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.

The District 8 Annual Meeting was held at the Pelican Isle Yacht Club. The General Meeting on Saturday, October 11th was attended by 15 members representing eight Chapters of District 8. The subjects covered included the 2015 budget, the International dues increase, the contribution to Marathon Yacht C. to help defray the expenses associated with hosting the 2015 Annual International Meeting and presentation of nominees for 2015 Dist. 8 officers.

The Installation dinner was attended by 42 members and guests. International President-Elect Joe Dowdell installed the new officers. The Past Commodores of Pelican Isle Y.C. were recognized for their contributions to the Club. Special recognition was given to P.C. Bill Ring, an early PC who laid the foundation which led to Pelican Isle Y.C. becoming the premier yacht club it is today.

Pelican Isle, which is a newer Chapter and a first time host, did a GREAT job welcoming and hosting District 8, IOBG. An official “Thank You Plaque” was presented by President Chuck Ranson to PIYC Vice Commodore Tom Lachner for hosting the Annual Meeting.

The complete minutes of the meeting and this newsletter are on the Dist. 8 website (www.d8iobg.org).
To introduce the new Executive Committee, a letter was sent by “snail mail” to all District 8 members. (A copy of the letter follows my article).

Also stated in the letter were the Executive Committee Goals for this year:
1. Initiate New IOBG Chapters
2. Invigorate Existing Chapters

The letter also includes a pledge of support to the IOBG Mission and a plan to have an Executive Committee Member attend a meeting in every Chapter in the District. Since the Annual Meeting, District Director Bud Higginson and I presented the Charter to the Dunedin Boat Club. 1st Vice President Peter Franck and I visited the Lighthouse YC Chapter and I visited the Isles YC Chapter. In each of these meetings we met members and learned about their activities and issues.

We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year for District 8.
Dear Fellow Past Commodores of District 8,

This communication is being sent to introduce you to the newly installed officers of District 8, IOBG.

I am Bill Pittman from Pelican Isle Y.C., Naples, President of District 8.

Also installed were:

Shaun Glaser, Venice Y.C., President-Elect
Peter Franck, Pelican Isle Y.C., 1st. Vice President
Leonard Tower, Coral Ridge Y.C., 2nd Vice President
Heather Wood, Lighthouse Pt. Y.C., Secretary
Bob Pease, Royal Palm Y.C., Treasurer
Doug Case, Vero Beach Y.C., Legal Officer
Chuck Ranson, Vero Beach Y.C., Past President

The District 8 Executive Committee’s goals are:

1.) **Initiate New IOBG Chapters**
   We are pleased to announce we have added two new Chapters in the last few weeks, Lauderdale Y.C. and Dunedin Boat Club. A hearty WELCOME to our newest IOBG members.

2.) **Invigorate Existing Chapters**
   We realize the strength of IOBG resides in the individual Club Chapters as evidenced by their involvement in many activities, such as, Past Commodore’s recognition events, Fleet Review, Change of Watch, etc. We plan to increase communication on activities with and between Chapters. Our goal this year is to have an Executive Committee member attend a meeting in every Chapter in the District.

We are proud to be a part of a prestigious international organization which brings together Past Commodores and encourages them to serve their own yacht clubs by stimulating interest in yachting traditions, ceremonies, customs, ethics and etiquette. We literally are “KEEPERS OF THE FLAME” in our clubs.

District 8 shares information on Chapter activities through meetings, the IOBG District 8 web site (www.d8iobg.org) and through email communications like the District 8 eBulletin and Gulf Stream newsletter. The results of our “survey of activities” can also be viewed on our web site.

We are especially proud of our District 8 members serving as International Officers. Bud Higginson of Venice Y.C. is the International Southeastern V.P. and Joe Dowdell of Marathon Y.C is President-Elect of IOBG International and will serve as President in 2015.

The Executive Committee of District 8 hopes you find this communication informative. Please watch your email throughout the year for continual updates about District 8 and our membership. We look forward to a productive year and we hope to visit as many Chapters as possible and meet in person many of our fellow member PC’s.

Sincerely,

*Bill Pittman*

PC Bill Pittman, District 8 President, for the District 8 Executive Committee

Email: jbnapleswi@aol.com

Phone: 239-594-8061
Lauderdale Yacht Club is pleased to host the 2015 Winter Meeting of IOBG District 8. Located in Fort Lauderdale, LYC is situated just five minutes from Port Everglades on the Intracoastal Waterway.

