

# THE BLUE GAVEL LOG

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

Volume: 47 No.: 4

Fall 2025

John Gaddis, 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.

## 2025 ANNUAL IOBG MEETING ON THE WATER



# 2026 IOBG DIRECTORY

REFLECTS UPDATES RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 2025

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

### PROTOCOL OFFICER

Marsha Landreth -805-889-0054  
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### RECORDING SECRETARY

Nancy Bisanz- 770-337-8701  
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### LEGAL OFFICER

Alec Chabalowski  
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### MEMBERSHIP

Kathy McCarthy

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marsha Landreth

### PAST PRESIDENT LIAISON

Steve Willing

### LOG EDITOR

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johnwgaddis@gmail.com

### WEBMASTER

Josh Wagner

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## REPRESENTATIVES

<b>BOAT U.S.</b> Jack Skidmore (Nancy) <b>Email</b> 805-896-5555
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<b>HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION LIAISON</b> John W. Gaddis 661-974-6286
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<b>NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION</b> Marlene Barrington <b>Email</b> 928-759-7158
<b>US SAILING</b> Mark Hansen <b>Email</b> 310-601-0710

## COMMITTEES

### AUDIT

Chair: Steve Hyder, Buzz Bisanz, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith, Mark Cain, Phil LaCourse, Kathy McCarthy

### BY-LAWS & POLICY/PROCEDURES

Chair: Dave Kowert, Mark Cain, Dean Smith, Marsha Landreth

### FINANCE

Chairman: Buzz Bisanz, Steve Hyder, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith, Jack Skidmore, Kathy McCarthy.

### ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Chair: Marsha Landreth, Buzz Bisanz, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith

### ELECTIONS

Chair: Marsha Landreth, Nancy Bisanz

### NOMINATIONS

Chair: Steve Hyder, Buzz Bisanz, Marsha Landreth, West Rep, East Rep

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS

**DISTRICT 1**  
Richard "Butch" Brown (Sallie)  
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Port Gamble, WA 98364  
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Open

**DISTRICT 26**  
Open

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69 Carpenter Ave  
Buffalo, NY 14223  
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3616 Bravata Dr  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649  
Cell: (714) 846-0939  
laclevle@aol.com

**DISTRICT 27**  
Carl Treff (Angie)  
8110 Whites Cove Rd  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
Tel: 410-627-3093  
carltreff@yahoo.com

**DISTRICT 5**  
Open

**DISTRICT 10**  
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2653 Nipomo Ave  
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Cell: 562-985-5767  
Wilson\_Kingsgambit@yahoo.com  
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Lisa Marie Medlen  
Lisamarie.ciyc@gmail.com  
Phone 805-701-2991

**DISTRICT 22**  
Open

**DISTRICT 50**  
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Concord, OH 44060  
Tel: 440-350-1488  
Cell: 440-479-0064  
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**DISTRICT 11**  
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Phone 310-949-0602

**DISTRICT 18**  
Dave Kowert (Christie)  
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Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466  
Tel: 843-412-0137  
davekowert@bellsouth.net

**DISTRICT 23**  
Open

**DISTRICT 51**  
Open

**DISTRICT 75**  
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Townhouse #6  
23 Barlett Street  
Riccarton, Christchurch  
New Zealand 8011  
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**DISTRICT 12**  
Open

**DISTRICT 19**  
Rich Dooley,  
791 Beaver Court Discovery Bay, CA  
94505  
Cell: 925 998-1476  
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**DISTRICT 25**  
Chuck Brock  
Tel: 734-347-7024  
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# 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



## PRESIDENT

Robert P. (Buzz) Bisanz, Col.

[buzz8521@comcast.net](mailto:buzz8521@comcast.net)



## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

STEVEN HYDER (PAM MYERS)  
5321 RAVEN PARKWAY  
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734-241-6611  
[www.attorneystevehyder.com](http://www.attorneystevehyder.com)  
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## PRESIDENT ELECT

DAVE KOWERT (CHRISTIE)  
1236 OAK HILL TERRACE  
MT. PLEASANT, SC 29466

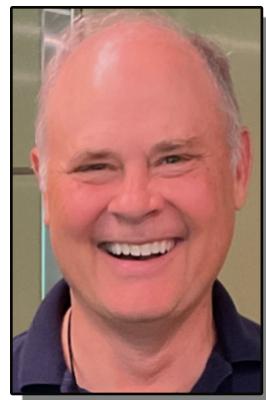
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## TREASURER

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## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

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CELL: (808) 343-1704  
[WILE\\_E\\_COYOTES@YAHOO.COM](mailto:WILE_E_COYOTES@YAHOO.COM)



## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

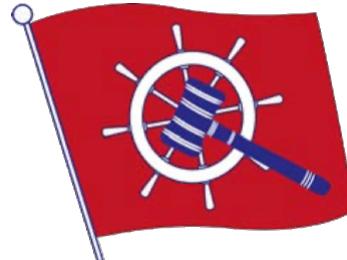
PHIL LACOURSE  
5940 E. COBBLESTONES LN.  
SYLVANIA, OHIO 43560

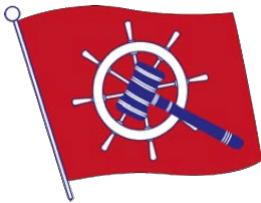
[phillacourse@ymail.com](mailto:phillacourse@ymail.com)



## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

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

**IOBG List of Officers for 2025 - 2026**

President – Robert P. Buzz Bisanz, Col.

