

International Order of the Blue Gavel

Spring Regional Meeting

Portland Yacht Club

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Call to Order: The Spring Regional Meeting was called to order by President Rosalie Davis-Green on June 8, 2017 at 11:00 A.M. PDT.

Pledge of Allegiance: President-Elect Tony Durieux led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Executive Committee Present: President Rosalie Davis-Green, Immediate Past President Joe Dowdell, President Elect Tony Durieux, Treasurer Marshall Nemoy, Executive Secretary Mary Eiffert. Absent: First Vice President Bud Higginson, Second Vice President Sherry Barone. A quorum was present. Appointed Officers Present: Legal Officer Gary Green, Recording Secretary Marsha Landreth. AVPs Present: Northwestern Vice President Lani Lightle, Southwestern Vice President Kathleen Smith. Absent: North Central Vice President Mark Vadaj, Southeastern Vice President Robert "Buzz" Bisanz, and Northeastern Vice President Steve Tisack.

Introduction of IOBG International Past Presidents: Joel Kay, Joe Dowdell

Self-Introductions: Steve Adkins, Liz Allison, Roger Beebe, Jim Martinson, Bill McKinney, Mary Nye Meyers, Jack Michael, Roxanne Parish, and Ron Timmerman

Workshop: Rosie turned the meeting over to AVP Kathleen Smith to conduct a workshop. Kathy assigned groups for discussions about gaining and retaining members, IOBG's image, and developing future leaders.

Summary of ideas:

Group A: Personal contact of dormant chapters and lapsed members is important. Send out invitations to potential new members to events.

Group B: Mentorship one-on-one. Take prospective members to a function.

Group C: Need strong community charitable involvement and visibility. Member appreciation events. Individual phone calls.

Group D: Communication is the most important. Charitable involvement is also important.

Presentation: President Rosalie Davis-Green thanked Portland Yacht Club for co-hosting the IOBG Regional Meeting and presented the club with a plaque.

Executive Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Marshall Nemoy gave the Financial Statement. Ending April 30, 2017 IOBG had a net income of \$49,332. IOBG has 1605 paid members. Current Assets \$196,480.20. Revenues: Dues, Log Subscriptions, and interest income is \$71,147.81. Expenses \$21,815.42. Net income \$49,332.39.

Executive Secretary: No report.

First Vice President: Bud Higginson was absent due to a bird strike that crippled his plane. His written report lists eighteen responses from the chapters/districts to the question: What is your chapter or district doing in the way of programs to keep the membership interested and active in IOBG? The responses include: maintain high standards, sponsor regattas, guest speakers, field trips to interesting places such as boat builders, spend time with new members, hold dinner dances to honor members, include IOBG dues on yacht club's dues, have scholarship programs. Bud's detailed report will be published in the Log.

President-Elect: Tony Durieux reported on membership and the need for retention. To that end, IOBG will begin a program of awarding District Membership Recognition Pins to the executive boards of the winning district in each of the five regions. Tony distributed papers with the criteria formula, which is weighted toward retention, plus growth. The previous year's official district membership count is used as the base for the award calculation. As an example, a district had 125 members the previous year; currently 130, including 15 new and reinstated members. Subtract 15 from 130 for a retention percentage of $(125/115) = 92\%$. Next calculate growth $130/125=4\%$. Add retention and growth $92\% + 4\% = 96\%$. The AVP will compare the percentages of all the districts in the area to determine the winner in that area.

Immediate Past President: Joe Dowdell reported on Nominating and Auditing Committee. The Nominating Committee consists of the Immediate Past President and the Past President preceding him, the President, and two IOBG members who are not officers in any Blue Gavel Chapter or District (one west of the Mississippi River and the other east of it.) The Immediate Past President is the chairperson. The Committee shall present a slate of officers to the Executive Committee, for their approval, by July 15th and will be published in the Log and/or Lighthouse by August 1st. The Nominating Committee has received applications for all open offices, except one area VP. If no application for that office is received in the next few days, it will be shown as open in the report.

The audit committee consists of Past President Joe Dowdell, President-Elect Tony Durious, and First Vice President Bud Higginson. Auditing Committee reviews the records presented by the Treasurer. Due to the hospitalization and recuperation of the Treasurer, the financial records were not available. Report will be forthcoming.

President: Rosalie is excited about the District Achievement Award and will make this a top priority. IOBG continues to lose members. Perhaps the District Achievement Award will help turn the corner and stabilize the membership to enable IOBG to be in existence in ten years.