**Timeline of Events**

**Friday, January 30th**

1700-1900 Sunset Party at LYC Pavilion
(Weekly LYC Friday Cocktail Party by the pool with Complimentary Rum Punch 1700-1730, Hors d’oeuvres 17:45, Sunset flag lowering salute) Please check-in at front desk for your ID Card. All beverage & food charges for entire weekend will be sent to your home club.

**Saturday, January 31st**

1000 Registration at LYC Pavilion
1130 BBQ Lunch at LYC Pavilion
1300 Winter Meeting in LYC Clubhouse Gold Room (IOBG Members)
1800 Dinner & Cocktails in LYC Gold Room

**Sunday, February 1st**

830-1130 Breakfast at LYC Clubhouse

**Recommended Hotel Information**

- **Embassy Suites**
  1100 SE 17th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
  954-527-2700
  [www.embaysuites3.hilton.com](http://www.embaysuites3.hilton.com)

- **Comfort Suites** - 1.22 miles
  1800 S. Federal Hwy. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
  954-767-8700 or 877-424-6423
  [www.comfortsuites.com](http://www.comfortsuites.com)

- **Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Resort & Spa** - 1.81 miles
  2301 SE 17th Street Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316
  954-525-6666 or 888-591-1234
  [www.hyattregencypiersixty-six.com](http://www.hyattregencypiersixty-six.com)

- **Crowne Plaza** - 1.85 miles
  455 State Road 84 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
  954-523-8080 or 877-270-1393
  [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com)

- **The Riverside Hotel** - 2.13 miles
  620 E. Las Olas Blvd Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
  954-467-0671 or 800-325-3280
  [www.riversidehotel.com](http://www.riversidehotel.com)

- **Bahia Mar Beach Resort & Yachting Center** - 2.71 miles
  801 Seabreeze Blvd Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
  954-784-2233 or 888-802-2442
  [www.bahiamarhotel.com](http://www.bahiamarhotel.com)
International Order of the Blue Gavel
Winter District 8 Meeting
Saturday, January 31st, 2015
Lauderdale Yacht Club
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Please Register No Later than January 23, 2015
Registration may be returned by fax: 954-524-5843 by email: Bridget.Marron@lyc.org
1725 SE 12th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
Attn: Bridge Marron

Name: ____________________________ Spouse / Guest: ____________________________
Address: __________________________

__________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email Address: ____________________________

Saturday Dinner: □ Filet Mignon □ Sea Bass
($45) Number Attending: __________

Saturday BBQ Lunch: Number Attending: __________
($17)

FCYC members will be billed back to their home club with current membership card.

If you are considering making your visit by boat, please contact the
LYC Marina Director in advance to make arrangements.
Brandon Collura
Brandon.Collura@lyc.org
954-527-2209

Please Register No Later than January 23, 2015
Registration may be returned by fax: 954-524-5843 by email: Bridget.Marron@lyc.org
### BBQ Lunch Menu ($17)

- Grilled Angus Beef Hamburgers & Cheeseburgers
- Hickory Smoked BBQ Chicken
- Sweet Buttered Corn on the Cob
- Seasoned Potato Wedges
- Creamy Cole Slaw
- Kaiser Rolls, Buns
- Traditional Condiments & Accompaniments
- Cookies & Brownies
- Iced Tea and Lemonade

($17.00 Price inclusive of tax and service charge)

### Dinner Menu ($45)

- Imported and Domestic Cheese decorated with Berries and crackers Display
- Traditional Caesar Salad with warm rolls
- Petite Filet Mignon with mushrooms demi glaze
- Golden Crusted Chilean Sea Bass with fire roasted red pepper sauce
- Served with Chef's Choice of Sides
- Dessert: Chocolate Decadence Cake with Raspberry Coulis

($45.00 Price inclusive of tax and service charge)

### Uniform & Dress

**Dress for Meeting is Summer Whites**
*(White Shirt, White Trousers, White Shoes: NO Jacket or Tie)*

**Dress for the Charter Presentation and Dinner is Summer Whites (with Jacket and Tie)*

### LYC Sunset Party on Friday

Weekly LYC Friday Cocktail Party by the pool with Complimentary Rum Punch 1700-1730, Hors d'oeuvres 17:45, Sunset flag lowering salute) Please check-in at front desk for your ID Card. All beverage & food charges for entire weekend will be sent to your home club.
On November 1st, President Bill Pittman and I presented the Charter to the Dunedin Boat Club in Dunedin, FL and sworn in all their Members and Officers. The following Officers were elected: P/C Dennis Bosi as President, P/C Ron Kinkead as Vice President and P/C Jamie Hirsch as Secretary/Treasurer. Their luncheon meeting had about 40 people in attendance. Bill and I were well received by all.