President Elect – Dave Kowert

1st Vice President- Dean Smith

2nd Vice President- Mark Cain

Executive Secretary – Phil LaCourse

Treasurer - Kathy McCarthy

Past President- Steve Hyder

**AREA VICE PRESIDENTS & ASSIGNED DISTRICTS**

**Northwest- Open**

District Directors 1 & 5

**Southwest – Richard Dooley**

District Directors 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, and 51

**North Central- Rodger Dutton**

District Directors 7, 9, 23, 25 and 50

**Northeast- Don Peacock**

District Directors 3, 12, 20, 22, 26 ,27

**Southeastern- Barbara Dolan**

District Directors 8, 18



## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

### **ROBERT P. (BUZZ) BISANZ, COL.**

Welcome everyone to IOBG LOG for December 2025. We are planning to publish the LOG on a quarterly basis throughout 2026 in an attempt to keep you our members abreast of activities in IOBG.

I would like to start out this year with a listing our International officers on our leadership team.

#### **IOBG listing for 2025 - 2026**

##### **Officer**

President – Robert P. Buzz Bisanz, Col.

- President Elect – Dave Kowert
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President- Dean Smith
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Mark Cain
- Executive Secretary – Phil LaCourse
- Treasurer - Kathy McCarthy
- Past President- Steve Hyder

##### **Area Vice Presidents & Assigned Districts**

- Northwest- Open
- District Directors 1 & 5
- Southwest – Richard Dooley
- District Directors 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, & 51
- North Central- Rodger Dutton
- District Directors 7, 9, 23, 25 and 50
- Northeast- Don Peacock
- District Directors 3, 12, 20, 22, 26 ,27
- Southeastern- Barbara Dolan
- District Directors 8, 18

### Introduction of Appointed Officers

- Legal Officer – Alec Chabalowski
- Communications Director- John Gaddis
- Protocol Officer - Marsha Landreth
- Recording Secretary – Nancy Bisanz
- Education Officer – Open
- Sergeant at Arms – Open
- Past President Liaison officer – Steve Willing
- Historian – Open
- Supply Officer – Commodore Insignia

### Introduction of Representatives:

- Auxiliary Liaison - Open
- Humanitarian Foundation Liaison – John Gaddis
- Boat US Liaison - Open
- Membership - Kathy McCarthy
- Public Relations –Marsha Landreth
- National Boating Federation Liaison - Marlene Barrington
- US Sailing Liaison - Mark Hansen
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary Liaison – Bob Brandenstein
- American Boating Club (formally Power Squadron) Liaison - Audrey Rice

### Introduction of Committees:

- **Audit** – Chairman: Steve Hyder, Buzz Bisanz, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith, Mark Cain, Phil LaCourse, Kathy McCarthy
- **By-Laws and Policy/Procedure Manual** – Chairman: Dave Kowert, Mark Cain, Dean Smith, Marsha Landreth
- **Finance** – Chairman: Buzz Bisanz, Steve Hyder, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith, Jack Skidmore, Kathy McCarthy
- **Annual Meeting Review** – Chairman: Marsha Landreth, Buzz Bisanz, Dave Kowert, Dean Smith
- **Annual Meeting Elections** – Chairman: Marsha Landreth, Nancy Bisanz
- **Nominations** –Chairman: Steve Hyder, Buzz Bisanz, Marsha Landreth, - West Rep, East Rep

As you can see we do have a few open positions in our list of offices so if you would be interested in serving in one of these positions please let me know.

I also wanted to publish a brief description of the job descriptions for the members of the International Officers on the Executive Board. Please read the following descriptions to familiarize yourself to the expectations we have for each officer.

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**2025 – 2026 IOBG Job Descriptions  
Taken From the IOBG ByLaws and the Policy and Procedures Manual**

**ARTICLE VI (ByLaws)  
Officers**

**President :** The duties of the President shall be to administer the affairs of the organization and preside over all regular meetings thereof and to appoint committees as are necessary for the functioning of the organization. The President shall have the authority to authorize expenditures for amounts exceeding the approved budget for unforeseeable items to an amount not exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500). Any expenditure exceeding the one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) limit must be approved by the Board of Directors, or by the Executive Committee acting in their stead.

The President shall appoint a Recording Secretary, a Legal Officer, and other Officers the President may from time to time deem appropriate. Said appointed Officers, however, need not be members of the Board of Directors, and if not, then shall not be entitled to vote with the Board of Directors and other elected Officers.

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1380 Centerville Lane #32  
Gardnerville, NV 89410-9715  
Email: [Comsignia@aol.com](mailto:Comsignia@aol.com)  
[www.commodoreinsignia.com](http://www.commodoreinsignia.com)

**COMMODORE INSIGNIA**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

President Elect: The duties of the President Elect shall be to assist the President, and, in his or her absence, to act in his or her place and stead, and shall automatically become President upon the expiration of the current President's term. The First or Second Vice President shall act in the

absence of the President or the President Elect, and will at all times assist the President in his or her duties

(a) The President Elect shall present a budget for approval at the Annual Meeting for the ensuing year. The budget shall detail as practicable and shall include with other major items, limits for authorized travel expenses.

Executive Secretary: The Executive Secretary shall keep all pertinent records of the organization and will prepare Chapter, District, and Auxiliary Chapters approved by the Board of Directors and keep records of each.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive all monies which may accrue to the organization and shall be responsible for the disbursement thereof, and shall keep complete financial and membership records of the organization and prepare any organization documents required for tax purposes. Subject to the approval of the President Elect, the Finance Committee shall present to the Board of Directors, a budget for the ensuing year.

Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary shall record and transcribe the minutes of meetings.

