California waterways questionnaire. I plan to offer the extra bags to the Youth programs in a Water Safety Class this fall.

Santa Margarita Yacht Club had its annual Staff Commodore's luncheon and an IOBG member meeting after the event. A 50/50 raffle was held and Chuck King graciously donated his winnings back to the IOBG chapter for Opening Day champagne.





District 19
Gary McGrath, District Director

It has been a very busy summer for District 19 beginning with a BBQ at Vice President Herman Meyers ranch. Although the temperature was in triple digits, we had a great turnout. Herman served a great prime rib with all the trimmings and there was enough libations of all kinds to keep everyone cool or otherwise sedated. Herman has a large pool and even with the triple digits only a few people waded in, although I did expect a few would unexpectedly take a dip, no one did. Herman has livestock wandering the property and as we were leaving the road was blocked by this big bull cow in no hurry to go anywhere. I honked, he stared and chewed, I honked again and he stared again this went on for about 8 minutes and I guess he finally got tired of my honking so he wandered off to greener pastures.



Our next get together was at Windmill Cove Harbor for our member appreciation and nominations for the upcoming Officers. It was at this meeting that our IOBG Auxiliary donated \$4000.00 to the Girl Sea Scouts. We had a mix up on our nominating committee so our nominations will be announced next meeting in September.

In August, John Anthony and his wife Lucy hosted a Lobster dinner fundraiser for Vern Bendsen's 2010 inauguration. It was held at his Driftwood Yacht Club and was very well attended. We had a turnout of about 80 members and the food was great. We owe John and Lucy a thank you and a very well done.

Well the next issue is the Summer Regional which I did not attend but that's not a District item anyway, so for now that is my report. I will see you all at the Annual Meeting in Orlando.



Worth Central V. P.

Districts 7, 9, 23, 25

Francis D. Ramsey



District 23
Bob Sapita, President

It was wonderful meeting and spending time with the Blue Gavel members. The article below was printed in the August 12th issue of THE HOLLAND SENTINEL Newspaper. I wanted to share it with all of you.

Just a note - when all the accounting was done we were able to make a \$200 contribution to the local Historical Society for the use of the Old School House and a modest contribution including a new American flag to the Library for using their annex building. This was made possible in part because of your generous contribution to refreshments for the welcoming reception. Thank you again!

Yacht Club Commodores in Saugatuck The Holland Sentinel Newspaper, Holland, Michigan By JIM HAYDEN

You'll know they're in town. The shoulder epaulets and pocket emblems on the blue blazers will be the tip-off. About 35 past yacht club commodores from the United States and Canada will be in Saugatuck and Douglas as part of the summer Regional meeting of the International Order of the Blue Gavel Aug. 20-23.

"The IOBG Chapter at Tower Harbour Yacht Club is relatively new, having been founded in 2008, but we agreed to take it on," said Bob Sapita, President of District 23, which includes upper and western Michigan.

CONTINUED on next page...

Yacht Club Commodores in Saugatuck - Continued...

District Director Francis D. Ramsey, a Michigan native who recently moved to Florida, suggested the West Michigan area for the meeting. Ramsey, who was born in Detroit and is a past commodore of the Mackinaw Yacht Club, is familiar with the Saugatuck-Douglas area.

"Being from Michigan, I thought of Saugatuck-Douglas because it was a new club," he said.

The International Order of the Blue Gavel was formed more than 50 years ago to unite past commodores to promote the ideals of yachting and preserve it customs and traditions, according to the group's web site.

As part of that mission, Sapita developed an electronic presentation called "Nautical Flag Etiquette." "The presentations focuses on the correct way to fly the U.S. flag, foreign nation flags ... private flags, signal flags, etc. on both power and sail boats," he said.

It's available on the Web sites of the yacht club and the Blue Gavel site.

"We try to educate the public to the proper ways of boating," Ramsey said.

Participants will be meeting in different locations in Saugatuck and Douglas, including the Old School House, Everyday People Cafe, Coral Gables, Mount Baldhead Park and the Star of Saugatuck.

