



International Order of the Blue Gavel

An Association of Past Commodores

NORTH COAST CHATTER

Published by the International order of the Blue Gavel, District 7



PRESIDENT - Mark Vadaj

International Order Of The Blue Gavel, District 7 Members.

My term of President of District 7 is ending soon but for me, the journey with IOBG has only begun as I will be moving into the District 7 Director Position. It is certainly a true statement

that success is attributed to those who you are surrounded by. The team of President Elect Pat McIlwee, First VP Gene McKeown, Secretary Warren Dempster, Treasurer Dave Zmek and the Area Vice Presidents have truly been nothing short of incredible for their dedication, commitment, tireless efforts and resourcefulness towards the success of District 7. Along with the support of The IOBG-A lead by President Robin Vadaj, Vice President Marilyn Gabriel, Secretary Marianne Dempster, and Treasurer Mary Romano who, without their contributions we could not have been as successful. Thank you all sincerely.

This past year has been a busy year for District 7 as we attempted to provide additional social activities for our Membership. We started the year off with a Holiday Party in December, The Annual Blue Blazer Event in March, A Cruise aboard the Nautica Queen in April, The USS Cod Ceremony and LYC Brunch in May, The IOBG Cocktail Party at the GCBA Rendezvous in June, The IOBG Commodores Salute at ILYA Bay Week in July and the Annual Change of Watch Event at FCYC in October. All events were virtually sold out thanks to you the Members. We also warmly welcomed 2 additional Chapters into District 7, Sandusky Y/C and Huron Y/C who have significantly supported District 7.

I genuinely wish to thank all of the Clubs, Chapters and Members for inviting IOBG to their events from Commodore's Ball, Sailing Races, Steak Roast, Sunday Member Brunches, Cocktail Parties, Clam Bakes, Inductions Ceremonies, and more and I apologize if I could not attend all of them. It was an honor and I certainly appreciate the invitation and value our new found friendship.

I am especially proud of our District 7 Members who embraced the concept of the Humanitarian Foundation by so generously contributing their financial support to such a worthy cause. There are so many of us within our own yachting fraternity that have or are suffering through life obstacles. It is our privilege and duty to help when possible. For this I offer my heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed.

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PRESIDENT ELECT - Pat McIlwee

Greetings:

What an outstanding bridge that District 7 has had in 2012. I wish to thank the Vice-Presidents of District 7 for all of their efforts this year in helping make District 7 the largest District in the International Order of Blue Gavel. These ladies and gentlemen volunteer much of their time to make phone calls, answer questions and go above and beyond the call of duty. If you do not know who your Vice-President is, I would urge you to reach out and introduce yourself.

A bigger thank you is in order to You for being a member of IOBG and District 7!

I would also like to thank and acknowledge President Mark Vadaj for the spectacular job that he has done in 2012. Mark has always maintained the utmost professionalism and has been a great asset to District 7. I have never met anyone who has dedicated more time and effort to this district. Mark, thank you very much!!!! You certainly have set the bar extremely high and I am hopeful that I can accomplish half as much as you have. I wish you the best of luck in taking on District 51 and as you know if there anything that you need, we will certainly be glad to help in any way possible.

What a great year 2012 was! We have Huron Yacht Club and Sandusky Yacht Club that have rejoined District 7. These are some exciting times. I am looking forward to meeting all of the members of these clubs as well as the existing clubs in 2013.

We are starting to plan our calendar for 2013.

We start off with the Change of Watch at Forest City Yacht Club on October 13.

We are in the process of planning to march as a group in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Cleveland on March 17. More information will be coming out on that as it is planned. It should be a very fun event.

We will be having the Blue Blazer social again this year.

We will be at the USS Cod Memorial ceremony on Memorial Day

We are also planning on doing the GCBA Rendezvous in Huron, OH.

Our own member P/C Kris Miller will be the Commodore of I-LYA and District 7 will be hosting the cocktail party for Commodore Miller at Put in Bay Yacht Club during Powerboat Regatta

I am also thinking of putting on a cruise in lieu of a Commodores Ball this year. Please give me some feedback and let me know if that will be something that interests you.

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Through your willingness to renew your membership along with your participation in our Social Events it is no surprise that District 7 is now the largest district within IOBG and the most successful. Thank you.

I would like to acknowledge The GCBA lead by Commander Mike Polovic and The ILYA lead by Commodore Mike Morton whose support and cooperation helped to elevate IOBG District 7. Thank You.

