

THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

Of The
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

An Association of Past Commodores

Volume 38 No. 3

July 2017

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.



2017 IOBG DIRECTORY

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Protocol Officer

Marsha Landreth
310-884-0054
Tel: 805-889-0054
mlrs4742@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Marsha Landreth
Tel: 805-889-0054
mlrs4742@gmail.com

Communications Director

Mary Nye Meyers (Michael)
Tel: 253-224-8592
fire_n_ice104@hotmail.com

Education Officer

Phil Promessi (Carol)
Tel: 918-378-6582
Cell: 925-864-1585
ppromessi@att.net

Legal Officer

Gary Green (Rosalie)
Tel: 310-684-1848
garygreen@ca.rr.com

Historian

Carol Promessi (Phil)
Tel: 918-378-6582
Cell: 925-864-1585
cpromessi@att.net

Past Pres. Liaison Officer

Stephen Willing (Shirley)
Tel: 519-944-1397
stevewilling12@gmail.com

Supply Officer

Commodore Insignia
1380 Centerville LN #32
Gardnerville, NV 89410
Tel: 775-782-3380
Tel: 800-315-7485
Fax: 775-782-4003
Comsignia@aol.com
www.commodoreinsignia.com

REPRESENTATIVES

BOAT U.S.

Marshall Nemoy 888-378-2211

Boat U.S. Membership

Discount Code: IOBG #GA 83629B

AUXILIARY LIAISON

Sherry Barone 310-720-9610

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON

Vern Bendsen 707-422-3510

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tony Durieux (Membership) 305-923-5550
Sherry Barone (Public Relations) 941-966-7494

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

Marlene Barrington 928-759-7158

US SAILING

Mark Hansen 310-601-0710

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Open

U.S. POWER SQUADRON

Audrey Rice 941-474-2426

COMMITTEES

AUDIT

Joe Dowdell 305-923-5550
Tony Durieux 740-242-4001
Bud Higginson 941-966-7494

BY-LAWS & POLICY MANUAL

Vern Bendsen 707-422-3510

FINANCE

Joe Dowdell 305-923-5550
Rosalie Davis-Green 310-684-1848
Tony Durieux 740-242-4001
Bud Higginson 941-966-7494
Sherry Barone 310-720-9610
Marshall Nemoy 888-378-2211

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Joe Dowdell 305-923-5550
Rosalie Davis-Green 310-684-1848
Bud Higginson 941-966-7494
Marshall Nemoy 888-378-2211

ANNUAL MEETING 2017

Tony Durieux 740-242-4001

ELECTIONS

Tony Durieux 740-242-4001

NOMINATIONS

Joe Dowdell (Chairman) 305-923-5550
Joel Kay 216-378-1212
Rosalie Davis-Green 310-684-1848
Roger Isphording (East) 941-966-1518
Linda Loftis (West) 760-803-9325

ELECTED OFFICERS

Executive Secretary

Mary Effert (Alan)
39906 Black Mesa Lane
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel/Cell: 206-819-5809
Cell: 760-567-8824
meiffert@earthlink.net

Northwestern Vice President

Lani Lightle (Lee)
10704 - 35th Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98146-1726
Tel: 206-243-8186
lanilightle44@gmail.com

North Central Vice President

Mark Vadaj (Robin)
7505 Thatchum Lane
Concord, OH 44060
Tel: 440-350-1488
Cell: 440-479-0064
mvadaj@att.net

Northeastern Vice President

Stephen Tisack (Marie)
5843 Buffalo St
Sanborn, NY 14132
Tel: 716-998-7938
stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

Southwestern Vice President

Kathleen Jo Smith (Gary)
815 Ethel Place
National City, CA 91950
Tel: 619-479-6292
kathyswyc@aol.com

Southeastern Vice President

Robert "Buzz" Bisanz (Nancy)
529 Victoria Road
Woodstock, GA 30189
Tel: 770-337-8701
buzz8521@comcast.net

Reflects Updates Received
as of July 2017

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District 1

Jim Martinson (Laurie)
2911 Briarwood Ct S
Puyallup, WA 98374
Tel: 253-841-0142
Cell: 253-318-4162
jimandlaurietoa@comcast.net

District 7

Rich McKee Jr. (Beth)
5965 Olive Ave
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
Tel: 216-509-2862
bethelou2@aol.com

District 14

Mike West (Susie)
P.O. Box 1226
Ripon, CA 95366
Tel: 209-233-6210
westmike2003@yahoo.com

District 21

Leo Vortouni
4308 Patrice Rd.
Newport Beach, CA 92663
Tel: 949-722-1153
Cell: 949-933-4308
lvortouni@aol.com

District 27

(Alternate Director)
Stephen Tisack (Marie)
5843 Buffalo St
Sanborn, NY 14132
stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

District 2

Don Fisher (Rita)
1080 Iris Avenue
Victoria, BC V8Z 2N7
Canada
Tel: 250-479-5516
dritscher@shaw.ca

District 8

Karen E. Shea
5027 Herring Ct
New Port Richey, FL 34652
Tel: 727-264-6118
Cell: 727-389-0675
LTCSheaK@gmail.com

District 15

Bill Edwards (Ernestine)
2056 Wind River Road
El Cation, CA 92019
Tel: 619-593-8252
cdredwards@cox.net

District 22

(Alternate Director)
Stephen Tisack (Marie)
5843 Buffalo St
Sanborn, NY 14132
Tel: 716-998-7938
stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

District 50

Mark Vadaj (Robin)
7505 Thatchum Lane
Concord, OH 44060
Tel: 440-350-1488
Cell: 440-479-0064
mvadaj@att.net

District 3

Lewis W. Smith (Margot)
135 Paul Drive
Amherst, NY 14228
Tel: 716-691-7626
margots135@gmail.com

District 9

Larry Inguagiato (Mary Kay)
c/o Monroe Boat Club
7932 N Harbor Drive
Monroe, MI 48161
Cell: 419-819-0484
larry.inguagiato@mac.com

District 16

Richard Olsen (Georgie)
109 San Fernando
Oxnard, CA 93035
Tel: 805-985-1732
Cell: 805-218-4641
glogreen143@gmail.com

District 23

Open

District 51

Walt Kadyk (Marti)
4993 Saddlewood Place
Alta Loma, CA 91737-1667
Tel: 909-941-6622
Bus: 909-390-0460
Cell: 310-629-0987
wskadyk@gmail.com

District 4

Ron Defieux* (Linda)
641 Blueridge Ave.
N. Vancouver, BC V7R 2J4
Canada
Tel: 604-987-7425
rdefieux@shaw.ca

District 10

Joyce Jackson
4380 Johanna Ave
Lakewood, CA 90713
Tel: 562-377-0056
joyceveelyn@verizon.net

District 18

Robert (Buzz) Bisanz (Nancy)
529 Victoria Rd
Woodstock, GA 30189
Tel: 770-337-8701
buzz8521@comcast.net

District 24

Ken Bruce
#16-950 Lanfranco
Kelowna, BC V1W 3W8
Canada
Tel: 250-860-5673
kbruce@shaw.ca

District 70

Open

District 5

Ron Timmerman (Gayle)
762 NW Westover Square
Portland, OR 97210
Tel: 503-297-4437
Cell: 503-297-1030
rontimmerman@msn.com

District 11

Sheila Anderson
5606 Downey Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712
Cell: 626-484-7822
toymaker56@yahoo.com

District 19

Roger Beebe (Mickey Johnson)
1104 Nantucket Place
Modesto, CA 95355
Tel: 209-521-1400
Bus: 209-484-2666
rdbeebe@myameaculpa.net

District 25

William Woods (Connie)
1704 Balfour Blvd
Windsor, ON
Canada N8T 2S1
Cell: 519-800-1626
woods@searose1.com

District 75

Keith Wardell (Patsy)
4 Glendovey Road
Fendalton, Christchurch
New Zealand 0852
Tel: 0064-35516046
Cell: 0064-274438465
homehostingltd@inet.net.nz

District 6

Ellis Abram (Cathy Pratt)
45-423 Ihiliani Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Tel: 808-247-1746
Tel: 808-382-0650
ellis.abram@gmail.com

District 12

Open

District 20

(Alternate Director)
Stephen Tisack (Marie)
5843 Buffalo St
Sanborn, NY 14132
Tel: 716-998-7938
stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

District 26

(Alternate Director)
Stephen Tisack (Marie)
5843 Buffalo St
Sanborn, NY 14132
Tel: 716-998-7938
stephen.d.tisack@gmail.com

JAPAN

Kuniteru Matsumoto (Kiyoko)
3-3-22 Matsumoto Building
Dajima, Kitaku
Osaka, Japan 530-003
Tel: 06-458-7020
Fax: 06-441-3765