**From the Policy and Procedures Manual:**

The First and Second Vice Presidents report to the President Elect as well as to the President.

The First Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the President and for the Bylaws, Policy Manual, newsletter (The Blue Gavel Log), and Area Vice Presidents east of the Mississippi River and the Director of District 50. The First Vice President reports to both the President and the President Elect

The Second Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the President and for public relations, the IOBG brochure, Area Vice Presidents west of the Mississippi River and the Director of District 51. The Second Vice President reports to both the President and the President Elect.

The designation and duties of Area Vice Presidents are delineated in the IOBG Policy and Procedures Manual under Elected Officers.

Area Vice President: The Area Vice Presidents serve as the primary liaison between the Executive Committee and the Districts assigned.

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They shall assist the Districts in implementing directives from the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, in the promotion of membership growth and public relations, and in effecting and enhancing the liaison between Districts.

Area Vice Presidents are charged with staying abreast of activities within their areas, ensuring that the District Directors are reporting to them, and to report progress made, problems encountered, new ideas generated by the Districts, and with reporting to the First or Second Vice President as assigned.

The Area Vice Presidents should make every effort to visit each of the Districts assigned at least once a year. The Area Vice Presidents are invited to attend and audit the IOBG Executive Committee monthly Zoom or conference call.

They do not have a vote on the Executive Committee but rather are present at the meetings to gather IOBG information to share with their Districts.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Immediate Past International President, the President, who shall act as Chairman, the President Elect, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer, whose duties shall include, put not limited to, the following:

- (a) Acting in lieu of the Board of Directors between Annual Meetings;
- (b) Making appointments to fill vacancies;
- (c) Approving the Annual Meeting Committee Report and other Committee reports;
- (d) Reviewing and ruling on Chapter Applications not meeting IOBG Requirements;
- (e) Approving expenditures exceeding the budget;
- (f) Reviewing applications for Auxiliary groups;
- (g) Researching and preparing subjects to be brought before the Annual Meeting. All actions by the Executive Committee shall be by majority vote either in meeting assembled or by proxy. All actions by the Executive Committee are subject to review by the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting and must be ratified either in meeting assembled or polled by mail ballot.

I hope this detail information regarding the IOBG leadership will serve you well and bring you a little closer to understanding our association of Past Commodores. Best wishes on a successful year in IOBG.



## PRESIDENT ELECT REPORT

### DAVE KOWERT

Dave Kowert. President Elect

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to become your President Elect this year. Serving on the Executive Board of IOBG has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience and I strongly encourage all of you to explore running for different offices within your Districts and Internationally. IOBG is all about "the people" and our shared experiences as Past Commodores. Becoming an officer at any level dramatically expands the IOBG people you connect with every month and believe me, it's well worth the effort. I am looking forward continuing to serve our organization and each of its members ("all y'all "as we say in Charleston) to the very best of my ability throughout the upcoming years.

In addition to fulfilling tasks assigned to me by President Bisanz, one of my responsibilities in this new position includes planning for NEXT years annual meeting. This years cruise (and meeting) set the bar pretty high as we all had a great time on the high seas while getting the organization's business completed at the same time. Kudos to President Bisanz and Past President Marsha Landreth and everyone else who worked hard planning the cruise. It was a terrific weekend for all who attended.

It's too early to share the location of next years annual meeting as we are just starting to secure quotes from hotels and meeting rooms. I hope you will all try to insulate the weekends of October 9th and October 16th, 2026 for just a month or so, as one of those will very likely be the selected dates. Attending an annual meeting is well worth the effort and expense. You not only get to have a real voice in the decisions that impact IOBG every year, but you get to meet a-lot of super interesting people from around the Country each of whom has held the gavel for their respective clubs. It's like meeting a total stranger that you find you actually do have a-lot in common with.

Early into his tenure as President, President Bisanz is on a mission to get the website updated. Part of my upcoming responsibility is supporting that effort. Hopefully you will begin to see very positive changes in how we present IOBG to the world in the upcoming months.

Stay tuned for another LOG report in a few months.

Respectfully submitted: Dave Kowert



## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

### DEAN SMITH

I'm honored, once again, to serve on IOBG's Executive Committee, this year as the First Vice President. In that role, I look forward to helping President Buzz Bisanz and President-Elect Dave Kowert in my new responsibilities for Area Vice Presidents and districts east of the Mississippi.

Our Annual Meeting onboard the MSC Seashore in October provided an excellent opportunity to start learning, with districts present from both the north central and southeast areas. Two weeks later I was in Baltimore on other business and visited District 27 Director Carl Treff at Maryland YC, and National Potomac YC Chapter President "H-man" Seigel in my old stomping grounds of Annapolis. Like others, they're interested in hearing how the Executive Committee can assist local districts, and shared the challenges and successes of IOBG chapters in the Potomac River and upper Chesapeake region.

My additional responsibilities as First Vice President include the newsletter (IOBG Log), and both the Bylaws and the Policy and Procedures Manual.

For the former, I'm working with Log editor John Gaddis to establish due dates for Logs publishing in 2026, ensuring the districts have time to plan their submissions. We're also working with Treasurer Kathy McCarthy to ensure we have up-to-date emailing distribution lists. Districts can really help by sending submissions to John for inclusion in the Log, and ensuring Kathy has the most updated information on members - especially email addresses, which sometimes change or have slight misspellings.

With our IOBG governing documents, I'm interested in input from districts on things they'd like to change or clarify in our Bylaws or Policy and Procedures Manual. A committee exists to look into possible updates, and we're always open to ideas for improvement.