Tower Harbour Yacht Club was founded in 1983 at Tower Marine in Douglas and hosts youth sailing programs and races. Its clubhouse was once used a chicken coop before it was renovated.

District 25
Lois Conte, Dist. Director

Greetings from District 25

Now that Summer has finally arrived, the Chapters of District 25 have been busy with their different fundraisers to contribute to our local humanitarian charities.



Although our membership numbers are down this year, we are happy to welcome a new Chapter to District 25 **Grayhaven Sail Club of Detroit** obtained through the work of VP Jack Berry from Great Lakes Steel Boat Club. Welcome Aboard!



President Elect Russell Skitch and I have been listening to some of the concerns from members that did not renew their dues this past year and an all out effort will be taking place in our District this upcoming year to get our numbers back up.

This past week, 08/07/09, one of our past VP's Frank Starkolit, sailed his last voyage. He will certainly be missed.

President Elect Russ Skitch and Past District Director, Tom Lyon from the District attended the meeting in Saugatuck. We are certainly looking forward to their feed back.

In closing, I had a chance to attend the IOBG Cocktail Party hosted with Districts 9 and 7 for 2009 I-LYA Powerboat Regatta. I had a great time, met some really wonderful people and had a chance to renew some old friendships.

Page 25



Districts 3, 12, 20, 26, 27

Chuck Browning

District 3 members at the Summer Regional Meeting in Saugatuck, Michigan, August 22, 2009



District 3

District 3 is still in shock following the loss of Past President Art Theobald and his wife Betty. No, Art and Betty did not go to the great beyond they pulled up stakes and relocated to sunny Florida. Art was their strongest supporter for many years with Betty at his side. Everyone wishes them the best in their new adventure.

In spite of record low temps and record high rainfall, the clubs have been active. Niagara Sailing Club hosted a very successful week of junior sailing. P/Cs Frank White, Chuck Meyer & Doug Meyer headed the program. Buffalo Yacht Club hosted a J-22 National Regatta with Lake Erie providing spirited sailing. Youngstown Yacht Club again hosted the famous Levels Regatta. Buffalo Launch Club hosted a general membership summer party. The boating part had to be cancelled because of the weather; however, P/C Paul Schneeberger and his wife Sue were still able to provide everyone with a good time.

District 12

District 12 is sponsoring a fundraiser for the Friends of Southern Sailing, a 501 3c foundation which supports the local high school sailing team. They received a challenge grant of \$1500 from the Humanitarian Foundation for 2009, so FOSS needs to raise a total of \$3,000 this year. They hope to make up a substantial portion of that \$3,000 with this event. The fundraiser is scheduled for August 27 and will be held at the Brant Beach Yacht Club on Long Beach Island, NJ

The District 12 Annual meeting is scheduled for September 18th and will be held at the Little Harbor Yacht Club on Long Beach Island.

District 26

District 26 is very strong with a lot going on. Congratulations you got your web site up and running, www.iobgd26.org

District 27

District 27 scheduled their quarterly meeting at the Eastern Yacht Club, where they will appoint their nominating committee for 2010. The IOBG Bush River Yacht Club Chapter volunteered to sponsor the IOBG International Summer Meeting in 2010.

Bush River Yacht Club held their Annual Veterans Dinner and Cruise on Friday 14, August 2009. After dinner members of the yacht club volunteer their time and boats to take Veterans for a boat ride on the Bush River. They also held another dinner meeting where they nominated their new officers for 2010.

District 51
Linda Loftus, District Director

The District 51 members have been contacted regarding the proposed Winter Regional meeting in 2010. Houston IOBG members will be kept abreast of future developments.

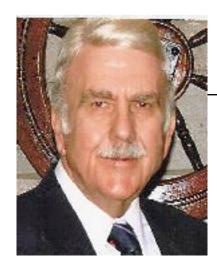
Thanks to Jerry Rudd for helping to carry through on this task and personally contacting some of the District 51 members.

I sent some cards out for a Happy 4th of ^{July} to all District members, and hopefully they will renew their dues and keep in touch with everyone.