2017 Executive Committee



PRESIDENT

ROSALIE DAVIS-GREEN (GARY)
1445 Stonewood Court
San Pedro, CA 90732

Tel: 310-684-1848
rgreen@ca.rr.com



PRESIDENT ELECT

TONY DURIEUX (SANDRA)
13804 Crescent Cove Ave NE
Thornville, OH 43076

Tel: 740-242-4001
Cell: 740-334-7669
agent@alink.com



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

B.E. "BUD" HIGGINSON (DEE)
124 Tina Island Drive
Osprey, FL 34229

Tel: 941-966-7494
Cell: 941-320-9063
higgo2@aol.com



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

SHERRY BARONE (PAT REGAN)
204 Washington Ave #101
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Tel: 310-458-9610
Cell: 310-720-9610
seasidecon@aol.com



PAST PRESIDENT

JOE DOWDELL (JUNE THACKER)
11300 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050

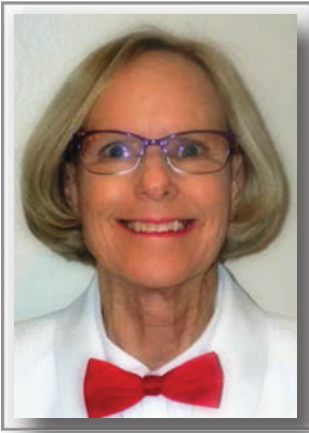
Tel: 305-743-5127
Cell: 305-923-5550
joedowdell@bellsouth.net



TREASURER

MARSHALL NEMOY (DAWN)
3517 Camino del Rio South
Suite 208
San Diego, CA 92108-4028

Tel: 619-282-5050 / 888-378-2211
Res: 858-565-1093
Fax: 619-282-5252
bgtreas@iobg.org



*President
Rosalie
Davis Green*



Most of us are in the midst of high season on the waterways. Are we enjoying a safe and pleasurable experience? There are many resources to remind us with checklists for getting our boat ready, being safe on the water and being environmentally responsible. Preparation is the key to a successful boating season.

In Blue Gavel, preparation also makes our programs more dynamic. The IOBG leadership has been discussing organizational relevance, member retention and member recruitment for some time. To maintain the viability of the organization, it is necessary for all of us to implement changes to ensure we are an attraction to members and potential members.

The discussions at the Fall and Spring regional meetings yielded results similar to the recent district survey. You can find the detailed results of the survey in 1st Vice President Bud Higginson's column. There you will find many ideas to utilize to enrich your program. Districts and chapter please select an idea or two you have not done before and put it to use.

The discussions and the survey highlighted other important points:

Blue Gavel is more successful when it is an integral part of the local boating community and when that involvement is visible in community publications.

Good communication is essential for good participation. It requires preparation and planning. The transmission of information and knowledge gets the attention of the most people when it is systematic, consistent and disseminated, well in advance, through a variety of vehicles. Use a full range of approaches: written mailed communication, an up-to-date district website, email and in person one to one communication.

Direct personal interaction is the most powerful. Most tasks require personal contact whether it involves reaching out to dormant chapters, mentoring a new chapter or member, inviting a prospective member to a function or letting our community know what we are doing.

Let's get into action.

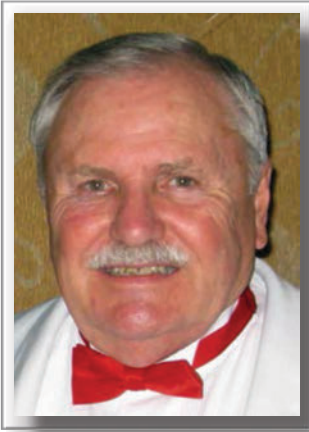
The Royal Rosarian knighting of President-Elect Tony Durieux was awesome even though, due to the weather, it was conducted indoors. It is an honor to be recognized as an outstanding contributor to the community. The Royal Rosarians acknowledged the presence of IOBG during the procession of dignitaries, at their Grand Ball, which included the introduction of the IOBG International President and the President Elect. Thank you to District 5 for being wonderful hosts for our meeting at Portland Yacht Club and for providing a wonderful dinner at Columbia River Yacht Club. Special thank you to Ron Timmerman, Bill McKinney, Steve Adkins and their teams for organizing and overseeing a wonderful two days.

Hearty congratulations to Team Emirates New Zealand for an outstanding Americas Cup campaign and a well-deserved win!



COLUMBIA RIVER YACHT CLUB





President - Elect
Tony Durieux



My thanks to the Royal Rosarians and District 5 for a weekend full of lifetime memories. It was truly an honor to have been knighted in the ceremony held in Portland, Oregon. Since 1972 the International Order of the Blue Gavel has continued to participate in the Rose Festival and Knighting Ceremony.

As we prepare for the boating season of 2017, Blue Gavel Chapters and Districts are planning their year. Chapters are planning for the good will of their club. Districts plan for retention and growth through district activities and the induction of its chapters recent past commodores.

Retention is the life blood of our organization. The better our retention, the stronger our growth. How we work to retain our membership goes to the effort put forth to keep our chapters and districts active. We learned as yacht club commodores to work on retention and growth and the same formula applies to chapter and district growth.

Special Projects involving the boating community, the Humanitarian Foundation, and community projects give us purpose. Remember to involve the Auxiliary along with the whole Blue Gavel family. Make the Gavel a big deal. Make your chapter or district standout. As I have said before, when your club elects a new commodore or your district inducts a new President, put an ad and picture in the society page of their local paper and list your club or district IOBG meetings in the community awareness section of your paper.

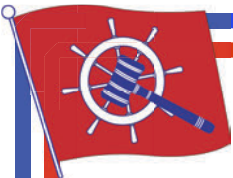
With this thought in mind, beginning with the official district membership numbers posted in August 2017, the executive committee has agreed to award a **District Achievement Award pin** based on retention and growth. This distinctive pin will be awarded to five district executive boards in 2018. The formula chosen will give retention the most weight and growth will add to the mix in determining the recipients.



This will be an Area Vice President driven program with the winning districts' presentations being made at the 2018 Change of Watch. Each Area Vice President will have a district winner. Updates will be available throughout the year so each District can see how their planning is coming together.

Our thought is to get back to basics. The Gavel is each and every Blue Gavel member. Every Past Commodore has earned the right to wear his silver epaulets. The Blue Gavel is the continued recognition of his past and continuing service to the boating community.

As a club member once told me, once a Commodore always a Commodore.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19-22, 2017



REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: **SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

Date/Event	Cost	# of Persons	Total
Thursday, October 19			
Poker Run at Crocker Park (Benefiting IOBGHF)	\$10.00/Hand	x _____	\$ _____
Steak Roast at Beaver Park YC	\$28.50	x _____	\$ _____
Friday, October 20			
Lunch at Doubletree - A Picnic Affair	\$26.00	x _____	\$ _____
Wine Tour & Taste - John Christ Winery	\$5.00	x _____	\$ _____
Pasta Buffet Lakeside Yacht Club - Back by Popular Demand	\$36.50	x _____	\$ _____
Saturday, October 21			
Lunch at Doubletree Artisan Sandwiches and Salads	\$26.00	x _____	\$ _____
IOBG President's Ball	\$70.00	x _____	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED			\$ _____

Circle your choice of Banquet Meal

Braised Short Ribs Qty: _____ Coq au Vin Qty: _____ Seared Salmon Qty: _____

All served with a fall salad, rolls & butter, roasted red potatoes, mixed fall vegetables and dessert

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions so we may accommodate your needs

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

District and Office Held: _____ Member (Circle)
IOBG IOBGA

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Make checks payable to: **IOBG 2017 Ball**

Mail check and this form to:

Trish Graven

116 North Rocky River Dr.

Berea, Ohio 44017

International Order of the Blue Gavel

ANNUAL MEETING

October 19 - 22, 2017

Cleveland, Ohio



Hotel Information

DoubleTree by Hilton Cleveland-Westlake
1100 Crocker Road Westlake, OH 44145

1-440-871-6000

Mention "International Order of the Blue Gavel"



The Double Tree Cleveland will be the our host for the 2017 IOBG Annual Meeting being held October 18 thru October 22, 2017.

Flying In? Give the hotel a call to arrange to pick you up at the Hopkins Airport (CLE). No need to rent a car because transportation will be provided during the entire weekend.

As you check in - enjoy a warm cookie or a piece of fruit. Across from the Desk is the restaurant where you will have your complimentary Breakfast Buffet every morning.

The cost per room per night is \$109.00 plus tax. Sign up early to get this great rate. For Airport and Room reservations call 1-800-HILTONS and mention IOBG. Coming Soon...We will be posting a link on the IOBG web site for online reservations.

Welcome to Cleveland

District 7 is again honoring one of their own becoming International President of IOBG. Tony Durieux and Lady Sandi have a wonderful weekend planned. It will be well worth attending.

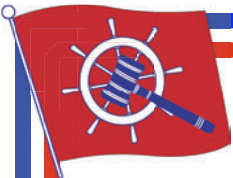
If you are coming in a Wednesday, the Hospitality Suite will be there to greet you. But if craft brews are your pleasure - hop on the hotel bus to run you over to the Sibling Rivalry Brewery.