Lastly, I continue to look for opportunities to learn about and hear more from districts, either via email, phone call, or even an in-person visit at district leadership or membership meetings. Please contact me if you have ideas or questions.

Wishing you happy holidays and a prosperous 2026!



## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

### MARK CAIN

A Bahama Cruise hosted by our newly elected President Buzz and Nancy Bisanz was blessed with great weather and a great time. We were able to thank Past President Steve and Pam Hyder for a great year of service that included our meeting in Put-In-Bay, were a great time was had by all.

Bringing in the New Year we are also bringing in some new faces to our Executive Board. Our Treasurer, past Commander of GCBA, Treasurer and Past President of District 7, in which her efforts brought the distinguished honor of four (4) consecutive years of high memberships of all the districts. Congratulations to Kathy and Ed McCarthy! Welcome aboard!

Besides being an excellent treasurer, one of Kathy's great attributes is reaching out and bringing in new and old members that have not been active, which breathes new life into our prestigious organization. A welcome addition to our board!

I've also had the pleasure of working directly with VP Dean Smith, who has introduced me to many of the district's members and yacht clubs throughout the western regions of the IOBG. We were able to work with SWVP Rich Dooley to assist the transition of WLYC into District 16 with the help of Districts 11, Rob Probst and 16 Lisa Medlen. I really appreciated all the hard work and effort's everyone has been putting into developing and improving these Districts.

In the Southeast, Barbara Dolan has stepped up as our Southeast area Vice President. The Southeast area covers District 8 (FL) and District 18. Barbara with the help from District 8 Director Kathy Hockenberry, is working on pulling together this very large area. VP Dean Smith, who is heading up the Eastern territories is helping to organize, help direct and coordinate their efforts.

I feel that if we can coordinate our efforts and reach out to past Commanders, we could greatly enhance IOBG's presence and influence in the boating community. We are asking for help from all District Presidents and Directors to update their entire areas officer's information so that we can update and improve our organization's database information. We appreciate any and all of your assistances with this.

Thanks and looking forward to a Great New Year for everyone.

2VP Mark Cain



## TREASURERS REPORT

### KATHY MCCARTHY

Hello IOBG Members,

I am honored to be sworn in as the 2026 IOBG Treasurer. My name is Kathryn (Kathy) McCarthy. Some of you may know of me as I have been responsible for sending out the IOBG membership cards for the last two years. Previously, district treasurers submitted dues payments to California, after which the officers there would inform me when it was appropriate to release the cards. With my new position as the IOC Treasurer, district treasurers will forward dues money directly to me, eliminating a third- party step, and will guarantee a faster turn around on cards.

The mission of IOBG is to recognize Past Commodores of the international yachting community and to unite them in order to promote the highest ideals of yachting and preserve the customs and traditions through social, educational and humanitarian programs. As a past commodore, you have earned the right to be a member of this prestige boating fraternity. With that said, I hope you will remit your 2026 dues to your respective treasurer or responsible individual of your district so they can forward to me, and I will send you your 2026 membership card.

District Treasurers can send the IOC dues to;

IOBG-IOC  
c/o Kathryn McCarthy  
8577 Hilltop Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

As always, if you know of a past commodore from your club deserving of being a member of IOBG, please reach out to your District officers. We would love to have them inducted into our organization. I am always available to assist with anything you may need help with. I can be reached via email at [kmccarthy725@yahoo.com](mailto:kmccarthy725@yahoo.com).

I have been a proud member of IOBG since 2014 after serving as Commodore of my club for two years, River's Edge Yacht Club. I can fly my IOBG burgee high on our 39' SeaRay. My husband and I dock on the Grand River in Ohio and boat on Lake Erie with our little dog Bailey. Our boat is affectionately named the "Perfect Match". My husband and I, and our dog and our boat, are The Perfect Match!

I hope you all have a happy, healthy, holiday season and prosperous New Year!



## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **PHIL LACOURSE**

I hope that as of this writing to you, that I find all of you well and wish for you the best and most joyous upcoming Holiday Season.

The end of this past October, the IOBG went through the annual "Change of Watch" for 2025 and welcomed in some new International Officers. I would like to personally thank the past officers and all of the current officers for their guidance and generosity in helping me through my first year as your International Executive Secretary. It has truly been a new learning experience and there is always a lot more to learn. Thank you again.

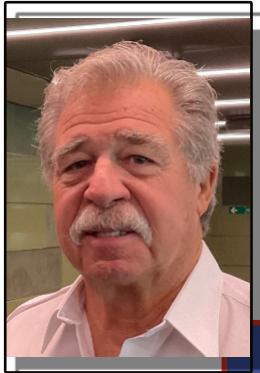
In this past year the Executive Committee has authorized five new Charters across the country. This is an exciting time to see our organization grow and the excitement within these new chapters to grow within and become a vital part of the IOBG. Your Chapter Officers, District Directors and Area Vice Presidents are always there for your success and guidance.

On another note, I, along with my wife Cathy had the privilege and the opportunity to visit the St. Augustine Yacht Club in October. We met several Officers and we were hosted by P/C and IOBG VP Barbara Dolan. They were the most gracious hosts and we had the opportunity to see their new youth sailing facility and hear about the excitement of this new beautiful building and the future plans. Well done and thank you.

I know that there is a lot of talk within our organization, the Great Lakes Associated Yacht Clubs, the I-LYA and many individual clubs about building youth programs to promote the sport of sailing and power boating. This, needless to say, keeps their club's legacy alive and hopefully raises future leaders to further lead their clubs and other outside organizations such as the IOBG. It is also most important to teach the rules of the water safety, seamanship and personal safety to everyone.

