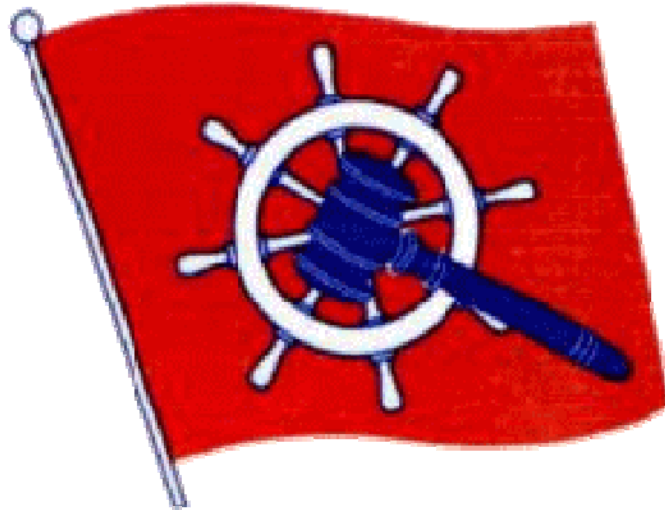


INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL



DISTRICT 7 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

What Is It?

The International Order of the Blue Gavel is an organization composed of Past Commodores of Yacht Clubs. Each Yacht Club forms its own Chapter within its own district which is governed by the By-Laws and Rules of the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

What Does It Do?

It honors Past Commodores through an international fraternal organization.

It prevents the wasting of a heretofore untapped pool of the greatest group of seasoned, experienced and respected persons in yachting - the Commodores who worked up through the flag officerships to the top "Chair of Sound Judgment" - the stewardship of their club as Commodore.

It provides an opportunity and forum for these persons to continue to do something worthwhile for their club, to work toward broader yachting associations and the betterment of all yachting activities.

It assists their individual club to insure that the traditions, customs, glory and ethics of yachting will never be lost to future generations regardless of newcomers and new decades of boating.

It revitalizes and assures the continuing interest of qualified and proven persons in their club's activities while providing them with suitable insignia, flags, recognition and honor.

One important phase of Blue Gavel activity is to enhance the involvement of its members in local club activities. Foremost in our minds is the basic precept of always trying to be of benefit to the individual yachting organization. We hope our ability and knowledge past officers will contribute to doing the most good in whatever way possible.

What Is Its Organizational Structure and Function?

Districts are formed where there is a nucleus of clubs requesting recognition. In Canada and the U.S. many club chapters join together become districts, while in other countries districts are created by application to Headquarters.

Now operating are the following Districts:

1. Washington and Alaska
2. Vancouver Island, B.C., Canada
3. SW Ontario, Canada and Western NY
4. B.C. Mainland and Alberta, Canada
5. Oregon and SW Washington
6. Hawaii/Guam
7. Ohio, east of Sandusky Bay
8. Florida, Tallahassee to the Keys & Mobile Bay
9. Michigan east and Ohio west of Sandusky Bay
10. California, LA/Long Beach Area
11. California, Santa Monica Bay Area
12. New Jersey
13. Central and eastern Ontario, Canada
14. California, San Francisco Bay Area
15. California, San Diego Area
16. California, Santa Barbara Channel Area
17. Pennsylvania
18. Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama
19. California, San Francisco Delta Area
20. Eastern NY and Delaware
21. California, Orange Coast Area
22. Southern New Jersey
23. Northern tip of Michigan
24. Okanagan region of Canada
25. Eastern Michigan and Canadian side of the Detroit River
50. All chapters not in organized Districts, east of the Mississippi River
51. All chapters not in organized Districts, west of the Mississippi River
70. United Kingdom
75. New Zealand

Pan Pacific Area covers New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Philippines, Cook and Marshall Islands.