Thursday brings some SHOPPING THERAPY for a cause with a Poker Run thru Crocker Park. More about the Poker Run later.

On Friday, SHOPPING THERAPY continues and before dinner, a stop at John Christ Winery to try some award winning Ohio Wines. Back by popular demand - Lakeside Yacht Clubs Pasta Buffet. YUM!!

To top off the weekend, the installation of our new officers to the soothing tunes of a harpist. But don't let that fool you, because after the ball - everyone is invited back to the Hospitality Suite for a nightcap and a caricature drawing of themselves to remember the week.

Don't miss this wonderful weekend in BELIEVELAND. Look forward to seeing you there.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19-22, 2017



Schedule of Events

Wednesday, October 18

Registration	Hotel	3:00 - 8:00 PM
Hospitality	Hotel	5:00 - 8:00 PM
Casual Meet and Greet	Sibling Rivalry Brewery (On your own)	8:00 - ????

Thursday, October 19

Registration	Hotel	8:00 - 11:00 AM
IOBG (Ex Comm)	Room TBA	9:00 - 10:30 AM
IOBGA (Ex Comm)	Room TBA	9:00 - 10:30 AM
Lunch	Hotel	11:30 - 1:00 PM
Poker Run - (Hotel Shuttle Available)	Crocker Park	11:00 - 4:00 PM
Dinner (No Host Cocktails) (Caribbean or Yacht Club Casual - Transportation Available)	Beaver Park Yacht Club	5:00 - 9:00 PM
Hospitality Suite	Hotel	10:00 - 11:00 PM

Friday, October 20

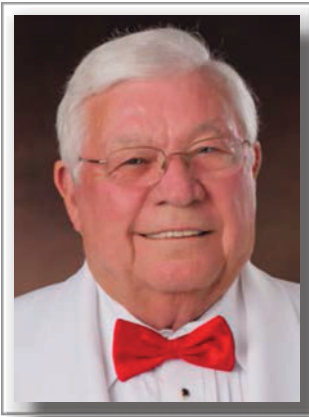
Registration	Hotel/ Hospitality Suite	8:00 - 11:00 AM
IOBGHF Meeting	Room TBA	8:30 - 10:00 AM
IOBG Meeting	Room TBA	9:00 - 11:45 AM
IOBGA Meeting	Room TBA	9:00 - 10:00 AM
Poker Run (continued)	Crocker Park	Noon - 3:00 PM
(Return Poker Run forms and draw cards in the Hospitality Suite - MUST BE IN BY 3 PM)		
John Christ Winery (Bus 1 will pick you up at the Hotel and will return to pick up and go to Lakeside Yacht Club)		4:00 - 5:30 PM
Dinner (No Host Cocktails)	Lakeside Yacht Club	4:30 - 9:00 PM
(Bus 2 will pick you up at the Hotel and take you directly to Lakeside Yacht Club)		
Hospitality Room	Hotel	...Until 11 PM

Saturday, October 21

Registration	Hotel/ Hospitality Suite	9:00 - 10:00 AM
IOBG Meeting	Room TBA	9:00 - 11:45 AM
IOBGA Meeting	Room TBA	9:00 - 11:45 AM
IOBGHF Luncheon	Room TBA	12:00 - 1:30 PM
(Winner of the Poker Run to be announced)		
IOBG Meeting (Continues)	Room TBA	1:30 - 3:00 PM
Fall Regional Meeting	Room TBA	3:00 - 3:30 PM
Hospitality Suite	Hotel	3:30 - 5:00 PM
Cocktail Hour	Ballroom	6:00 - 7:00 PM
Officers Line up for Procession		6:45 PM
Installation/Dinner (Black Tie Formal)	Ballroom	7:00 - 9:30 PM
Hospitality Suite (Caricature Artists will be available)	Hotel	10:00 - ?

Sunday, October 22

Thank you for attending and have a safe journey home.



First Vice President Bud Higginson

On June 2-3, 2017, I attended the District 8 Spring meeting which was held at the Isles Yacht Club. District 8 president Peter Franck was not in attendance as his wife had a stroke several days prior to the meeting (she is showing great improvement). President-Elect Doug Case conducted the meeting which was well attended by the host chapter members. The nominating committee headed by past District 8 president Shaun Graser gave an update of the candidates for the election to the executive committee in October 2017. After a brief discussion about financially supporting the IOBG Annual Meeting in 2018, a motion was made and passed to do so.

Several months ago I presented a proposal to the executive committee to perform a membership retention survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine what can be done to improve our retention rate. We ask each chapter and or district the question of what is your blue gavel chapter and or district doing in the way of programs to keep the membership interested and active in the Blue Gavel. We know that some chapters/districts do not have membership retention problems and by sharing their programs with others in the organization will have an overall positive effect on the International Order of the Blue Gavel. The following are the results of the survey to see and use as they see fit to help improve our membership retention.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL Membership Retention Survey 2017



QUESTION: What is your Blue Gavel chapter and or district doing in the way of programs to keep the membership interested and active in the Blue Gavel?

Responses from the chapters/districts:

1. The international order of the Blue Gavel is the crème de la crème of boating organizations and our past Commodores are proud of it and strive to maintain its high standards.
2. A couple of years ago our Blue Gavel chapter met with the youth boating Association and decided to cosponsor a Commodores cup regatta each year. Together we purchased a large silver cup trophy and had the names of the past Commodores of our club name engraved around the base of the cup. The current Commodores nameplate is attached to the side of the cup. At the conclusion of regatta, the Commodores cup is presented to the reigning Commodore where it is displayed in the entry hall of the yacht club. This program is very successful and is expected to continue for many years to come.
3. Our Blue Gavel chapter in addition to having schedule meetings throughout the year we have two social dinner meetings with our spouses invited at these dinner meetings, the yacht club bridge and their spouses are invited as a means of encouraging them to join Blue Gavel when they become past Commodores.
4. Encourage members to share experiences and knowledge in open meetings.
5. Inviting guest speakers to meetings.
6. Field trips to local places of interest such as visits to boat builders and etc.

Continued...



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL
Membership Retention Survey 2017



Continued...

7. Write an article in the yacht club publication explaining what is going on with the Blue Gavel chapter/District and encouraging them to attend all meetings.
8. Consider changing the leadership if the attendance drops due to lack of interest.
9. Exchange meetings with other chapters/districts
10. Spend some time with new members getting them involved in the activities of the organization.
11. Hold monthly dinner meetings with spouses in attendance and wearing full dress uniform.
12. Sponsor an annual past Commodores dinner dance where Blue Gavel members are honored
13. Our Blue Gavel chapter is responsible for the long-range planning function for our yacht club with the immediate past Commodore serving as the chairman of the committee.
14. For simplicity in Blue Gavel dues payments, our yacht clubs financial department includes our dues payments in the clubs monthly statement.
15. The majority of the responses to the survey included the traditional Blue Gavel functions such as: flagpole ceremony, blessing of the fleet, change of watch Christmas boat parade, deceased member ceremony and memorial and Veterans Day services.
16. Our Blue Gavel chapter is centered around a long-standing scholarship program for first-time learners. Major schools such as FGCU and five local high schools are where the primary scholarships are given. Our donation total approximately \$75,000 last year at about the same for many years.
17. Seeing friends and meeting new Blue Gavel members.
18. Attending chapter, district and international meetings.





Second Vice President
Sherry Barone

There has been a concentrated effort to grow the international membership. A number of us have traveled to Australia, United Kingdom, France, New Zealand and Denmark.

Also efforts have been made to sustain the domestic markets with a number of concepts from branding, credit cards, cruise discounts and other discounts .

Jennifer Gobershock, a friend who is a strategic planner emeritus from a major corporation had agreed to consult at our Portland meeting on a multi-step process to grow membership. I have discussed the IOBG mission with Jennifer. She is an independent person who is willing to help our organization at no cost to IOBG. With her help we were able to discuss a plan our members can champion over the next 6 months.

Opening days have finished and I enjoyed visiting the many hospitable clubs of California.



Education Officer Phil Promessi



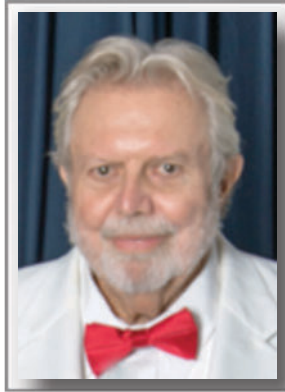
Why should I join I.O.B.G.? That's the question often asked of me when I try to talk someone into joining Blue Gavel. Particularly, I hear "why should I join? I already participate in my own club's events.