In closing, I want to thank all of you again for your timeless efforts to promote and lead your individual clubs and chapters.

Also again, wishing for all of you a happy and safe Holiday Season and a healthy and happy New Year.



## **SOUTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT**

### **RICH DOOLEY**

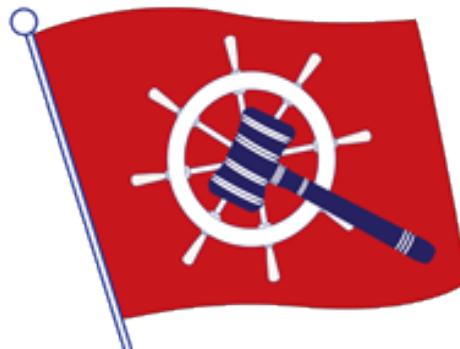
In August, Dean Smith and I traveled to Southern California to visit Districts 11, 10, 16, and 21, as well as Navy YC, Shoreline, King Harbor Yacht Club, and Westlake Yacht Clubs. We attended District 10's annual Picnic and met with the members and officers. We discussed ways to enhance IOBG's presence in the various yacht clubs, as well as some of the success stories District 10 used to raise money and create awareness in IOBG. Attached is a picture of Ray Wilson, Director, Jay Zaidenberg, President of District 10, Dean Smith, and me wearing District 10's mascot, Brown Pelican socks, at the District 10 Picnic.



The EC voted to appoint Cleve Spoule as Interim Director, thus bringing back District 21 as a functioning District.

Districts 14 & 19 held the member appreciation picnic at Stockton Yacht Club. We had 78 members attend, as well as our newest IOBG Chapter, the Northern California Sea Ray Boat Club. Present from the Sea Ray Boat Club were their Commodore, Karen Conrad, and four other Past Commodores, who are all new members of IOBG District 19.

District 15 had its annual Membership Appreciation BBQ and Meeting. However, I was unable to attend as it conflicted with our National meeting and MSC Cruise. Susan Rodriguez is the likely President of District 15, according to Michael Kirchgestner, who has moved out of District 15. Peter Hunt is the new D15 Treasurer.





## ***NORTH CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT RODGER DUTTON***

Greetings from the North Central Area of IOBG. This area is mainly the Great Lakes area of the US and boast seas of salt free water and cold winters. This makes for a short boating season for most. but the IOBG activities are many through the winter.

The Districts 7, 9, 23, and 25 all have their change of watch events which many include a blue blazer event to attract current commodores and other officers to learn what IOBG is about, and hopefully join when they become a past commodore.

Other events occur also for charity fundraising, such as the Lights Before Christmas event, put on by the D9 Auxiliary and hosted at Toledo Sail Club. This has become a tradition.

We also work with and contribute to other boating organizations in the area such as ILYAs fall weekend meeting event, supplying a pizza break for all.

This organization practices the gift of giving and is great to be part of.

Happy Holidays to all!

Rodger Dutton  
North Central Area Vice President



# 2025 ANNUAL IOBG MEETING ON THE WATER





## IOBG HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

### LEE J. HOMYOCK

#### 2025 Local Area Program Grants

##### **Mentor Harbor Yachting Club – 2025 USA Junior Olympics Sailing Festival for Lake Erie**

The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation awarded a \$2,000.00 Local Area Program grant to the Mentor Harbor Yachting Club for the 2025 Lake Erie Jr. Olympics Sailing Festival. The Local Area Program Grant assisted in funding Professional Clinic Coaches for 2025.

Since 2015 MHYC has hosted the USA Junior Olympics Sailing Festival for Lake Erie. Promoted by US Sailing, the Jr. Olympics is designed to ignite the passion for sailing in kids across the country. MHYC has always included a Skill Builder component, where junior sailors are matched in fleets with elite coaches from around the US.

Participants were provided up close and personal with professional coaches and improve your sailing skills on land and on the water. The Coaches for 2025 were John Vandemoer (Opti), David Thompson (USGGA, ILCA), and Patrick DeLilla (Maine Maritime Academy, c420)

There were 107 participants coming from 6 states, in the 3-day clinic, both classroom and on the water ending with the Jr. Olympics Regatta. The Regatta has 78 boats racing i Santa Margarita Yacht Club

##### **Santa Margarita Yacht Club - 2025 Youth Awards**

The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation awarded a \$500.00 Local Area Program Grant to the Santa Margarita Yacht Club for its Youth Awards.

The award is for youth ages 8 to 23 that wish to further their boat handling skills and water recreation safety awareness and education at Camp Pendleton. A Deed of Gift through Santa Margarita Yacht Club establishes the award that is deposited into an account for each recipient at Del Mar Marina where the youth can rent and use sailboats and/or enroll in a wide range of boating education classes. Youth who are awarded are the children of military families who are members of the Santa MargaritaYacht Club.

Three (3) recipients received 2025 Youth Awards; Cal Halfpap (18), Emory Halfpap (17) and Laeken Halfpap (15). All three siblings have been working on their sailing skills for the past few years. They have learned to sail Expos, RS Teras and Catalina Capri 16.5 and are looking forward to moving up to Catalina 22s.

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## **Pacific Corinthian Youth Foundation - 2025 Summer Sailing Program**

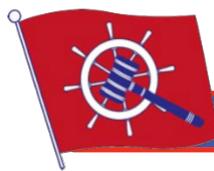
The International Order of the Blue Gavel Humanitarian Foundation awarded \$1400.00 for two Scholarship Grants to the Pacific Corinthian Youth Foundation for its Youth Awards for disadvantaged youth that would not have the opportunity to be on the water.