On January 31, 2015, Lauderdale Yacht Club will be hosting the District 8 winter meeting in Ft Lauderdale, FL. During that meeting, their IOBG Charter will be presented to them along with the swearing in of their eleven Members and their Officers. Their President will be P/C Fred Welker and Secretary/Treasurer will be P/C William Paulson.

In November of this year, after serving three years as President of the Venice Yacht Club Chapter, I (Bud) stepped down and Joe Dombrowski was elected President. P/C Audrey Rice who also served a three year term as Secretary/Treasurer stepped down and Ernie Skinner was elected Secretary/Treasurer. My thanks to P/C Rice for her service and congratulations to the new Officers.

At the IOBG annual meeting in Cleveland, Joe Dowdell was elected as President Elect and I (Bud) was elected as Southeastern Vice President after being appointed to that position earlier this year. The next annual meeting will be held on October 22-24, 2015 in Marathon, FL which is Joe Dowdell's home port. He will become President of IOBG at that meeting.

The IOBG 2015 Winter Regional meeting will be held in San Diego, CA on February 5-7, 2015. Dee and I plan to attend that meeting.
The IOBG District 8 Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Pelican Isle Yacht Club in Naples, FL. On Saturday evening, cocktails were served at 1800 hours. Dinner was served at 1900 hours. PIYC Vice Commodore Tom Lachner welcomed the IOBG District 8 members and their guests. President Charles Ranson presented the official “Thank You Plaque” to Tom Lachner, Vice Commodore of the Pelican Isle Yacht Club for hosting this annual meeting.

Secretary Peter Franck then introduced the IOBG International First Vice President Joe Dowdell, who then performed the Change of Watch Ceremony and installed IOBG District 8 President Bill Pittman as well as the other elected officers.

President Bill Pittman made his opening remarks and then thanked Chuck Ranson for his services as President and presented him with a “Thank You” Plaque. Immediate Past President Chuck Ranson then presented President Bill Pittman with the “blue” gavel and the IOBG burgee. President Bill Pittman then introduced his guest P/C Bill Ring, as well as all other PIYC P/Cs in attendance.

There were 42 members and guests present.

***************

Business Meeting

President Chuck Ranson called the meeting to order at 1300 hours and asked President Elect Bill Pittman to give the invocation. He also lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Charles Ranson then asked for a moment of silence for our women and men in the Armed Forces. Secretary Peter Franck called the roll of the Executive Committee. Bud Higginson, Charles Ranson, Bill Pittman, Shaun Graser, Janet Thomas-
Savino, George Eichman Peter Franck and Bob Pease were present and they constituted a quorum. Douglas Case was absent.

President Charles Ranson recognized our special guest IOBG International First Vice President Joe Dowdell and then asked each of the 15 meeting attendees to stand, state their name, Chapter and office held, if any. The sign-up sheet was also handed out at that time.

Secretary Peter Franck reported that the IOBG District 8 Spring General Membership meeting was held on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Ft. Lauderdale and that the minutes of that meeting were distributed to the members of the executive committee and since there were no addition and/or deletions he asked for a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. A motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer Robert Pease presented the Treasurer’s report. The balance as of November 1, 2013 was $6,220.89. Income totaled $3,390.50 and expenses totaled $2,312.63 resulting in a new balance as of Oct. 1, 2014 of $7,298.76.

As of Oct. 1, 2014 District 8 had 214 paid members in 23 active Chapters and 3 members at large. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion carried.

Treasurer Robert Pease also handed out the IOBG District 8 Budget Statement based on a 220 membership level. Second Vice President Janet Tomas-Savino and Past President George Eichmann questioned the legality of the Executives Committee’s vote to set aside a total of a $2,000 donation to the Marathon YC to help defray expenses for the 2015 Annual Meeting. There reason was that their Chapter at Isles Yacht Club was never notified and/or were never asked to approve the donation. George also claimed that he did not receive a copy of the minutes that were distributed to all members of the Executive Committee. First Vice President Shaun Graser suggested that we need to do a better job in informing our membership and he volunteered to work with the new President on this challenge. After a lengthy discussion Treasurer Robert Pease suggested to move the line item “Hospitality Expense Dowdell 2015” to ”Reserve Fund for unforeseen” and made the motion to approve the proposed budget. Motion carried with 6 in favor and 2 against.