The primary reason that the Blue Gavel organization was formed was to provide a means for Past Commodores to help their own clubs without usurping the authorities, responsibilities and rights of the current Commodore and his/her Board. That is made very clear right at the beginning of our ByLaws. Participation in District affairs is a secondary reason for joining. Joining Blue Gavel is meant to make it easier for you and your fellow Past Commodores to help your club.

Having all the Past or Staff Commodores organized into a formal group facilitates their taking on specific, individual projects to help their clubs. Thus, as part of a group, you have a continuing role in the active life of your club. You accomplish this with a reasonable amount of work and without being considered an outside interference!

Join I.O.B.G. for yourself! To keep active in the boating community! For the self satisfaction in helping your club and your community! And most of all--- for friendship and for fun.

Have a great summer and be safe!



Past President Joe Dowdell

Nominating Committee

2018 State of Officers

The 2017 nominating committee consists of the President, the two immediate Past Presidents and two IOBG members, one from West of the Mississippi River and one from East of the Mississippi River.

The IOBG Nominating Committee has made the following nominations for Officers for the year 2017 -2018. The election shall take place at the Annual Meeting to be held in Cleveland, Ohio on Saturday, October 21, 2017.

The Nominations Are:

President	Tony Durieux, District 7 (automatic as per bylaws)
President Elect	B.E. "Bud" Higginson, District 8
First Vice President	Sherry Barone, District 11
Second Vice President	Robert "Buzz" Bisanz, District 18
Immediate Past President	Rosalie Davis-Green, District 11
Treasurer	Marshall Nemoy, District 15
Executive Secretary	Mary Eiffert, District 1
Northeastern Vice President	Steve Tisack, District 12
Northwestern Vice President	Open
North Central Vice President	Mark Vadaj, District 7
Southwestern Vice President	Kathleen Smith, District 15
Southeastern Vice President	Karen Shea, District 8
District 50 Director (East of Mississippi River)	Mark Vadaj
District 51 Director (West of Mississippi River)	Open

Respectfully Submitted:

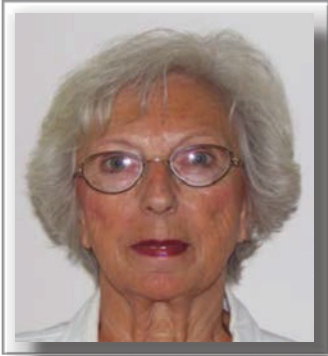
Joe Dowdell, Immediate Past President & Chairman

Rosalie Davis-Green, President

Joel Kay, Past President

Roger Isphording, Eastside Member

Linda Loftis, Westside Member



N.B.F. Representative Marlene Barrington

The National Boating Federation continues to follow legislation that affects Recreational Boaters in America. We recently directed our concerns to NOAA with regard that they consider keeping both paper charts and electronic charts available in raster format.

This is necessary for the safety of recreational boaters navigating and charting their water, especially in condensed coastal areas. NOAA has not released their final decision.

Our Legislative Director, Earl Waesche, has addressed several key issues in the NBF June 2017 eBulletin: E-15 Ethenol Fuel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2017 Work Plan, Isobutanol approved for the State of Maryland and the National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition recent meeting.

Please follow us on:
<http://www.n-b-f.org/newsletter.html>

I am happy to share with you the recent update from our NBF Legislative Director Earl Waesche. We do a monthly electronic bulletin to all members of Congress and Boating Organizations updating them on recreational boating issues under consideration.

If you are not currently receiving our eBulletin, go to our website and sign up:
<http://www.n-b-f.org/e-lert.html>



Northwestern V.P.
Lani Lightle



Districts
1 & 5
2, 4 & 24
Blue Gavel Canada

After a winter of the most rainfall in recorded history in the northwestern United States we are drying out. It is time now to get out and get busy. There has been much talk about what we need for membership growth. So far it's been all talk and now is the time for action.

Butch Brown, 2nd Vice President of District 1 has sent out many letters to dormant chapters and potential chapters with little response. Many, if not most, of the dormant chapters don't even know they have a charter with Blue Gavel. I will make an effort to contact these and potentially new chapters and hopefully have positive results to report back in the near future.

May was a month to celebrate the start of the boating season. District 1 attended two opening day ceremonies with the first being hosted by the Seattle Yacht Club, a tradition for over 75 years now. Thousands of people were there to watch and/or participate in the activities. A flag raising is part of the activities with the 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 saluted the Seattle Yacht Club Commodore in the viewing stands as we past.

The following week was the South Sound Opening Day activities hosted by the Des Moines Yacht Club. This was a much smaller opening day (actually three days) with about 10 yacht clubs participating including Blue Gavel. Again the Blue Gavel flag was raised during this ceremony. So our presence is being displayed for many to see.



Thank You
District 5
For Hosting Our
Spring Regional Meeting

District 1 got it's year underway with a wonderful Spring meeting hosted by Des Moines Yacht club. We spent time discussing recruitment and retention issues. Also the District leadership is working on updates to the policy manual, especially the roles for the officers.

Our social time was wonderful with Friday snacks and beverages and a wonderful banquet Saturday night with formal dress, great food, music and well done raffles for our various charities. I would like to thank IOBG member Peggy Weber and the Des Moines Yacht Club for really stepping up and doing such a good job. District 1 also appreciates the support we get by perennially being invited to their Commodore's Ball and South Sound Opening Day festivities.

IOBG was represented by Butch Brown, District 1's Second Vice President, at the Seattle Yacht Club Opening Day ceremonies. This international event is a great time to really show the flag for IOBG and network our message. Thank you to Past District 1 President Bob Weber for volunteering his boat for duties as our parade boat.

July 14-15 was a real treat for District 1. The lucky attendees to the Summer Picnic were welcomed to the cradle of wine making in Washington State in Prosser, Washington. We were at the Wine Country RV and Best Western Hotel at Horse Heaven to enjoy a weekend of fellowship and the variety of wineries. This was a 5 star event this year.

Planned for September 15-16, 2017 is the Fall Meeting and Change of Watch to be hosted by Hells Canyon Boat Club in Clarkston, Washington. Clarkston is on the border between Washington and Idaho. Our accommodations, just as at our Summer event, our hotel and a great RV Park adjacent for our attendees. We are looking forward to a wonderful time there.

In closing , the Summer Cruising Season is in full swing and many of our IOBG members are enjoying time on the water. District 1 hopes that everyone has calm water, fish on and full crab and shrimp pots and safely return with fun sea tales.



Sot hwestern V.P.
Kathleen Jo Smith



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

Districts in the Southwest Area have been focusing on ways to retain and recruit members.

First, Districts are emphasizing communication. Keeping in touch with members is key to keeping members involved. District 10 made a point of sending several reminders to members about paying their dues, and they report that it has paid off, as renewals are coming in. Another district provides their members with a hard copy of The LOG newsletter, believing that continually reminds their members of IOBG and its activities.



District 15 reports that their key to retaining membership is to ensure the relevancy of IOBG to the membership. The District's involvement in philanthropic endeavors keeps the organization relevant, and visible to the local yachting community.



District 19 has assigned the Vice President the responsibility of membership recruitment and retention. Having an officer in charge has had a positive effect. Membership has gone up from 153 members in 2016, to a current membership of 159. This strategy has also increased IOBGA membership.



Some of the other strategies being considered, and/or put in practice include a phone tree, contacting lapsed members. The idea is to find out if this was an oversight on the members part, or if there is something the local District can do to make the membership valuable, again, to the member.

I have been working in District 15, in concert with IOBGA Vice President Gary Smith, to recruit IOBGA members with a special invitation to the spouse of the incoming Staff Commodores. The invitation would be for a social activity, such as a tea, partially subsidized by the IOBG. The premise being, that if the spouse becomes involved, the IOBG member will follow.

Continued...

Many districts throw a Member Appreciation Party. Everyone likes to be recognized, and we all love a good party!



District 11
Sheila Anderson, President/Director

I am happy to report District 11 inducted 6 Jr Staff Commodores this 2017 Opening Day season. Our overall renewals are down. We are calling all members from last year who haven't renewed their membership.

We are very pleased to increase the members of the District 11 board. We added 2nd VP Eric Hardt (RBYC) and Secretary Gisele Rebeiro (MYC). They are very excited to jump in and help out.

We had our annual Wine Tasting Event on Sunday, June 25th. This year for the first time local businesses donated the wine and the owner of Uncorked Wine Store in Hermosa Beach educated us on all the wine varietals. All the proceeds were donated to the King Harbor Youth Foundation.

Our Windy-Qs started in July. There are nice social events with special speakers.

Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safeguarded and the page clearly labeled.

The publication of these rosters, addresses and telephone numbers on any computer on-line service including the Internet is prohibited by the 1974 Privacy Act.

