

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL  
PRE-ANNUAL GENERAL DISCUSSION/INFORMATION SESSION

WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Vern Bendsen at 9:00 A.M. at the Art Gallery of Windsor in the Betty Wilkinson Room on Friday, October 14, 2011.

The following individuals:

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

President	Vern Bendsen	District 19
President Elect	Stephen Willing	District 25
First Vice President	Chuck Browning	District 27
Second Vice President	Gary McGrath	District 19
Treasurer	Marshall Nemoy	District 15
Executive Secretary	Mary Eiffert	District 1

Mr. President there is a quorum.

PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS:

Louis Key	2000	District 7
Marion Hughes	2002	District 1

ATTENDEES & GUESTS:

DISTRICT 1:

Log Editor & Alternate District Director Mary Nye Meyers    Member Roxanne Parish  
Past NWVP Mike Parish    Guest Al Eiffert

DISTRICT 5:

District Director Ron Timmerman

DISTRICT 7:

North Central Vice President Joe Kay    District Director Tony Durieux  
Past North Central Vice President Debbie Banks-Skellenger

DISTRICT 8:

SEVP Thomas "Joe" Dowdell

DISTRICT 10:

District Director George Demos

DISTRICT 11:

District Director Rosalie Davis-Green    Alternate District Director Gary Green

DISTRICT 14:

Legal Officer George Knies    District Director Lenworth Gordon

DISTRICT 15:

District Director Eileen VanWinkle    Past District Director Gary Hall    US Sailing Rep. Bill Thayer  
Recording Secretary Marybeth Thayer

DISTRICT 16:

Protocol Officer Marsha Landreth

DISTRICT 19:

US Coast Guard Auxiliary Rep. Larry Draper    Alternate District Director John Anthony  
Member Linda Bendson    Member Estella McGrath    District 19 IOBGA President Susan Meyer  
District Director Herman Meyer

DISTRICT 25:

District President Bill Woods    Member Ralph Pennybacker

DISTRICT 27:

North Eastern Vice President Robert Howe

DISTRICT 50:

District Director Damian Pflughaar

President Vern Bendsen welcomed everyone and informed all what would be happening tomorrow at the Annual Meeting and passed out the Agenda for today's General Discussion/Information Meeting. President Vern Bendsen proceeded to introduce each speaker and their subject.

1. FLAG ETIQUETTE SOLUTION

First Vice President Chuck Browning discussed thoroughly the proper way to fly the flags on a flagpole. One of the best descriptions of this is in the 2010 Power Squadron Book, it show every flag and how to fly it on the pole. He read from the Power Squadron Book answers to the most asked questions. Passed out a flyer of what and how a flag should be on a pole.

2. MEMBERSHIP RETENTION AND EXPANSION

President Elect Stephen Willing first gave information on what would be happening today and tomorrow night, times schedule and transportation to the Ball.

President Elect Stephen Willing discussed some of his ideas for members and future members of IOBG. In 1953 it started as THE BLUE GAVEL and in 1955, when Canada joined was when we became the INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL.

Sometimes a Past Commodore stops participating in his or her club, because their participation had be received as interfering. That is one of the reasons IOBG started. It is okay to express your opinion without usurping the authority of your club.

To get the future Past Commodore, get them to think of their next step not as a past Commodore but as the next IOBG Member. You can download the application form from the Website [www.iobg.org](http://www.iobg.org). Any District Officer should have applications in their car or boat ready to give the application to your District Chapter filled out with the amount of IOBG Membership and District dues.

District 7 has a get together every year for Commodores, Vice Commodores and spouses to introduce them to IOBG, with a little wine and cheese. It has been very successful and the membership of District 7 has grown.

We assume everyone knows who we are and that is not the case. We have been losing Membership in the past few years for a number of reasons. We should be out there talking about IOBG and at different boating functions with us showing our IOBG badges.

One problem is we can't assume that every Past Commodore will be invited in by their Chapter and we can't be sending out applications in general. The District Director should contact each chapter and send it to them if they ask for the application.

We have to show our members and the future members what IOBG can do, that IOBG members learning from each other some ideas of what would help their District. Cutting a Regional Meeting is hard to do, right now we are holding our own, but I see no reason why we can't improve this year with new members, we just have to get out there and show what we are about.

Discussion followed.