I have much respect and confidence for the new Officers lead by President Elect Pat McIlwee and I am confident that we will continue to raise District 7 to an even higher plateau in the coming year.

A Special Thank You to IOBG President Steve & Shirley Willing & P/C Al and Hildegard Gephardt for your support, participation and contributions this past year. An Extra Special Thank You to my Mentors, Past President Lou Key and Past President Jerry Key for their 24/7 support and guidance. Last but certainly not least, An Extra Special Thank You to my Wife IOBG-A, D7 President Robin Vadaj for helping to make this a successful and enjoyable year. Thank you all sincerely for your continued commitment and support towards Yachting's Most Prestigious Fraternity. I look forward to seeing you at the next IOBG Event.

Mark A. Vadaj – President, IOBG, District 7

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - Gene McKeown

District 7 achieved the distinction of being the largest district in the IOBG for 2012. As of September we have over 239 members with over 33 new members added this year. All Members of the District E Board worked on this throughout the year and should be congratulated for their efforts. Particularly important in the process was the area Vice Presidents and the Treasurer Dave Zmek. They worked throughout the year contacting members that had not renewed, and obviously had great success. Congratulations to all for their efforts.

Added to our calendar this year was a Lake Cruise on the Nautica Queen, in Cleveland. April 29th was the date and it was a sellout event. Mark and Robin Vadaj hosted the event and did a great job of getting it set up and organized.

The District hosted a cocktail reception in June for the GCBA Rendezvous in Huron and a joint effort with District 9 and 25 for a reception in July for I-LYA at Put In Bay.

These are just a few of the highlights for 2012. But one that can't go without special mention is the new District 7 web site. John Wierzchowski has worked very hard to bring it on line and then keep it up dated. I think it is the premier web site among all the Districts in IOBG. Be sure to take a look and then add it to your "Favorite List" on your internet home page, www.iobgdistrict7.com

Thanks, Gene McKeown

In conclusion 2013 should be a very fun and interesting year. I would ask that you check the website frequently as we will keep information as current as possible. We are also going to attempt to get more Chatter articles out to the membership as well. Enjoy the fall and make sure that you winterize your boat properly!!!!

Pat McIlwee-President Elect District 7

P/C John Wierzchowsk

2012 has been a growing experience for the Northwest Area of District 7 with the addition of Sandusky Yacht Club and Huron Yacht Club. Many of us in District 7 knew the members from these clubs and are proud to welcome them to our District.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the Northwest Vice President for the last two years. My wife and I have met many new friends and that, in my opinion, is the most valuable benefit this organization has to offer. During these two years I have been asked many times "Why should I become a member of the Blue Gavel?" This question has always puzzled me since the answer should be obvious to a person who has already served as Commodore of a yacht club. It is not about what the Gavel will do for you, although there are some benefits for you upon joining, but rather it is about camaraderie and getting to know others that share your passion for yachting and sharing future experiences with them.

It is my true hope that each of you, as members of this exclusive organization, enjoys your membership as much as I have. It has been a great two years for me and next year there will be a new Northwest Vice President to help you enjoy your membership as I move on to other duties. Please give her your support as you have me.

John Wierzchowski, MBIYC
Northwest VP, District 7, IOBG

VP Cleveland East - Pat White

What a fantastic boating season this has been. It's been a pleasure meeting yacht club members from the district. Sorry to see the season winding down but I look forward to the holiday events.

President Mark Vadaj has been a dedicated President of District 7 IOBG. Thank you for all of your time and efforts. It is truly appreciated.

If I can help in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Pat White - V/P Cleveland East



President Robin Vadaj IOBGA District 7

I would like to thank my wonderful Bridge for a very successful year. VP Marilyn Gabriel, Secretary Marianne Dempster, Treasurer, Mary Romano Past President Advisor Sue VanUum, International Past President Advisor Jerry Key.

Special thanks P/P Hildegard Gephardt our Fashion Show Events Coordinator which will be coordinating another Fashion show for 2013, details to follow.

Our Past Events included:

December 11th District 7 IOBGA enjoyed an extremely successful holiday party at Bratenahl Place with the IOBG Members. We served Hot and Cold Appetizers, Deserts, Cocktails and gave each couple who attended a Holiday Poinsettia plant.

December 8th will be our 2nd Holiday Party.

March 22nd IOBGA supported and assisted with the IOBG Blue Blazer event that was held at Bratenahl. We assisted with set-up & clean up and provide serving ware.

We the bridge also socially promoted IOBGA to any and all of our Future Membership Candidates.