District 15
Bill Edwards, District Director

Since our last report we have been busy supporting the 9th Annual Amazing Race for Children's Wishes which benefits Make-A-Wish of San Diego. The event raised \$140,000 and our district fielded a team on May 7, 2017. This brings significant attention to District 15 as I was the Vice Chair and the Donation Chair for this year's event. I have attended many of the monthly San Diego Association of Yacht Club monthly dinners representing District 15 and address the need to contribute to our community for the Amazing Race and our signature event the Race Your Board of Directors (BOD) Regatta to benefit Elder Help of San Diego.

On June 5th we will have already voted on our slate for next year's BOD and discussed / began planning for our Change of Watch Ceremony.

Our next major event, the Race Your BOD Regatta, will be held on September 23, 2017 sponsored by District 15 IOBG and held at and supported by the Point Loma Yacht Club.

My take on maintaining and increasing membership is to make our organization relevant to our local sailing communities. I firmly believe that District 15 is making headway by our interaction with the Yacht Clubs in the San Diego Association with the philanthropic contributions of both the Amazing Race and Race your BOD Regatta. I believe this template is one that can be emulated Internationally.

District 19
Roger Beebe, District Director

The theme for 2017 seems to be Membership development and retention. Yacht club membership is getting harder and harder to maintain. This directly impacts IOBG membership. Many of our Past Commodores are taking Commodore positions for the second and third time. This has reduced the number of NEW Past Commodores eligible for IOBG membership.

District 19 has assigned our Vice President the responsibility of Membership Recruitment and Retention. This has proven to have a positive effect this year. In 2016 we had 153 members. As of today IOBG has 159 members, and the Auxiliary currently has 60 members.

Event attendance continues to be a challenge. Those members who are active in IOBG seem to be the same group active in their individual yacht clubs. We continue to provide our events with cruise-in opportunities for those who are still in boating.

Another project we are beginning is the formation of new IOBG Chapters in the San Francisco Bay Area and Delta. Northern California has 104 registered yacht clubs. District 14 has 42 chapters and District 19 has 30 chapters. We are combining forces to assist dormant chapters to become active again and recruit the remaining 32 clubs that are not IOBG Chapters. Hopefully this will promote more interest in IOBG and increase overall membership.

2017 Calendar

<http://iobgdelta19.org>

- August 12, Saturday, 1:00 PM - at Discovery Bay Yacht Club:
 - BBQ, Membership & Nominations Meeting, Cruise-in and Special Boat Tour
- September 17, Sunday, 1:00PM - at Bridge Marina Yacht Club, Antioch:
 - Lunch, Membership & Elections Meeting and Cruise-in
- November 4, Saturday, 5:30PM - at Stockton Yacht Club:
 - Annual Membership Meeting and Change of Watch Dinner

North Central V.P.
Mark Vadaj



Districts
7, 9, 23 & 25

Although the Spring boating season has officially arrived in the Great Lakes per the calendar, the seasonal warm temperatures have not. This has caused a significant disruption in not only launching watercraft but in all yachting activities such as Rendezvous Cruises, Benefit Events/Fund Raising, Social Activities and more. However; this does not dampen the spirits or the commitment and contributions of our IOBG & IOBGA Members in the North Central region.

Districts 23, 25, 9 and 7 are moving full steam ahead. Special recognition should be mentioned of the efforts of our District Officers and Directors who work tirelessly on executing the events that serve not only our valued members but of the complimentary organizations such as The Inter-Lake Yachting Association, The Greater Cleveland Boating Association and more. I would invite you to not only view their individual web sites but to also become involved so that your IOBG & IOBGA membership is enhanced to its fullest. Please accept my personal invitation to join me as my guest at one or all the events.

The Greater Cleveland Boating Association www.gcba.com
The Inter-Lake Yachting Association www.ilya.com

Each of the IOBG Districts has a full calendar of events which are open to all IOBG & IOBGA members with no invitation required. I encourage you to read below for the District Directors Reports. I also encourage you to view their respective web sites and or Facebook Pages for a full calendar of events and details. Your participation is most welcome and your membership sincerely valued.

District 7 www.iobgdistrict7.com
District 25 www.iobg25.org

Presently we are still looking for Officers to lead District 23 which is the western portion of the state of Michigan. This is an area rich in boating tradition and population. Please contact me directly for details.

As North Central Vice President, I am continuing the efforts on behalf of all IOBG & IOBGA members to enhance your membership by providing the best value for your money. I will have more information at the 2017 Annual Convention in Cleveland.

Speaking of the Annual Convention, Cleveland is proud to host the 2017 IOBG & IOBGA Annual Convention and Presidential Ball honoring District 7 - Tony Durieux and Lady Sandi. This event and meeting is one that I highly recommend and where your voice is heard and your contribution is welcome. Please contact me if I can assist you with any details to ensure your visit is most enjoyable. Cleveland is known for some of the best boating, sailing and sport fishing in the world on top of the fine arts, including museums, theater, orchestra, and more. The ethnic diversity provides world class dining and cultural enjoyment. Our professional sporting event tickets should be arranged in advance. Do not miss seeing why Cleveland on the North Coast of America is one of the finest cities in the nation.

Thank You for Your Continued Commitment to "Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternities"

District 7
Rich McKee, District Director

The boating season has finally arrived and District 7 has planned a variety of events this year for our members. All IOBG Members are invited to come out to one or more of the events planned and support President Debbie Light and our Officers.

The GCBA Memorial Day Parade was held on Monday, 05/29/17 at the USS Cod. The GCBA Rendezvous was the weekend of 06/23/17 – 06/25/17 at the Huron Boat Basin. IOBG holds a cocktail party on Saturday afternoon at this event. Our very own Tony Durieux is the incoming International President and we are looking forward to his upcoming Annual Meeting & Presidential Ball this October.

To finish up the summer there will be an IOBG Cocktail Party held on Saturday, 08/12/17, at the Put in Bay Yacht Club during Inter-lake Yachting Association Powerboat Regatta. Districts 7, 9 and 25 co-host this yearly event. We have our annual Fall Event, IOBG Wine Tour, scheduled for the weekend of 09/08/17 – 09/10/17 at Geneva on the Lake Lodge.

We have had another successful year in membership and have scheduled many different events throughout the year for our members to enjoy.

District 9
Larry Inguagiato, District Director

We have a couple of social events scheduled. On July 23rd, there will be a pool party and cookout at a member's house.

On August 12th D7, D9 & D25 will for over 40 years, host a cocktail reception for our members and club officers who will be attending the Power Boat Regatta.

On August 27th, members will gather at a restaurant on the Maumee River waterfront in downtown Toledo. Members can come by boat or car.

1380 Centerville Lane #32
Gardnerville, NV 89410-9715
Email: Comsignia@aol.com
www.commodoreinsignia.com



775-782-3380
800-315-7485
Fax: 775-782-3380

IOBG Blazer emblems are authorized for sale by Commodore Insignia. These emblems have the Blue Gavel Burgee on the left staff and the Commodore's club on the right staff. They are available in a white, black & navy background and the price is \$23.95 each plus shipping and tax.

BLAZER EMBLEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE AUXILIARY

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

Quantity		Black	White	Navy	Unit Price	Total
	IOBG Blazer Emblem					
	Auxiliary Blazer Emblem					

Please Print

I am a paid up member of IOBG District # _____ Yacht Club _____ Year _____
IOBGA District # _____

Signature _____ Ship to: _____

The above will be verified. Member will be billed for _____
emblems when shipped.

Contact Phone Number: _____

Northeastern V.P.

Stephen Tisack



Districts

3, 12, 20, 22
26 & 27

No Reports ...

District 50
Mark A. Vadaj, District Director

Once again the International Order of the Blue Gavel extends the most sincere thank you for District 50 Member's continued commitment and contribution. District 50 extends from the Mississippi River to the East Coast and from the state of Maine to

Florida. Our Membership is strong and growing and in areas where we have not previously enjoyed membership. Once Again Thank You to each and every member.

I am personally extending two invitations to our D50 Members wherever you reside.

1. Please take a moment to view our Facebook Page where we will continue to include updates from our Members as well as information on what is happening both at a Local and International Levels. Facebook: ["International Order of The Blue Gavel District 50"](#)
2. Please take a moment to consider joining us at the annual convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Details can be found on the International IOBG web site, www.iobg.org, the LOG Newsletter and the District 50 Facebook Page. This is an outstanding opportunity to not only enjoy the benefits of your IOBG membership but to cast a vote on important issues and provide your valued input for the continued success of IOBG, IOBG/A, and The Humanitarian Foundation.

Remember, that your Membership matters, you have a voice, your vote does count. Please consider joining us or at least contact me directly for additional information on the Annual Convention and IOBG.

Several members have inquired about Car Pooling and I am happy to assist you to coordinate this effort.

Thank You Once Again for your continued commitment to "Yachting Most Prestigious Fraternities"

Mark A. Vadaj – Director, District 50.