In District 15 a seminar was put together to help it's Clubs do better in management, twelve years later other Districts are using that format to help in their area. This is a good one to help our Clubs. We invited all Boards members to the seminar.

President Elect Stephen Willing asked if you think of more or interesting ideas let him know.

### 3. HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

IOBGHF President Bob Howe discussed that when he took over, he was asked to explain what we do, why do we do it, how do we do it and where the money goes. That is why we are opening up the meetings to all. Yesterday we voted to send to New Zealand \$5000.00. This happened without a lot of paperwork around it. We are going to pre-approve projects that meet our standards. This will help the District to discuss the project coming up and getting funds from the members to help. It doesn't mean all will go to that project we need funds coming into IOBGHF. Everyone who sends in funds will receive a letter of thank you. This evening at the Club we will have a short film to show what the FOUNDATION does. Will be glad to talk to anyone one on one.

### 4. LOG

Marshall Nemoy discussed a situation that came up at yesterdays meeting by President Vern Bendsen of having a list of Husband/Wife BG Members put on a list in the LOG on the left side to click on to see the list.

He asked the group what they thought. Discussion followed. There were many pros and cons about doing the list. One of the things that came out of the discussion was that is a dynasties in the Commodore line reaching as far down to grandchildren. This was interesting to find out. This idea of the list of Husband/Wife BG Members will go back to the Board to discuss further.

### 5. LIGHTHOUSE

Mary Nye Meyers and Marshall Nemoy discussed The LIGHTHOUSE workings. This is a short and brief version of different events upcoming in any District or Chapter of IOBG. Anyone can send information on their event to IOC office. Every issue that goes out, we can tell who opens it and who hasn't. Right now it is about half the membership opens the E-Mail. This lets every member know what is going on in the different areas of IOBG. We need a brief introduction of future events and it takes about a month to get it out. For those members who do not have an E-Mail address, the District or Chapter can print it out for them.

Mary Nye Meyers announced that the deadline for the LOG is October 29, 2011.

It was decided that those members who want a hard copy will cost per member \$10.00 a year. We have cut our budget to the bone and if this is hard for some members to do, the District or Chapter could print it out for them. Remember all of the LOGS and LIGHTHOUSES are on the Website.

President Elect Stephen Willing discussed turning this negative into a positive if some members want a Hard Copy, have the District print it out for them for free.

## 6. BUDGET

Treasurer Marshall Nemoy discussed the summary of the 2012 Budget. It was prepared at the direction of the President Elect with consultation by the Executive Committee and utilizing financial data supplied by Treasurer.

No increase in dues is recommended for 2012.

The budget will be discussed in detail today and at the Annual Meeting and voted upon at the Annual Meeting. Explained in detail where the revenue is coming from and the expenses we have to deal with in the coming year.

Any question? Debbie Banks-Skellenger asked about the travel expense to the Regional Meetings in Portland, OR. Answer: there are no funds going to the Royal Rosarian Events, if you go to any of them you paid your own way.

The travel allowance goes to the Executive Committee, Recording Secretary, Legal Officer, and LOG Editor. It is regulated by the U. S. Government regulations for the air fare, per diem for Hotel (each city is listed, and Canada has their form) and \$100.00 for transportation. No funds goes to the spouse.

Next question was about the expense of the office rent.

President Vern Bendsen explained it this way, think about renting just an office space with nothing in it. You couldn't rent a space for the amount that is being charged for our International Operations Center per year.

The only funds for each meeting goes for travel and all paid for their own food and entertainment.

Report Submitted.

## 7. COMMUNICATION

President Vern Bendsen discussed his first times going to some Regional Meetings and using it as vacation time you will go to some interesting places and meet some good people.

There are many ways to communicate with our membership by personal contact, phone, snail mail and internet.

Try Them All!

Have fun doing your job. More members will see your enthusiasm and join with you.

President Elect Stephen Willing discussed the expenses of holding this meeting and explain that District 25 is handing the cost of renting Meeting Rooms for three days and many items to numerous to say.

The 2012 Winter Regional Meeting will be held February 3-5, 2012 in Ocean Springs, MS. This is a new area for IOBG and it should be a lot of fun.

President Vern Bendsen announced 9:00 A.M. tomorrow for the Annual Meeting. In ten (10) minutes I will have an Executive Committee meeting with Joel Kay, Mary Nye Meyers and Herman Meyer attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marybeth Thayer  
Recording Secretary