April 29th IOBGA held our Spring Meeting aboard the Nautica Queen Cruise Ship. We cruised on Lake Erie and was served a wonderful Brunch. 60+ people attended and all had a great time.

May 28th IOBGA Bridge participated on the USS Cod Memorial Day Ceremony. All Auxiliary Members were welcome and have been invited to participate.

On June 30th we assisted IOBG who hosted a cocktail party for GCBA Rendezvous.

IOBGA provided paper products, prepared appetizers for the cocktail party and also assisted with set-up and clean up.

Our Bridge officers supported the IOBG hosted cocktail party at Put in Bay Yacht Club in July. It was a spectacular event and we encourage more to join us in the future.

Thru the year I have been traveling with President Mark to attend Commodore's Ball Events and Change of Watch ceremonies where President Mark is Inducting Past Commodores into Blue Gavel. As President, I have been promoting IOBG & IOBGA Membership which has helped to increase our Membership and Awareness.

In the unfortunate circumstances with the passing of a Member, Our Bridge Officers have been present and participated when requested for Blue Gavel funerals.

IOBG-A District 7 is the largest district with Membership of over 127 Members. I would like to wish President Elect Marianne Dempster and her Bridge much success for the upcoming year and look forward to supporting her and the Bridge.

Special thanks goes to President Mark Vadaj for all his help and support to make this past year a fun and successful year. It was wonderful to go hand in hand with each other!

Sincerely,
President, IOBGA District 7 Robin Vadaj

Tony Durieux, District 7 Director

It has been a pleasure to serve as the District 7 Director for this past year. We have enjoyed much success as a result of the effort, commitment and time that the District Officers have invested. We are committed to providing the best benefits and amenities to our membership.

I have abbreviated the minutes from the Spring Regional Meeting in Portland Oregon.

Complete Meeting Minutes are online at the IOBG Website. www.iobg.org

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Willing at 9:00 AM, at Portland Yacht Club, Thursday June 7th, 2012. Roll Call of Officers, Executive Committee, and Past International Presidents.

- 2010 Past President Ray Thompson reported that IOBG is doing well.
- The Blue Gavel Lighthouse is within budget; however, to receive a printed copy a charge of \$10.00 per year is required to cover postage and handling.
- President Elect Chuck Browning reported on a request from PIB Y/C to reprint the article "The Way We Fly Our Flag" addressing the protocol for flying our flags.
- Marshall Nemoy – reported on Boat U.S. and the ½ off price of annual fees. Also the expanded towing benefits, their work on various issues from GPS Issues to Copper Bottom paint legislation which has now been dropped.
- Treasurer Nemoy reminded all the Dues must be in as the Cutoff date is 7/31 with the 8/1 being the date that determines the number of votes per district.
- President Steve Willing spoke on a possible change from Paper to Plastic for Membership Cards. Discussion proceeded on cost and equipment. Additional details and decisions to follow.
- Treasurer Nemoy reported that IOBG is doing well. Financial statements were presented and reviewed. Progress has been made over the 2012 and total liabilities have been reduced with members equity improving. Operations are at normal pace.
- First Vice President Gary McGrath discussed the efforts of retaining membership. The best method is by strengthening the Chapters. District Directors are to take a more active role in Chapter Events.
- Second Vice President Joel Kay spoke on behalf of the liaison for IOBGA. Joel spoke with IOBGA President Ethel Key on membership and energy levels.

Respectfully Submitted
Tony Durieux – District 7, Director

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL -DISTRICT 7

7505 Thatchum Lane / Concord, Ohio 44060

DISTRICT 7 - CALENDER OF EVENTS

Save The Dates:

IOBG Annual Convention Baltimore	October 18th – 21st
IOBG & IOBG-A Holiday Party	December 8th
Blue Blazer Event	March 21st
IOBG – St. Patricks Day Parade	March 17th
IOBG-A, Fashion Show	May 19th
GCBA Cod Memorial	May 27th

wwwwww.iobgdistrict7.com

For Calendar Updates and Additional Events.



International Order Of The Blue Gavel Presidential Salute

It is our honor and privilege to Recognize and Thank
Past Commodore – Perry Ross - Presque Isle Yacht Club
Past President of District 17

Pennsylvania V.P. – District 7

In honor of lifelong commitment, dedication and service to
The International Order of the Blue Gavel

With sincere appreciation for your contribution to
Yachting Most Prestigious Fraternity,

From the men and woman of District 7 and the IOBG

A heartfelt Thank You

We wish you well and hope to see you at the next IOBG Event