Email: mvadaj@att.net

Cell: 440-479-0064

Sottheastern V.P.
“Buzz” Bisanz



Districts
8 & 18

Our current District 8 IOBG membership count is at 234 which continues to rank as the #1 District in membership in IOBG. This includes an additional 14 new members during this fiscal year. The District ranking #2 with 202 members is District 7 (Ohio, East of Sandusky Bay) and District #3 with 174 members is District 9 (Michigan, East and Ohio West).

During the past months in this fiscal year the District 8 Executive Committee had been contacting the IOBG Chapters in the District to follow-up on the survey question identifying what the Chapters are doing to retain membership. We did this to understand what we need to do to help ensure that our membership prospers. It also gave us the opportunity to physically contact our Chapter Presidents and communicate one-on-one. This communication is scheduled to continue. We emphasize how important this contact is to our membership retention and growth.

The results of our member survey are documented in District 8 Director Karen Shea's report and they were published and sent to the District Chapter Presidents and will be published on the District 8 IOBG website. We found the communication with the District Chapters is a challenge as currently captured contact information is not the most accurate. It was also found that asking for the current IOBG Chapter President's name was not readily provided by the local contact. We must insure that scheduled contact with the Chapters continues to be one of the District's highest priorities.

As the communication with the District Chapters continues, each Officer is assigned up to 5 Chapters to contact 2-3 times per year to update each on the current District activity. It is important for this contact to take place to assist in the retention of each IOBG Chapter. An updated list of Chapters and the assigned D8 Executive Board member will be published soon after we revisit the assignment of Chapters to the District officers.

At our District 8 meeting held on June 3rd I took the opportunity to display and review the contents of the IOBG.org, IOBG-HF.org and D8IOBG.org websites. This display was to educate the attendees of the District meeting of the available information contained on each of the sites. In general, members were unaware of the organizational details that each of these websites contain so the time was well spent in review of the sites.

I reminded all attendees of the International annual meeting that will take place in Cleveland, Ohio on October 19 – 22, 2017. The IOBG.org website has the registration forms on-line.

Access the IOBG.ORG website for additional information on activities in all Districts.

Please continue your support of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation. Website: IOBG-HF.org

To apply for Humanitarian Foundation funding of a local project access the website and complete the LAP (Local Area Project) application form.

District 8
Karen Shea, District Director

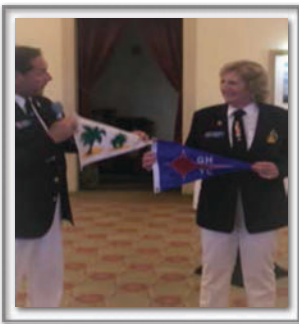
As of June 1, 2017, we have 234 paid members compared to 229 last year. So, we are very successful at retention. We have dropped from 24 Chapters to 23 Chapters. No members from Lauderdale YC have rejoined even though President Elect Doug Case, Secretary Heather Wood and myself have called and sent letters.

On April 17th, when we did not have any members from Charlotte Harbor YC, Lauderdale YC or North Palm Beach, I sent out personal letters to their Presidents along with the new IOBG Brochures asking them to rejoin. We had a positive response from Charlotte Harbor YC and North Palm Beach YC. I am again in the process of sending 24 letters to all charters that are no longer active and 7 Yacht Clubs that are members of Florida Council of Yacht Clubs, but do not have an IOBG Charter. President Franck has been proactive in asking those 7 FCYC Chapters to establish IOBG Chapters.

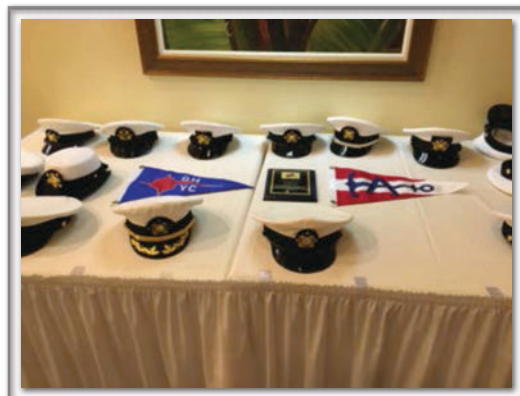
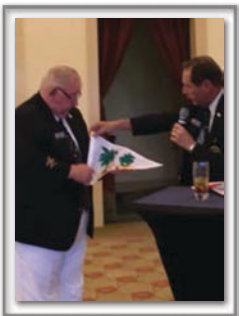
I feel the key to keeping members interested is to inform them via our website at www.d8iobg.org, our newsletters, letters, emails and phone calls from our Executive Committee. Another tool which I think members enjoy is a roster of all the District members in a simple alphabetical format. I understand we have only 2 IOBG Districts that have a published official membership directory. Our last one was sent out in November 2016, I am working with Mary Nye Meyers to complete the 2017 roster hopefully by the end of July.

I will continue to share with the other District Directors what makes our District retain our members and maintain the highest membership:

1. Communication with Chapter Presidents and members via phone calls from our executive committee, emails, newsletters, updated websites and an alphabetical membership roster.
2. I recommended to check their Chapter websites to make sure their IOBG information is on their website. I checked our 23 Chapter websites and only 4 of 23 had links to their IOBG Chapter info to even acknowledge they had a Chapter! Those Chapters who have links are Dunedin Boat Club, Gulf Harbors YC, Isles YC and Pelican Isle Yacht Club. On our GHYC website I put a picture of our IOBG members and information about our Chapter. District Directors please check your Chapter websites to see if they have an IOBG tab or placed somewhere on their website.



We had our District 8 Summer Meeting last weekend at Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda, Florida where both SEVP Buzz Bisanz and I exchanged burgees from our yacht clubs with Isles Yacht Club. Don't forget to bring a burgee with you to all meetings and whenever you travel. Make it a point to stop at at least one yacht club to exchange a burgee and hand out a few IOBG brochures. District 8 also participated in a Sundowner Retreat.



District 18
Dave Kowert, President

Summer season is upon us and we are working the various SAYRA regattas as Race Committee all the while promoting IOBG. We have no events planned for the summer as the season is literally too busy for people to find time to go to another event. The PC's are tapped constantly as volunteers for events almost every weekend here. That said, we are getting positive response to a fall event at Charleston Yacht Club.

JD Rosser from Hobcaw Yacht Club has agreed to serve with me in this area and promote the IOBG. His membership will be forthcoming shortly. JD is a good asset as he is the former Commodore of SAYRA as well as having been the Commodore of HYC twice.

We both feel that if we can get just four solid members in the area we can really generate some positive momentum. I hope that by Fall we will have a small but thriving program that will re-engage the PCs in the greater Charleston and South Carolina & North Carolina markets.

My best to all...

Pictures of the Sundown Ceremony during the Memorial Day weekend at the District 18 Allatoona Yacht Club, Acworth, GA. This is the home yacht club of IOBG SE Area VP Buzz Bisanz.



In Memorium...

*Bill Young
District 70 U.K.*

July 6, 2017

From Sue Young:

Just a quick note to let you know that Bill passed away on Thursday, July 6th. As you know, he had been suffering terribly since he went into hospital for a broken hip in January, but was so pleased when we finally got him home. However, he was unable to walk and about a month ago was totally confined to bed.

He loved being a part of IOBG and we had such lovely times at the conventions. We both so looked forward to them.

My good wishes to you all...

From Stephen & Shirley Willing:

Bill was the past president and past director of IOBG in district 70. He and Sue made many trips to the USA for annual conventions.

Bill hand made gavels for the IOBG presidents, and also presented one to the IOBGA.

Steve and I were fortunate to have spent a day with them in the UK, two years ago.

From Vern & Linda Bendsen:

Linda and I met Bill and Sue Young in London in August of 2015. We spent a delightful day visiting and having lunch.







Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sue.

The picture is of Bill and I trading burgees of our respective yacht clubs.

IOBG lost one of its great supporters.

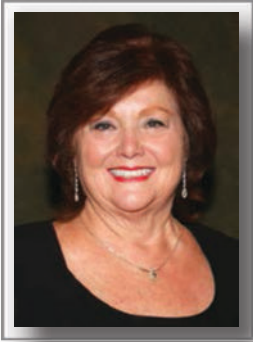


**2017
 IOBGA
 Executive
 Officers**

	<p style="text-align: center;">President</p>	<p>Sandi Durieux - Dist. 7 13804 Crescent Cove Ave NE Thornville, OH 43076</p> <p>Tel: 740-242-4001 Cell: 740-334-7675 Email: ssdurieux@columbus.rr.com</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">President- Elect</p>	<p>Al Eiffert - Dist. 1 39906 Black Mesa Lane Palm Desert, CA 92260</p> <p>Tel/Cell: 206-819-5809 Home: 760-567-8824 Email: meiffert@earthlink.net</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">1st Vice President</p>	<p>Gary Smith - Dist. 15 815 Ethel Pl National City, CA 91950</p> <p>Tel: 619-479-6292 Email: gsaco@aol.com</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Vice President</p>	<p>Robin Vadaj - Dist. 7 7505 Thatchum Lane Concord, OH 44060</p> <p>Cell: 440-637-6287 Email: robinvadaj@gmail.com</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p>	<p>Nancy Kay - Dist. 7 2 Bennington Ct Beachwood, OH 44122</p> <p>Home: 216-378-1212 Email: nancykay2112@gmail.com</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p>	<p>Audrey Hall - Dist. 15 2063 Grandview St. Oceanside, CA 92054</p> <p>Home: 760-757-6796 Email: hulakai2@cox.net</p>



International Order of the Blue Gavel Auxiliary



President Sandi Durieux

The Portland meeting was June 8-10. As usual District 5 was a gracious host. Unfortunately because of weather the much anticipated boat ride had to be canceled but the dinner was up to their usual high standards.