**THE
CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF
District 7
I.O.B.G.**

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be DISTRICT SEVEN, hereinafter known as "District", INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL, hereinafter known as "IOBG"

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE II

Objects and Purposes

The objects and purposes of District Seven, IOBG, are:

- a) To selectively associate ladies and gentlemen of good character having a common love and appreciation of yachting and social and outdoor activities of every kind on the basis of background, character, personality, and social acceptability.
- b) To provide Past Commodores with more extensive opportunity for worthwhile yachting activities for the purpose of cultivating, strengthening, perpetuating and preserving the ties of continued friendship, honor, benevolence, sportsmanship, fraternal, and social relationships among Past Commodores of yacht clubs and yachting organizations
- c) To subscribe to and stimulate interest in abiding by recognized yachting traditions, ceremonies, customs, ethics and etiquette. To provide for, though with limitations thereto, appropriate recognition of past and continuing services on the part of Past Commodores to their Club, the IOBG, and yachting in the form of suitable insignia, flags, activities, awards, and honors.
- d) To aid and promote, by precept and example, the development of more able and knowledgeable yachtspersons that they may participate in yachting activities and marine events and ceremonies of every kind as a result of high standards of honor, tradition, good sportsmanship and the fraternal and social relationships experienced by and between Past Commodores.
- e) To encourage and promote the continuing interest and service of qualified and proven Past Commodores to their own yacht club and its activities, without in any way usurping the authorities and responsibilities of the incumbent officers, for the best interest of the Club.
- f) To encourage and promote yachting, and in all ways seek to provide through the yacht club chapter a practical means to support, facilitate and augment the endeavors of the active Officers of the Club, by advising and counseling such Officers, to the end of enhancing the pleasure and well-being of all members and the prestige of the Club.

- g) To make and adopt Bylaws and Rules and Regulations for the admission and administration of its members, as well as for their suspension and/or expulsion, for the election of its officers and defining their duties, and for the safekeeping, management and disposition of its property and funds. From time to time to alter, modify or repeal such Bylaws or Rules and Regulations as may be required.
- h) To provide and maintain the District, and to afford all the necessary privileges and accommodations pertaining to proper and appropriate yachting, nautical instruction, safety education and preservation of the environment, ceremonies and other games, sports, athletic activities and pastimes for pleasure, accommodations and social or other enjoyment of its membership, their families, friends, and associates.
- i) To recruit Local Chapters to be chartered by the IOBG and whose members are thereby members of the IOBG, and requiring such Members and Chapters to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and other Rules and Regulations of the IOBG, and the District as a condition precedent to remaining affiliated with the IOBG, and exercising such supervision over the activities carried on by its Members and Chapters, as is reasonable and appropriate for a yachting fraternity of Past Commodores within said Bylaws and Rules and Regulations provided, however, that such Rules and Regulations shall not be applicable if in violation of the laws of the state and country.
- j) To encourage the organization of an auxiliary to support the activities of the District, and the IOBG.
- k) To participate in activities to support the IOBG Humanitarian Foundation
- l) To publish a District 7 newsletter to keep the membership informed of District activities.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Individual membership in the International Order of the Blue Gavel shall be limited to Past Commodores of qualified Yacht Clubs of the World, as defined in ARTICLE III, Section 2. who have served their clubs credibly. Past Commodores shall be eligible for membership in IOBG if they are:

- a) Invited and approved by the IOBG Chapter of the Yacht Club of which they are Past Commodore.
- b) From an eligible Yacht Club and moved to another geographical area and have been recommended to the Executive Committee by a Chartered IOBG Chapter and/or the District Director.
- c) An individual not invited to join IOBG by the IOBG Chapter at the Yacht Club where they are Past Commodore, then that individual shall not be invited to join by another IOBG Chapter or District Director unless the original Chapter agrees or the individual attains eligibility by serving another Yacht Club as Commodore.