District 8 Director and International Southeastern Vice President Bud Higginson reported that he received 7 membership cards and the Charter for the IOBG chapter at the Dunedin Boat Club
in Dunedin, FL. He along with President Bill Pittman on November 1, 2014 will present their charter and to swear in their members and officers. P/C Dennis Bosi will be their President. The secretary/treasurer will be announced at that meeting. All attendees will be in full uniform and their spouses along with the Club’s Flag officers will be invited.

He further reported that the Lauderdale Yacht Club is in the final stages of their application and he asked the executive Committee for their approval. The motion carried and he will present their application to the International Executive Committee in Cleveland next week for their approval. Leonard Tower stated that the Chapter of the Coral Ridge Yacht Club is not in favor of inviting Lauderdale Yacht Club, because they are “biased” club.

Bud then addressed the proposed IOBG International dues increase and he reported that he sent a letter to all members of the executive committee and to all the chapter presidents. He expressed disappointment with the poor response to his survey, but the results were as follows: 10 voting YES, 1 voting NO, 2 UNDECIDED and 1 ABSTAINED for a total of 14. A motion was made to approve the proposed dues increase by IOBG International, seconded and approved.

He also reported that as Southeastern Vice President, IOBG, that he attended the International Regional Summer meeting in Charleston, SC in mid August hosted by the District 18 at the Charleston Yacht Club. District 18 is now one of his responsibilities which includes Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina. This district which only has 25 members was selected by International for its summer meeting in order to promote renewed effort by IOBG. It will take a lot of effort to rejuvenate this district which at one time had approximately 200 members. At a district 18 meeting, Buzz Bisanz who was District director and president, stepped down as President and Dave Kowert, P/C of Charleston Yacht Club was named President. Dennis will continue serving as District Director. They are currently looking for a Secretary/Treasurer that will get the records and finances in order and to begin functioning as a District again. There were numerous inactive IOBG members that expressed interest in becoming active again which is the base for our future growth.

At the annual IOBG meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio on 16-18 October 2014 Joe Dowdell will be elected President Elect and he (Bud) will be elected Southeastern Vice President, a position he was appointed to earlier this year. The next annual meeting will be held in October 2015 at the Marathon Yacht Club, home club of Joe Dowdell, who then will become President.
Bud informed the attendees that after completing a three year term as President of the Venice Yacht Club Chapter that he was stepping down. P/C Joe Dombroski was elected President and P/C Ernie Skinner was elected Secretary/Treasurer, who replaced P/C Audrey Rice, who also stepped down after a three year term. The new officers will take office during a 13 November 2014 dinner meeting.

The IOBG International annual change of watch meeting will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on October 16, 17 & 18, 2014. The following year, when Joe Dowdell will become President, the annual meeting will be held at the Marathon Yacht Club on October 22, 23 & 24, 2015.

President Ranson then presented the nominees for officers for 2015.

District Director Bud Higginson
District Director Alternate VACANT
President Bill Pittman
President Elect Shaun Graser
First Vice President Peter Franck
Second Vice President Leonard H. Tower
Secretary Heather Wood
Treasurer Bob Pease
Legal Officer Doug Case
Immediate Past President Charles Ranson

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers. The motion carried.

Charles Ranson then passed on the Blue Gavel to President Bill Pittman.

The next District 8 meetings will be as follows:
January/February 2015 (date and location to be determined)
June 2015 (date and location to be determined)
The Annual Membership Meeting and Change of Watch, will be hosted by the Venice Yacht Club in Venice, FL on October 2 & 3, 2015.

There being no further business, President Chuck Ranson adjourned the meeting at 1415 hours.

Respectfully submitted
Peter Franck, Secretary, District 8 IOBG
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH WESTERN VICE PRESIDENT &amp; DISTRICT DIRECTOR</td>
<td>B.E. (Bud) Higginson (Dee)</td>
<td>124 Tina Island Drive, Osprey, FL 34229</td>
<td>941-966-7494</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Bill Pittman (Judith)</td>
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<td>239-594-8061</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbnapleswi@aol.com">jbnapleswi@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDENT ELECT</td>
<td>Shaun D. Graser (Paula)</td>
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<td>941-488-0445</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sdgraser1@verizon.net">sdgraser1@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Leonard H. Tower (Monika)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
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<tr>
<td>TREASURER</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL OFFICER</td>
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<td>772-231-4599</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dcaselaw@bellsouth.net">dcaselaw@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Charles T. Ranson (Ruth Ann)</td>
<td>3500 Marsha Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32967</td>
<td>772-388-9474</td>
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