We continue our work to update our data base. This is an ongoing job that we hope to finish soon.

New Past Presidents cards were mailed . We appreciate their past service and highly value their continued input into our organization.

I am happy to say that as of June we have 304 members. Thank you to all of you for your continued support.

On a personal note... the International President-Elect of the IOBG was knighted in an impressive ceremony conducted by the Portland Royal Rosarians. This year it was my husband Tony Durieux. He was among a stellar group of honorees including several high ranking military officers.

I hope to see many of you at our change or watch in Cleveland in October.

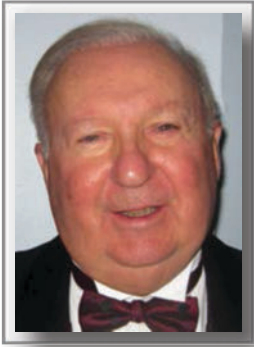


District 15 IOBGA
Audrey Hall, President

Our district has had a busy spring, We had a small event for Elder-help in April with SMYC and raised over \$100. At our summer event at MBYC on Saturday, July 8th there was music, food, entertainment and a chance for our new and gently used, costume, trendy and designer jewelry at unbelievable prices (\$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20) to bring a great dollar amount for Elder-help.

All yacht club members are welcome to join in the fun. If you are in San Diego please join with us in the fun and fund raising.

We will have two more events this year, September and October to bring our total amount to over \$1000.



First Vice President
Gary Smith

Some thoughts to share...

The “Ands”

You’ve just received word that the membership of your club has selected you as an officer of your yacht club. Ahead lays many meetings, legal issues, adherence to the bylaws, slip issues, financial burdens, and the fun of Opening Days, satisfaction over a job done well and pride in the recognition from your fellow members. You turn to the first person in your life, your spouse, partner, significant other and give her/him the good news. She/he praises the wisdom of the membership and prepares for the events of the future.

For the next years of your life as an officer you and your mate will be introduced as “Director, Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore and finally as Commodore _____ and _____.

Your companion will enter the world of the “Ands”. She/he will attend all your functions that call for a companion’s attendance, her/his physical presence attesting to your wise choices. You will win accolades, receive awards, have your picture hung on the wall of past commodores and be nominated for membership in the Blue Gavel.

Your “And” will qualify for the IOBGA.



In May our club, Southwestern Yacht Club, San Diego, under the leadership of Vice Commodore Russ Cornelius and his wife Veola, hosted a dinner for the “Ands” of our 92 year old club. “Ands” from all ages attended, Russ interviewed each one and prepared a Power Point presentation. There was laughter, applause and pride in the group’s accomplishments. Each of us received a gold pin fashioned in the shape of the abbreviation for “&”, a pennant of the abbreviation, and recognition of our place in the annals of our club.

We were humbled by the recognition and praised the Cornelius’s thoughtfulness as well as the inspiration that invoked the occasion.

We hope other clubs will emulate the idea and follow Southwestern’s example.



IOBG Humanitarian Foundation

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.

"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.

IOBG Humanitarian Foundation



Carol Promessi	cpromessi@att.net	Pittsburg, CA	President & CEO
Robert "Buzz" Bisanz	buzz8521@comcast.net	Woodstock, GA	Vice President
Lani Lightle	lanilightle44@gmail.com	Seattle, WA	Treasurer & CFO
Dr. Julie Albright	recherche2@gmail.com	Los Angeles, CA	Secretary
Larry Inguagiato	larry.inguagiato@mac.com	Monroe, MI	Director
Joan Marsh	jmarsh6607@yahoo.com	Pittsburg, CA	Director
Gary McGrath	gmac6262@aol.com	Concord, CA	Director
LaVon Plumlee	lavon@nyclb.com	Westminster, CA	Director
Jackie Evans Rudd	jerry10jackie8@gmail.com	Auburn, WA	Director
Nancy Bisanz	buzznan1111@yahoo.com	Woodstock, GA	Ambassador
David Breninger	dbreninger@surewest.net	Roseville, CA	Ambassador
Gary & Audrey Hall	hulakai2@cox.net	Oceanside, CA	Ambassador
Richard Hardy		Pittsburg, CA	Ambassador
Mary Kay Inguagiato	mkinguagiato@gmail.com	Monroe, MI	Ambassador
Lee Lightle	leelightle@gmail.com	Seattle, WA	Ambassador
Bill Plumlee	wplumlee@nyclb.com	Westminster, CA	Ambassador
Phil Promessi	ppromessi@tat.net	Pittsburg, CA	Ambassador
Charlie Thome	stogy@gmail.com	Alameda, CA	Ambassador
David Welles	Not Available	Staten Island, NY	Ambassador
Mike & Susie West	westdoublej23@aol.com	Ripon, CA	Ambassador



The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation was first spearheaded by then 1st VP Dr. Richard Disraeli and formed on August 28, 1992 at the Portland Regional Meeting and ratified at the Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

The HF Board has done a lot of building this year with addressing the website and making it more user friendly. Thanks goes to Mary Nye Meyers for working so diligently to make this happen.

We are also in the process of reviewing a grant request from the "Channel Islands Maritime Museum" and also understand that the Foundation will be receiving three more Grant requests.

We thank you for your support!

Our Mission

"The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation (HF) 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" ..

What is the IOBG and the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation?

The International Order of the Blue Gavel (IOBG) was founded in 1953 by Ev G. Henry as a fraternal organization of yacht club commodores who had successfully completed their years of service. The IOBG is committed to serve as a resource tool of past commodores who can benefit their yacht club and regional yachting associations with their experience.

IOBG members represent over 450 yacht clubs worldwide. These past commodores are successful business and community leaders and their participation in the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation represents rich resources committed to making a difference for others. The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation is a volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) California public benefit corporation which:

- Supports worldwide humanitarian causes
- Provides grants to Local Assistance Programs, and Youth Assistance Programs
- Sponsors Special Olympic Sailing Programs

The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation's objective is to implement our founding father's vision of serving mankind through the use of the extraordinary talents, international relationships, and the business experience of our members. In support of this goal, the Foundation focuses on:

- Fundraising
- Strategic Partnerships
- Education
- Communication
- Volunteer Service Opportunities
- Grants to Approved Causes

Continued...

The Administration of the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation is comprised of nine Directors who are members of the IOBG and the IOBG Auxiliary; the Board is a completely independent body, which meets via monthly teleconferences and in person at IOBG Regional and Annual meetings. The Directors review and consider grant applications, Local Area Projects (LAP's). Grants are awarded based on available funds and on the merits of the LAP.

Each IOBG yacht club chapter may support the Foundation by:

- Annual Fundraising Events
- Individual Member Contributions
- Donation of Time and Talent
- Solicitation of Personal and Corporate Contributions through Personal Contacts

How You Can Help?

The IOBGHF is a volunteer organization, which depends on generous contributions of time and talent. Not all people can participate in the administration and operation of the IOBGHF; but if you do want to make a world of difference, catch our spirit and make hope a reality, you can make a tax deductible contribution to the IOBGHF in the following ways:

- Cash or Property Donations
- Security or Real Estate Gifts
- Naming the Foundation as a Beneficiary in your Will or Trust
- Assignment of Insurance Proceeds to the Benefit of the Foundation
- Irrevocable Charitable Remainder Trusts – may provide your estate with significant tax planning benefits.

Donate to the Humanitarian Foundation

Online Contribution

You can visit the IOBG-HF web site to make an online contribution at www.iobg-hf.org and click on the Make a Tax Deductible Donation link.

Postal Mail Contribution

Send a check to the following address:

International Order of the Blue Gavel
Humanitarian Foundation
3517 Camino del Rio S Suite 208
San Diego, CA 92108

What is the Patron Program?

Make a \$100 minimum donation to the Humanitarian Foundation and receive an "Action For Life" pin that you can wear proudly.

Remember, the IOBGHF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation so all your contributions are tax deductible. In addition, if you work for a Company that has a matching gifts program, contact your Human Resources Department to get a form to take advantage of their program, which may provide additional contributions to the HF.

Action for Life Pin



Continued...