I plan to be in Texas accompanying my husband on a dove hunt in September and look forward to visiting the Houston and Austin areas. Dennis and I both will enjoy the Texas wildlife and waterways.







Southeastern V.SP.

Districts 8 & 18 Tom Sullivan

It is my pleasure to once again introduce the new slate that has been proposed for District 8's Annual Meeting (to be held in conjunction with the International Meeting) on Oct. 21 - 24, 2009, in Orlando, Florida. All new Officers will be elected at this meeting and take their offices at the same time; except the District Director who is on a calendar year basis (Jan. 1, 2010----Dec. 31, 2010).

The Nominations are:

District Director	A. Lee Clifford
District President	Thomas "Joe" Dowdell
Vice President	Francis D. Ramsey
Treasurer	Robert Pease
Secretary	A.R. Theobald
Legal Officer	John A. Schultz
Gulf Stream Editor	Harvey Sussel

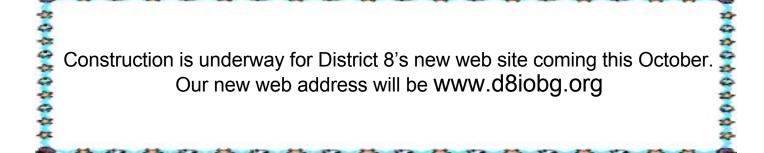
It is an interesting mix of quality people who have stepped forward to lead District 8. PCs Clifford, Dowdell & Schultz are all Attorneys. PC Lee Clifford has also been District 8 President and Dist. Director and PC John Schultz currently serves as Venice YC Chapter President.

PC De Ramsey was the Dockmaster at Mackinac Island (MI) for seventeen years and is a PC of Mackinac Island Yacht Club. De has also been the International's North Central Vice President.

PC Bob Pease is a Civil Engineer who also owns a Trucking Business in Ft. Myers. Recently coming aboard we are proud to have Past International President Art Theobald who is a Past President and currently serves the International as Historian.

Also being nominated is Past President Harvey Sussel who will be serving once again as The Gulf Stream Editor.

Talent & experience like this deserves not to be wasted.



On December 18, 2008, all of the Officers in District 8 resigned from the President on down, including appointed positions. The Officers then immediately formed another commodore association, and encouraged all Chapter members to join them. They also incorporated an International Commodores Association, citing unhappiness with the future direction of IOBG as the reason. The Executive Committee accepted the resignations and demanded all the former Officers to turn over all District 8 records and funds by letter December 31, 2008.

In mid-February President Jerry Rudd came to Florida and with the guidance of Southeastern Vice President Tom Sullivan met with representatives from several District 8 Chapters. An interim slate of officers was proposed, and an election to get a President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer to take control of the headless District 8 was held. A ballot was sent to all remaining District 8 members, but this election was immediately stamped as "illegal" by the opposition. The newly elected officers, Lee Clifford, Joe Dowdell and Bob Pease, were unable to get any of the District 8 funds from the former Treasurer until late April, 2009. District 8 had to borrow money from International to hold the election and get an issue of our District publication, "The Gulfstream" printed and mailed. Past President Harvey Sussel took the reins and got the ballots mailed and the Gulfstream edition setup, printed and mailed.

By May, we received the balance of funds in the Treasury, and one box of financial records. However, despite repeated requests, we still have not received any other records. Completely missing are prior minutes, contracts, reports, files, notes, programs, or correspondence. We are completely in the dark. We lost our web site. The web master kept the domain name and ignored all requests to transfer it back to District 8.

After numerous demands and due to the persistence of our supply officer Bob Shogren, we finally received, on July 18, a box of supplies belonging to District 8.

The upheaval caused us to suffer a large drop in membership, down to 270 from 490. Despite the loss, District 8 remains the largest district and we are optimistic we can recover a lot of these lost members in 2010.

Our own President Elect Ray Thompson was affected by the dissention. He had no support from District 8's former leadership. Fundraising for the Annual convention for the incoming President usually starts a year or more in advance. That was lost when District 8's leadership refused to help and Ray's Annual meeting committee all resigned.