Officer Reports:

Northwestern Area: Lani Lightle addressed what the Northwestern area is doing for membership growth. District 1 has sent out many letters to dormant chapters and potential chapters; they discovered that many dormant chapters did not know that they had a charter. Lani will make an effort to contact these chapters and report back positive results in the near future. District #1 attended two Opening Day ceremonies. Seattle Yacht Club's Opening Day ceremony, a tradition for over 75 years, had thousands of people watching and/or participating in the activities. Flag raising is part of the activities with major flags and yacht club burgees. The Blue Gavel burgee was one of those burgees raised. Blue Gavel was also represented in

the parade of boats with a large Blue Gavel banner on both sides of the boat and the Blue Gavel representatives saluting the Seattle Yacht Club Commodore in the viewing stands as the boat passed. The following week was the South Sound Opening Day activities, hosted by the Des Moines Yacht Club. Ten yacht clubs participated, including Blue Gavel. Again the Blue Gavel burgee was raised, the IOBG presence being displayed for many to see.

District #5: Bill McKinney welcomed everyone to Portland. He reported that the district promotes boating and safety through the Nautical Safety Foundation by providing over 600 life jackets to various groups around Oregon and southwest Washington. This year the board members are visiting major yacht clubs, telling them about Blue Gavel and the NSF with positive results in terms of cash donations. Since 2015 NSF has raised nearly \$20,000 to purchase approximately 1,500 life jackets. They participated in this year's Portland Boat Show, collecting over 30 life jacket donations, and anticipate more jackets when the weather improves. Bill hoped everyone was having a good time in the Rose City.

District #1: Jim Martinson reported that the district had a great spring meeting at Des Moines Yacht Club. Discussed recruitment and retention. They are revamping District 1's Policy Manual so that officers know what their roles are. The District's summer picnic is planned in Washington's wine country city of Prosser, WA. Change of Watch in September will be at Hells Canyon Yacht Club in Clarkson, WA.

Humanitarian Foundation: Lani showed the Humanitarian Foundation's new website, which Mary Nye Meyers revamped. The design is for better clarity of what HF does.

Past President Joel Kay presented HF a check for \$50 in Time Gyanda's name for his help at Time Gyanda's Commodore's Ball, initiating two new members.

Website: While the screen was down and the projector was on, Mary Nye Meyers walked through the new IOBG website, showing the new features and links: changing information, recruiting, twelve years of Logs. The emails will no longer be shown. They are cloaked. Will launch later this year.

Southwest: AVP Kathy Smith focused on membership and how the districts are achieving this task. Kathy read the reports from District #10 and District #15.

District #19: Director Roger Beebe started by saying that District #19 is focusing on membership development and retention. The VP has been charge with the responsibility of Membership Recruitment and Retention. This has proven to have a positive effect as last year's members 153; this year 159.

Roger will help District #14, with the help of Mary Eiffert and Marshall, find the dormant chapters in District #14. Problem with event attendance is that many members are getting older and are no longer boaters but still enjoy boating; therefore, they are trying to have meeting and then boating events afterwards. They are focusing on bring back dormant chapters and talking with the over 30 clubs in area without charters.

North Central: Rosie announced that the North Central reports will be in the Log for members to read.

Southeast: Bud was to give the report. The report states that District #8 has the most members in IOBG. Rosalie suggested that this might be a challenge to the North Central area, which isn't too far behind. District #18 has been struggling; however, they now have a couple of members who will be spearheading a membership drive.

Appointed Officers Reports:

Webmaster: Mary Nye Meyers announced that June 24 is the deadline for submitting Log articles.

Recording Secretary: Marsha Landreth reminded everyone present to sign in and hand in written reports.

BoatUS: Marshall announced that everything is going along smoothly.

Membership: Tony again talked about retention by making meetings fun and exciting. Retention is everyone's responsibility.

Annual Meeting: Tony has many exciting activities planned for the weekend of October 18-22, including shopping therapy and visit to a winery. Double Tree rate is \$109 room rate. Hotel will provide shuttle to areas around hotel such as Croaker Park for shopping therapy. Transportation everywhere. Planned a good weekend. Lots of people, will discuss a lot of business. Oct 18-22.

Good of the Order: Roger Beebe commented that he looked at the website and realized that it was too difficult to figure out how to start a chapter. The new website will make it easier.

Tony's knighting will be in the hotel at 10 am on the second floor.

Kathy gave a summary of the workshop discussions: Gaining and retaining members through personal contact such as snail mail, phone calls, and face-to-face mentorship. Dormant chapters - AVP will spearhead effort to bring back. Work harder one-to-one.

Adjournment: Joe moved to adjourn; Tony seconded the motion. The motion carried. Rosalie adjourned the meeting at 2:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Landreth

Recording Secretary