Recent Projects:

District 1 (Northwest Area)

HF Scholarship Funds for Sail Kingston Cove March 2017

Sail Kingston Cove (SKC) is a community non-profit corporation dedicated to providing boating awareness, through sailing programs, which promote safety, self-confidence, fun, and an appreciation of the marine environment. A sailing program was established for youths 8 to 12 years old. After three years, SKC is expanding to include youth up to age 17.

SKC has identified several youth that would like to learn to sail, but their families do not have the resources to pay for sailing camp.

The IOBG Humanitarian Foundation has awarded Sail Kingston Cove a grant of \$600.00 that will provide three scholarships to youth unable to pay for classes.

On March 6, 2017, Lani Lightle visited SKC to present the grant. IOBG members from Kingston Cove Yacht Club participated in the presentation.



2017 DISTRICT OFFICERS & AREAS SERVED

<p>#1 PRESIDENT-Northwest Charles Havens (Pat) 2889 Grandview Dr Clarkston, WA 99403-2918 Tel: 509-758-6482 pathavens5963@msn.com SECRETARY Jeanne Gordon (John) 10906 SE 179th PL Renton, WA 98055-6561 Tel: 425-226-8872 Cell: 206-790-5421 gordon5050@comcast.net</p>	<p>#8 PRESIDENT - Southeast Peter Franck (Louise) 425 Dockside Drive Unit 404 Naples, FL 34110 Tel: 239-592-6056 peterfranck@comcast.net SECRETARY Heather Wood 1800 Embassy Drive #108 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 Tel: 561-201-7763 guns2lace@comcast.net</p>	<p>#16 PRESIDENT- Southwest Georgie Olsen (Richard) 109 San Fernando Oxnard, CA 93035 Tel: 805-985-1732 Cell: 805-320-1675 glogreen143@gmail.com SECRETARY Francine Thomas 1754 Emerald Isle Way Oxnard, CA 93035 Tel: 805-984-2505 fthomas10@verizon.net</p>	<p>#24 PRESIDENT- Northwest Carol Zumpano 60 Calgary Ave. Penticton, BC V2A 2T6 Canada Tel: 250-292-8750 czumpano@vip.net SECRETARY Yvonne Crawford (Steven) 1547 Klien Rd. Kelowna, BC V1Z 3H5 Canada Tel: 250-769-7325 skicondo@telus.net</p>
<p>#2 PRESIDENT - Canada Ed Ackerman (Marilyn) 308-10461 Resthaven Dr. Sidney, BC Canada V8L 3H6 Tel: 250-656-7799 Fax: 250-656-1242 eimut88@shaw.ca SECRETARY/TREASURER John Biggs (Carole) 6406 McKenzie Dr. Duncan, BC Canada V9L 5R9 Tel: 250-746-4941 Bus: 250-754-8435 johncarole@shaw.com</p>	<p>#9 PRESIDENT- North Central Dean Reamsnyder (Karla) 1642 Grand Bay Dr Oregon, OH 43616 Home: 419-690-5726 Cell: 419-376-0536 deanream@aol.com SECRETARY Don Teczynski (Kristin) 6930 Forest Run Temperance, MI 48182 Home: 419-360-0507 dteczynski@gmail.com</p>	<p>#18 PRESIDENT- Southeast Dave Kowert (Christy) 1236 Oak Hill Terrace Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466 Tel: 843-412-0137 davekowert@bellsouth.net SECRETARY/TREASURER Open</p>	<p>#25 PRESIDENT- North Central Betty Tyson 504 Chestnut St Wyandotte, MI 48192 Cell: 313-510-0311 bhppy777@yahoo.com SECRETARY John Rose (Fran) 21667 Meridian Grosse Ile, MI 48183 Tel: 734-676-4387 giycrose06@hotmail.com</p>
<p>#3 PRESIDENT- Northeast Stephen Tisack (Marie) 5843 Buffalo St Sanborn, NY 14132 Tel: 716-998-7938 crew92fm@hotmail.com SECRETARY Gerald Hathaway (Arlene) 28 Niagara Shore Dr Tonawanda, NY 14150 Tel: 716-693-1739 reanjer@aol.com</p>	<p>#10 PRESIDENT- Southwest Rodney Coomber 11462 Pickney Way Cypress, CA 90630 Tel: 714-891-0767 Cell: 714-488-2064 anzac1240@yahoo.com SECRETARY William Anast (Lana) 11236 Dover Way Stanton, CA 90680 Tel: 714-235-4809 AnastBill@yahoo.com</p>	<p>#19 PRESIDENT- Southwest David Breninger (Linda) 425 Websters Court Roseville, CA 95747 Tel: 916-771-5685 Cell: 916-798-3980 dbreninger@surewest.net SECRETARY Karen Mann (Scott) 4815 Discovery Point Discovery Bay, CA 94505 Cell: 510-612-5122 karen@mannappraisal.com</p>	<p>#26 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>
<p>#4 PRESIDENT- Canada Ron Defieux (Linda) 641 Blueridge Ave. N. Vancouver, BC V74 2J4 Canada Tel: 604-987-7425 Fax: 604-985-7263 rdefieux@shaw.ca SECRETARY Betty Harris-Peake (Dennis) 1078 English Bluff Rd. Delta, BC V4M 2N6 - Canada Tel: 604-943-4923 Fax: 604-943-1205 bettyharrispeake@hotmail.com</p>	<p>#11 PRESIDENT- Southwest Sheila Anderson 5606 Downey Avenue Lakewood, CA 90712 Cell: 626-484-7822 toymaker56@yahoo.com SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#20 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#27 PRESIDENT- Northeast Bill Fischbein 1209 Gillia Court Pasadena, MD 21122 Tel: 410-255-8650 Bill@litehousesrealty.com SECRETARY Frank Abbott (Peggy Adams) 116 Jupiter Road Neward, DE 19711 Tel: 302-593-8095 fabbott102@aol.com</p>
<p>#5 PRESIDENT-Northwest Mike Kondrat (Chris) 1445 NW 116th Ave Portland, OR 97229 Tel: 503-644-4816 Cell: 503-819-2775 mike@kondrats.com SECRETARY Bill McKinney (Margo) 15100 NE 12th Way Vancouver, WA 98684 Tel: 360-953-8835 Cell: 503-539-8748 billmckinney3@aol.com</p>	<p>#12 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#21 PRESIDENT- Southwest Richard Price P.O. Box 3451 Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352 Tel: 909-346-3870 bluegavel21@gmail.com SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#70 PRESIDENT- England Open</p>
<p>#6 PRESIDENT - Southwest Ron Dodini (Becky) 44-128 Keaalau Place Kaneohe, HI 96744 Tel: 808-235-2470 Tel: 808-294-0135 huiiana808@gmail.com SECRETARY Donna B. Salisbury (Ed) 98-988 Palula Way Aiea, HI 96701 Cell: 808-256-3731 Tel: 808-485-0002 donnaned@earthlink.net</p>	<p>#14 PRESIDENT- Southwest Liz Allison 1700 San Carlos Ave #302 San Carlos, CA 94070 Tel: 650-593-4649 chocho2479@aol.com SECRETARY Sam Benson (Christina) 245 Los Banos Ave Walnut Creek, CA 94598 Tel: 925-708-1899 sam@sambensonrealty.com</p>	<p>#22 PRESIDENT- Northeast Open SECRETARY Open</p>	<p>#75 PRESIDENT- New Zealand William G. (Bill) Mitchinson (Myrna) 4 Bannockburn Lane Bethlehem Tauranga, New Zealand 3110 Tel: 0064-75791098 Cell: 0064-277173724 bmmitchinson@clear.net.nz SECRETARY Christine Conn (Martin) 65 Omokoroa Country Estate Private Bag 12026 Tauranga, 3141 New Zealand Tel: 0064-75481400 Bus: 0064-274791871 bluegavel@gmail.com</p>
<p>#7 PRESIDENT - North Central Deborah Light 2480 Dorset Dr Seven Hills, OH Tel: 216-973-1076 dlightful759@sbcglobal.net SECRETARY Warren Dempster (Marianne) 33545 Lori Ann Dr Eastlake, OH 44095 Cell: 440-725-7731 wcy40@yahoo.com</p>	<p>#15 PRESIDENT- Southwest Ned Knight P.O. Box 6577 San Diego, CA 92166 Tel: 619-847-4426 nedknight3@yahoo.com SECRETARY Jim Murtland (Liz Sloan) 2958 Sunset Hills Escondido, CA 92025 Tel: 760-741-8686 jimmurtland@aol.com</p>	<p>#23 PRESIDENT- North Central Robert F. Sapita (Kay) P.O. Box 581 Douglas, MI 49406 Tel: 269-857-2123 Cell: 269-355-8508 bksapita@frontier.com SECRETARY Don Schorffhaar (Sue) 9829 High Banks Drive Cheboygan, MI 49721 Tel: 231-627-2908 dschorffhaar@earthlink.net</p>	



*International Order of the Blue Gavel
3517 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 208
San Diego, CA 92108*

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