

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

DISTRICT 8 - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND CHANGE OF WATCH Pelican Isle Yacht Club, Naples, FL

11 October 2014

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