The Pacific Corinthian Youth Foundation is a non-profit organization that sponsors and instructs youth sailing in Channel Islands Harbor. The Foundation was started in 1992 by members of the Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club and uses part of the PCYC grounds and guest docks to run the programs. We want your children to learn to sail and have a great time while they do it. Learning basic sailing skills is supplemented with fun activities such as sailing to the park, having picnics, going on treasure hunts, sailing on bigger boats, playing sponge tag and making sails.

From Beginner through Advanced Sailing and from Optis, and Sabots to Lasers and CFJs, our courses are designed to produce great, young sailors by teaching the fundamentals of sailing, promoting good seamanship, and learning to do it safely.

The Foundation serves all of Channel Islands Harbor and its surrounding communities. The Foundation's Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club, Channel Islands Yacht Club, Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association, with support from Anacapa Yacht Club, which hosts Thursday night races and post-race barbecues. The PCYF program is supported by grants from the California Department of Boating and Waterways and the IOBG Humanitarian Fund, as well as private donations and course enrollment fees.





## DISTRICT NEWS

### **District 1 – Butch Brown, District Director**



*Lake Chelan YC inductees Randy Harrison and Todd Bruce*

Fall is giving way to the Big Dark here in the Pacific Northwest as we recall our local IOBG activities since late summer. In August, the Lake Chelan YC Chapter added two more members - P/Cs Randy Harrison and Todd Bruce – cementing their leadership as District 1's largest chapter. September brought another member from Seattle Singles YC – P/C (and current Commodore) Glenna Clouse who, along with Chapter President P/C Ken Johnson, accepted the club's IOBG Charter, adding another chapter to the district.

We also held our Fall Meeting and Change of Watch in September in Ocean Shores, WA. The meeting, available in-person and via zoom, elected the 2026 slate of officers, with Butch Brown returning as District Director, Alan Kester as President, and Mary Nye

Meyers as Treasurer. The board reviewed our list of Commodore's Ball and Opening Day events to ensure IOBG coverage – an important tool for both awareness of IOBG as an organization and recruiting. Building on that, the district is working on a proposed Yacht Club Management Seminar, with thanks to Districts 10 and 15 for information on topics that they've covered in past, similar outreach initiatives. We closed the meeting with selection of our 2026 meeting locations: Shelton YC in March for our spring meeting, Cle Elum in July for our summer picnic, and Lake Chelan YC for our Fall Change of Watch in September.



*Seattle Single YC Charter presentation: 2VP Dean Smith, D1 President Kester, SSYC Commodore Clouse, SSYC IOBG Chapter President Ken Johnson*

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### **District 3 – Don Peacock, District Director**

District 3 held a district subsidized holiday party and a brief meeting on December 11th 2025. District Vice President Ken Burgio and his wife Nicole arranged the beautiful event and president Steve Tisack lead the meeting at the unique Inner Harbor Yacht Club (IHYC) located at the eastern end of the Erie Barge canal in Tonawanda, NY. The party was limited to 100 attendees but all name badges and thoroughly enjoyed the holiday.



### **District #6 - Hawaii & Guam**

Aloha from Hawaii!

IOBG District 6 held our annual Christmas Party, Induction, and Installation Ceremony on December 4th. From the warm welcome at Kaneohe Yacht Club to the heartfelt transitions in leadership, every moment reflected the pride and unity of our members.

We looked back on a full year of district activities, including our annual BBQ at Kaneohe Yacht Club in September—a favorite gathering that brought members together for good food and great conversation. Another fun outing in May took us to the Ko'olau Distillery and Tasting Room for an afternoon of pupus, beverages, music, and, once again, wonderful conversation.

At the Christmas Party, the fun continued with a spirited White Elephant gift exchange that had everyone laughing and sharing in the holiday cheer.



*D6 2025 Board - Donna Salisbury, Juli King, Linda Weiland*

A highlight of the evening was recognizing outgoing District 6 Director Juli King. She then installed our 2026 officers—District 6 Director Linda Weiland, and Secretary/Treasurer Donna Salisbury for another term – expressing her appreciation for their ongoing dedication and service.

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Before the installation, outgoing District 6 President Linda Weiland performed her final act in office by inducting new member John Coller from Kaneohe Yacht Club. Surrounded by the aloha and fellowship of our IOBG 'ohana (family), the celebration concluded with a festive Christmas dinner and joyful moments among friends, marking a memorable close to the year and an exciting start to the next.



We wish you all Mele Kalikimaka a Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### **District #8 -Florida & Mobile Bay**

District 8 President – Barbara Dolan

District 8 has had a very interesting year – so interesting that our board members will serve another term, though our Secretary position remains open. The year began with Gary Anderson of Isles Yacht Club accepting the Treasurer position and quickly recommending a new company to maintain our D8 webpage. The result is a beautiful, up-to-date website with everything we need to keep us all "in the know." Gary also created an excellent roster that has greatly pleased our national Treasurer, Kathy McCarthy. In addition, our D8 Director, Kathy Hockenberry, volunteered to serve as interim Secretary and has been coaching both Gary and me. Working together, we can strengthen our organization and build lasting friendships along the way.



Dean Smith, Wes Graham, Dave Kowert at SAYC

In March, IOBG Executive Committee members visited the St. Augustine Yacht Club (SAYC) to see the progress on the new youth sailing center. Wes Graham and SAYC Sailing Director, Marisa Burrier, updated them on the status. Wes and Marisa are keeping youth sailing vibrant while training our next generation of club leaders. The steady stream of younger members has added revenue to the club, and the youth program has operated successfully out of SAYC for the past fourteen(14) years. Now, as the stand-alone youth sailing center nears completion, it's important to recognize the dedicated group of Blue Gavel members who helped make this project a reality. Again, working together makes good things happen.