Make no mistake; District 8 now wholeheartedly supports Ray Thompson. Financial support may be limited, but we plan to attend the convention in Orlando in large numbers. This is now the focus of our efforts and we ask everyone to join us to ensure the Annual meeting turns into a success story.





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 contibutor will be awarded a distinctive "action for life" pin which signifies their status as a patron of the foundation.

"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.

"Friends of Southern Sailing" (FOSS) is a group of high school students who received a Humanitarian Foundation grant for safety equipment. Funds were raised by FOSS (students and parents) and District 12's Past Commodores and Auxiliary from Long Beach Island, New Jersey.



Chairman of the Board

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International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary





I greet you as President of IOBGA 2009, one last time.

Our Summer meeting in Saugatuck/Douglas, Michigan on August 20 to August 23 again proved what IOBGA is all about. Everyone from the Tower Harbour Yacht Club was so helpful and friendly. They made our visit very exciting and difficult for us to leave. A special thank you to all of you from all us.

Our Webmaster Mary Nye Meyers has been working to make our web site more exciting and informative. It could be more exciting if more members would contribute items to the site because this is a great way for all our members to stay in touch with each other. There may be some events that will get your attention and join in their fun. Thank you Mary so much.

My Board has been my left and right hand all year. Let me introduce them one more time:

President Elect Lucy Anthony Vice President Ann Knies Secretary Deanna Tomei Treasurer Susan Sullivan Immediate Past President Pat Janiszewski Senior Past President Pat Graven

A special thanks to all the Directors and Committee Chairpersons:

Betty Hinckley Deanna Tomei Sue Young

A special thank you to our IOBG representative, Mark Connelly for his support and information.

A special thank you to someone that has been there when I needed help and cheer, Jacquelyn Evans Rudd A special thank you for his wisdom, Jerry Rudd

A special thank you to my husband, Gary Hall for always being there to give me the support that I needed.

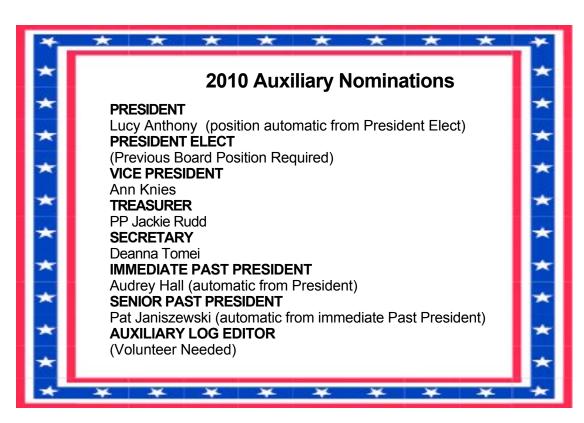
I know there are many more IOBGA people that have been there for us this year and I thank you and wish you the very best holiday and a great and exciting 2010.

Please continue to support us and join in as many activities as you can. I will do my best to attend the meetings in 2010 and get to spend some quality time with all of you.

I have attended all the Regional Meetings and I will attend the Annual Meeting and "Change of Watch" in Orlando, Florida on October 21st. There are many great events planned by Ray and Dorothy Thompson along with his committee and I hope to attend as many events as I can. Our congratulations to Ray Thompson who will be IOBG's next President. I hope that I will get a chance to meet many of my old friends and I am hoping that I will make many new friends.

Speaking of "Change of Watch", please consider sending in a request to fill any position listed (not listed as automatic) as many jobs **do not** require travel/attendance at meetings, can be done from home, and your participation would be a great help to the IOBGA. I have listed the nominations for 2010 Officers with the formal election of Officers to be held at the Annual Meeting. Your membership must be current for you to vote.

This has been one guick and exciting year, thanks to all of our members for the ride.



Auxiliary members at the August 22nd Summer Regional Meeting in Saugatuck/Douglas, Michigan



Vice President
Ann Knies

District 12 and District 19 have had a very busy summer. With the Fall season coming we need to find the time to get together to continue the "fun and fundraising".