Section 2. Recognized Yacht Club Charters shall be issued if said applicant club meets the following standards and conditions:

- a) The club must have been in existence for at least five years, be of sound financial standing, and have at least 5 members eligible for membership in Blue Gavel.
- b) The club must have a clubhouse or permanent place and an established address.
- c) The club must have enough members to sustain itself.
- d) No such club is qualified if it has as a requirement for membership in the yacht club membership in, association with, or participation in an unrelated activity, fraternal organization or condominium development. The Past Commodores of those clubs sponsored by the branches of the military are welcome to join Blue Gavel, and are exempt from the provision of this subsection.
- e) All applications for a Charter shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the IOBO for approval before issuance of the Charter by the Executive Secretary.

f) If the applicant club does not meet the above requirements, the applicant club shall be screened by the Executive Committee of the IOBO, and with the recommendation of the District Officers and Director in which the club operates, and that of the Area Vice President, may be selected for membership.

Section 3. All Past Presidents of the District shall automatically become life members of the District and shall no longer be required to pay District dues.

Section 4. District shall pay round-trip coach airfare to the annual international meeting for the District Director or Alternate District Director so that they may properly participate. The District shall pay the District Director or Alternate District Director the equivalent of what the International pays the District Director to attend the annual meeting so that they may properly participate.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE IV

Boundary and Organization

Section 1. District Seven shall be composed of Chapters east of a line drawn north and south through Catawba Island, Ohio, and west of a line drawn north and south 25 miles east of Interstate 79 in Pennsylvania, south to Interstate 70 and west to the Ohio River being the southern boundary of District Seven.

Section 2. District shall be composed of members in good standing of the local chapters. and shall be governed by officers and an Executive Board.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE V

Executive Board

- Section 1.** The affairs of the District shall be managed by an Executive Board comprised of the President, the President- Elect, the First Vice- President, the area Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the District Director, and the Advisor to the District Director.
- Section 2.** Meetings of the Executive Board may be called at any time by the President or by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Notice of the meetings shall be given by the Secretary at least seven days prior to said meetings.
- Section 3.** All business conducted shall be by a majority of the members present and not by proxy.
- Section 4.** A quorum shall consist of five members of the Executive Board.
- Section 5.** The members of the Executive Board shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors have been duly elected or appointed.
- Section 6.** All financial requests made to District 7, must first be presented to the District 7 Executive Board for investigation and approval before being presented to the District membership for approval at the annual meeting in October.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE VI

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the District shall consist of a President, President-Elect, First Vice-President, sufficient area Vice Presidents (as determined by the Executive Board), Secretary, Treasurer, District Director, and Advisor to the District Director. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve a term of one year from the change of watch or until their successors have been duly elected.

Section 2. President

The President shall have general supervision and administration of all District affairs, subject to the directions of the Executive Board. He or She shall preside at all meetings of the district and shall also preside at meetings of the Executive Board. He or She shall sign all papers or instruments requiring his or her signature and shall have such other powers and duties as the Executive Board may from time to time prescribe. He or She may serve as alternate District Director.

Section 3. President-Elect

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

Section 4. First Vice-President

The duties of the First Vice-President are to advise and oversee the activities of the area Vice Presidents. The First Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President and President-Elect. He or She shall oversee the invitation of past Commodores to join the IOBG and to form new chapters in the District.

Section 5. Vice Presidents

Vice Presidents shall assist the President, the President-Elect, and the First Vice-President in their duties. Each area Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining liaison with the chapters in his or her area. The Vice Presidents shall seek out Past Commodores who wish to form new chapters.

Section 6. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all the proceedings of the members and the Executive Board, and shall make proper record of same, which shall be

attested by him or her; sign all papers executed by the District requiring his or her signature; give notice of meetings; keep such books as may be required by the Executive Board; file reports in a timely manner; and perform such other and further duties as may from time to time be required of him or her by the Executive Board.