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During the summer, our 2025 SEAVP, Mark Cain, visited several clubs on Florida's east coast that were severely damaged by Hurricane Helene in September 2024. Many clubs were affected and several—including Venice YC, Gulf Harbors YC, and Dunedin BC—were temporarily closed. As a board, we aren't always aware of the challenges facing clubs across the state, and so we'd like to form a committee to be a liaison during future emergencies. If you're willing to assist on either Florida's east or west coast, please let the D8 board know. Working together, we can really make a difference.



Cathy and Phil LaCourse, with  
Barbara Dolan at SAYC

After speaking with Doug Case from the Vero Beach YC, I'm convinced that we need to expand the programs we offer to IOBG members. With so many chapters in Florida, we have a tremendous wealth of boating knowledge to share—especially with younger boaters. Our seminars don't need to be limited to yacht clubs. Yes, seminars! We should embrace the responsibility of educating the public about the challenges and rewards of boating, particularly our youth.

Thank you to national Executive Secretary, Phil LaCourse, and wife, Cathy, for their October visit at SAYC to see our nearly completed youth sailing center. Phil and I also met with Commodore Spencer to discuss some of the issues clubs are currently facing. I personally believe that camaraderie is one of the driving forces behind yacht clubs and IOBG. It's not about the discounted drinks, the boating, or even the food—it's about the "family" you build within the club and knowing that you are part of a national organization.

Florida is a large area that attracts many winter residents and has numerous past commodores. Perhaps we should consider special Blue Gavel memberships for dual residents? We also need a social media network that works for all chapters. Don't close your doors to other YC members—throw them open. Build a friendly club and they will come. And when they do come, give them a reason to stay. Listen and learn. What are they looking for in a club?

Please send your chapter's news to the D8 board. Working together, we can learn from each other.



Steve Hyder, Mark Cain, SAYC  
Foundation President and P/C  
Jim Gajewski at SAYC

Barbara Dolan  
P/C The St Augustine Yacht Club  
SEAVP and D8 President

*Continued on Page 24*

### **IOBG District 15 – San Diego, California**

District Director – Michael Kirchgestner

IOBG District 15 held their Annual Member Appreciation BBQ on Saturday October 25th , 2025. The event was hosted at Navy Yacht Club San Diego and held under their giant tent and on the surrounding sunny day grounds. Approximately 30 members and spouses attended, and the feature Speaker was Anne Sacks who spoke about the efforts of Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) in working with the California Legislature to enhance the boating opportunities in California.

Also speaking at the event was Susan Rodriguez, the incoming 2026 District President who spoke about her ideas for a more active 2026 district life adding additional board meetings plus at least two general membership meetings including the COW in January. Other activities might include a trip to the USS Midway Museum. 2026 Membership Appreciation BBQ has already been scheduled for August 2026 at Navy Yacht Club San Diego, they are a great venue for this outdoor event.



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## **District #16 - Channel Islands, California**

District 16 President - Gary Gallinot

As a point of order, we had our General Membership Meeting, Election for 2026 Officers, and our Holiday Party at PCYC. Thank you to Steve and Laurie Weiss who facilitated using PCYC and Lisa Marie Medlen who coordinated the food with the club. A big thank you for all who attended.

Great news! As of November 18th, IOBG International approved Westlake Yacht Club's petition to rejoin IOBG District 16. We are all elated to have them back in our district.

The election results are indicated on our letterhead above. Welcome 2nd Vice President Marty Fentress who will represent Westlake YC. Also, Julie Trussell a new board member from Westlake YC. Welcome and thank you for volunteering. We have a new Treasurer, Angie Gram Frausto, from Anacapa YC. Our long time Treasure Devra Hodge will be Co Treasurer and Board Member. The rest of our officers and board members who served last year were also reelected. Thank you one and all for volunteering and making District 16 an integral part of our boating community.

As a note, our long-time board member Paul Swanson from Ventura Yacht Club had to step down due to medical reasons. The entire board and I want to thank Paul for his many, many years of membership and his many years of service on our board. Paul was instrumental in many of our charitable events over the years and in coordinating our many summers barbecues which were held at Ventura Yacht Club. For his many years of service Paul Swanson will be an honorary board member for the year.



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## District #27 - Maryland, Chesapeake Bay

Greetings from District 27 – the great Chesapeake Bay! While we have a small IOBG footprint on the bay, we certainly have a great sisterhood of yacht clubs that support each other. One wonderful yacht-club-wide event is the annual Wounded Warriors Day on the Bay – next one is August 15, 2026. Started in 2012 by North Point Yacht Club's Commodore Jim Diven, he wanted to give back to wounded warriors and veterans, and his vision became Wounded Warriors Day on the Bay. Commodore Jim started with just a handful of boats and captains from his yacht club. They paired up veteran's families with boats and after a crab and shrimp feast put on by North Point YC volunteers, captains and families embarked on a boat ride headed to the Baltimore harbor and back.

Over the ensuing years the event grew tremendously. Because of the growth, the event outgrew North Point YC and shifted to Maryland Yacht Club directly across the river. From a start of 12 boats, MYC now hosts upwards of 70 boats. Boats and captains must be members of a local yacht club. The great thing about that is most captains know each other from attending sister club events. This all ties into Maryland YC, which is one of two active IOBG chapters on Chesapeake Bay and is proud to host this event. The other local IOBG chapter is National Potomac Yacht Club.