We will start off with a brunch at the Berkeley Yacht Club on September 19th. This will give us the opportunity to plan for the winter season and the upcoming holidays.

We are set for the Wheelchair Regatta (veterans) at Encinal Yacht Club and our famous Pig Feed at the Treasure Island Yacht Club should be another success.

Northwest Regional Report
Betty Hinckley, District 1 President/ Director

The All Club Invasion at Westbank Yacht Club was held on July 10, 11 and 12 with the theme, "Christmas in July"! District 1 was well represented. Coming by motorhome were the Parishes, Mike and Roxanne; the Eifferts, Al and Mary; the Hinckleys, Jim and Betts, along with their guest, Lou

Carpenter; the Minekes, Rod and Laurene; the Lightles, Lani and Lee, who all met at the confluence of the Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers in Wenatchee on July 8, 2009. Bocci Ball was enjoyed in the park.

The next day on the 9th of July, the Fletchers, Ken and Karen; the Boeckmans, Paul and Paula; and the Hughes, Marion and Gerva along with their granddaughter, Kendal, joined the others at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds in their motorhomes to rendezvous with Mary and Wally Hill who live in Omak, Washington. The Quimbys, Ken and Lynne, brought their boat and got there in time for a delicious Burger Burn! The Marquardts, Ullie and Peggy, Sissy Longthorpe, and Ken Bjorge and Barb McCundy drove in from Spokane, Seattle, and Vancouver, BC; respectively, to join us in Westbank, BC the next day. The get acquainted time began with Feliz Navidad featuring Mexican Apples on Friday evening. The clubhouse, which is the ferry: "Pendozi", was decorated in the Christmas theme throughout with Christmas music filling the air. Saturday morning we were treated to a wonderful breakfast before we went wine tasting at Quails' Gate and Mission Hill wineries.

At one o'clock everyone purchased their number of poker hands desired and jumped on the boats of the members of Westbank, Kelowna, Summerland and Peachland Yacht Clubs. A four-hour cruise along the beautiful shores of Lake Okanogan began with everyone searching the Suncruiser maps to unlock the clues to find the five Festive boats on the water. Each boat passed out a card to eventually make up your poker hand, along with a jelloshooter, or candy cane, or Rudolph's "carrot"! Dinner and Dancing began at 6:30 PM-A real Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings! Jim Hinckley, District 1 President, performed the marriage (for the duration of the Invasion) of Yvonne Crawford and Kevin Kanerva with the maid-of-honor dressed up like a Christmas tree! John presented Jim with a birthday cake for his 67th birthday on July 11th. The band was excellent! At intermission, each group of 10 dressed their "Santa" with supplies provided! Crazy-looking Santas emerged! The "newlyweds", Yvonne Kevin, descended on the motorhomes early on Sunday morning as Nurse and Doctor with special medicine for their RECOVORY!

All enjoyed a "Goodbye" Breakfast. Some of our group stayed for a few days to enjoy the lake, while others took another route home to see the countryside of southern British Columbia along the Kettle River. We always have a wonderful time with our neighbors north of the border and are looking forward to next year's Okanogan Invasion.

District 15
Judy Longfellow, President

District 15 Auxiliary is planning their Change of Watch with the main body on October 3rd. There will be a great Oktoberfest meal for \$18. There will also be a chance to win great prizes and the monies raised will go to RBOC (Recreational Boaters Of California) RBOC is a dedicated group who go to the

California capital to try to stop ridiculous restrictions on our boaters. They have been very successful and they work for only what we as boaters can raise for them. It should be a fun event with a chance to visit with old and new friends.

Blazers and gray is the uniform of the day. Please join with us at Silver Gate Yacht Club and the person to contact is VP Eileen Van Winkle at evanwinkle@sbcglobal.net November 6th will be great fun and a fundraising event for the Auxiliary and all are invited. There will be a nice size bus with snacks and prizes along the way to one of our local casinos. This casino has many great shops surrounding it and we plan to do some early Christmas shopping. Email jlongfellow.@aol.com for more information. Hope to see some of you there.

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