Section 7. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have general supervision of all finances, including the mailing of dues statements and collecting same; he shall receive and have charge of all money, bills, notes, deeds, leases, mortgages and similar property belonging to the District, and shall do with the same as may from time to time be required by the Executive Board. He or She shall produce at each meeting a current list of members per club assignment to each V-P and a master list to the President and whoever else requests such. He or She will maintain the following: Mailing Labels, Membership status, Roster, By-Law reproduction, IOBG Envelopes, Letter Head, "Certificate of Membership" and E-Mail listings. There shall be two (2) names on the checking account. He or She shall cause to be kept adequate and correct accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses, together with such other accounts as may be required; and, upon the expiration of his or her term in office, shall turn over to his or her successor or to the Executive Board all property, books, papers and money of the District in his or her hands.

Section 8. District Director

The immediate Past President shall automatically become the District Director and represent the District at IOBG meetings and at Blue Gavel/USA meetings. If the immediate Past President declines to be the District Director, a District Director shall be elected at the annual meeting. The District Director must be a past District President.

Section 9. Advisor to the District Director

The immediate Past District Director shall automatically become the Advisor to the District Director. If the District Director declines this position, an Advisor to the District Director shall be elected at the annual meeting. The Advisor to the District Director must be a past District Director.

Section 10. Assistant and Subordinate Officers

Each officer shall hold office during the term of the President and perform such duties as the Executive Board may prescribe. Such appointed officers, however, are not members of the Executive Board and shall not be entitled to vote at the Executive Board meetings, but may attend meetings of the Executive Board when

requested by the President. These assistant and subordinate officers may be chairman of a committee.

Section 11. In the event a duly elected officer of the District is unable to complete his or her term of office, either by reason or death, resignation or incompetency, the Executive Board, by a majority vote, shall appoint a successor to finish out the officer's unexpired term.

Section 12. Chapter Officers

Each chapter shall elect its own President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers as it deems necessary, and may adopt its own by-laws, rules and regulations so long as they are not inconsistent with the By-laws and Rules and Regulations of the District and the IOBO.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE VII

Meetings of Members

- Section 1.** The meetings of the members shall be held in the spring and fall of each year, or as designated by the Executive Board. All business conducted shall be by a majority vote of the members present and not by proxy. The annual meeting shall be held in the fall.
- Section 2.** Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the Executive Board.
- Section 3.** At any meeting of the members, notice of such meeting shall be placed in the United States Mail and/or via E-mail to each member at least ten days prior to the date set by the President or Executive Board for such a meeting.
- Section 4.** After valid notice has been given, the members present at a meeting of the members shall constitute a quorum.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

- Section 1.** The standing committees of the District, in addition to the Executive Board, shall consist of the Nominating Committee, the Auditing Committee, and the Supply Committee.
- Section 2.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of the District Director, the Advisor to the Director, the President, and the President-elect.
- Section 3.** The Auditing Committee and the Supply Committee shall be appointed by the President.
- Section 4.** The President may appoint committees as necessary for the functioning of the organization.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE IX

Dues

Section 1. District Dues

The annual dues for the District shall be set, revised and/or raised by the Executive Board each year at the annual meeting. Said dues shall become due on the first day of January of each year.

Section 2. Local Chapter Dues

The local chapter may add such dues to the District dues and International dues as are necessary to finance their chapter.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE X

Emblem

The official emblem of the IOBG is a rectangular Red Flag upon which is superimposed a ship's wheel of white and upon that a superimposed Blue Gavel. This emblem is to be flown from the member's ship's signal mast or masts, appropriate to the etiquette of yachting.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws and the By-laws of IOBG.

BYLAWS OF DISTRICT SEVEN

ARTICLE XII

Amendment

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the members called for the purpose after due notice, and shall be a two-thirds majority vote.

The foregoing Bylaws were accepted October 2, 1983 at the meeting held in Sandusky, Ohio.

Amended: September 27, 1993

Amended: October 1, 2000

Amended: September 29, 2002

Amended: November 14, 2004

Amended: October 12, 2013

Amended: October 14, 2017