Today, the event hosts 300 visitors, families, veterans, Gold Star Mothers, and volunteers that share the day on the MYC campus. To accommodate the 65-70 veteran families, the local yacht club community steps up to provide upwards of 70 boats and captains for the event. As a matter of fact, virtually all of the volunteer boats and captains come in on Friday before the day of the event. That Friday night turned into a Captain's Reception complete with food, beverage, and a live band.



The event day starts with exhibits such as classic cars, Clydesdales, veteran organization exhibits, Baltimore Ravens cheerleaders and mascot Poe, and the Maryland 9/11 Rolling Memorial. The ceremony starts with the presentation of colors by a Vietnam veterans Honor Guard – the same Honor Guard that presents colors to midfield at Ravens games. The ceremony includes an introduction of every veteran by name as they walk the greeting line of captains giving out high fives. At the front of the tent each veteran receives a handshake from a local high-ranking officer, a plaque, and an event military coin. From there, the entire crowd shifts down the hill to our marina area where the local restaurant chain Mission BBQ feeds everyone lunch. Right after lunch, the captains round up their veteran families and head out for the two-hour boat ride. Waiting back at the yacht club after the boat ride is a full crab feast and cookout for all the guests.



From there, the entire crowd shifts down the hill to our marina area where the local restaurant chain Mission BBQ feeds everyone lunch. Right after lunch, the captains round up their veteran families and head out for the two-hour boat ride. Waiting back at the yacht club after the boat ride is a full crab feast and cookout for all the guests.

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The day also has things for kids. Face painting, moon bounces, backpacks stuffed with donated trinkets, and messing around with Poe and the Clydesdales. There are door prizes and give-aways for everyone. But alas, the day comes to an end precisely at 4:00 as one of our captains finishes the day by playing taps.

A well-oiled team of volunteers that have been running the program for years are what

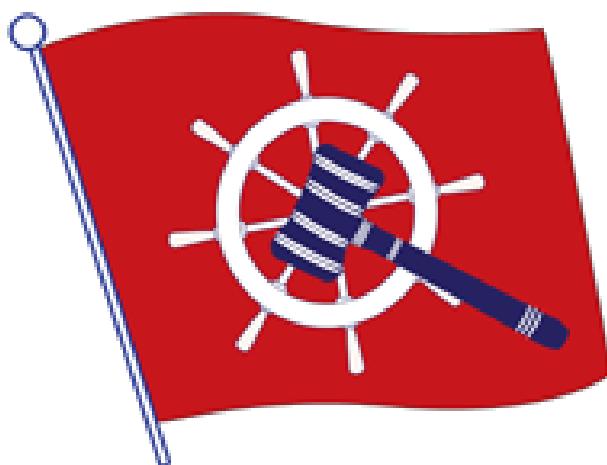


makes this program successful. Captains bend over backwards to accommodate all families. Case in point – WWDOTB organization is its own local 501c3 non-profit. However, they partner with the national Wounded Warriors Project to invite and vet the veterans in their database. Up until a few years ago wheelchair vets were screened out as it is a challenge to accommodate them onto the boats. That changed when the liaison from Wounded

Warriors Project changed and the new one did not get the memo. Before we knew it, we had four wheelchairs confirmed on the list. Our captains rose to the challenge and devised ways to load wheelchair guests onto boats. Case solved!

This is but a snapshot of what goes on in District 27. Come for a visit sometime!

Cheers,  
Carl Treff  
P/C Maryland Yacht Club 2022 & 2023  
IOBG District 27 Director





# International Order of the Blue Gavel

## AREAS AND DISTRICTS

### **NORTHWESTERN AREA**

District #1 - Alaska & Washington  
District #2 - Vancouver Island, Canada  
District #4 - Province of Vancouver, Canada  
District #5 - Oregon & Southwest Washington  
District #24 - Okanagan, British Columbia, Canada

### **SOUTHWESTERN AREA**

District #6 - Hawaii & Guam  
District #10 - San Pedro Bay (Long Beach/Los Angeles) & Huntington Harbor  
District #11 - Santa Monica, California  
District #14 - San Francisco Bay, California  
District #15 - San Diego, California  
District #16 - Channel Islands, California  
District #19 - Delta Area, California  
District #21 - Orange Coast, California

### **NORTH CENTRAL AREA**

District #7 - Ohio, East of Sandusky & Western Pennsylvania  
District #9 - Southeast Michigan & Western Ohio  
District #23 - Upper & Western Michigan  
District #25 - Northeast Michigan

### **NORTHEASTERN AREA**

District #3 - Southeast Ontario, Canada & Western New York  
District #12 - New Jersey  
District #20 - Eastern New York & Delaware  
District #22 - Southern New Jersey  
District #26 - Long Island Sound, New York  
District #27 - Maryland, Chesapeake Bay

### **SOUTHEASTERN AREA**

District #8 - Florida & Mobile Bay  
District #18 North & South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee & Alabama

### **EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI**

District #50 - (Unless assigned to an established District above)

### **WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI**

District #51 - (Unless assigned to an established District above)

### **ENGLAND**

District #70

### **NEW ZEALAND**

District #75

## **LOG PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

**SUN, FEB 22- ARTICLES DUE  
FRI, MARCH 6- LOG PUBLICATION**

**SUN, MAY 10 - ARTICLES DUE  
FRI, MAY 15 - LOG PUBLICATION**

**SUN, AUG 2 - ARTICLES DUE  
FRI, AUG 14- LOG PUBLICATION (INCLUDES  
PUBLISHING THE SLATE OF OFFICERS)**



International Order of the Blue Gavel  
8577 Hilltop Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

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