

HISTORY OF THE GRAND NEST

Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International

2005 – 2006



**100TH GRAND NEST CONVENTION
WISCONSIN HOME NEST
TIMOTHY T. SEIDER**

**Prepared by:
Barry L. Snyder, PMLGG
Grand Nest Historian**

GRAND NEST HISTORY

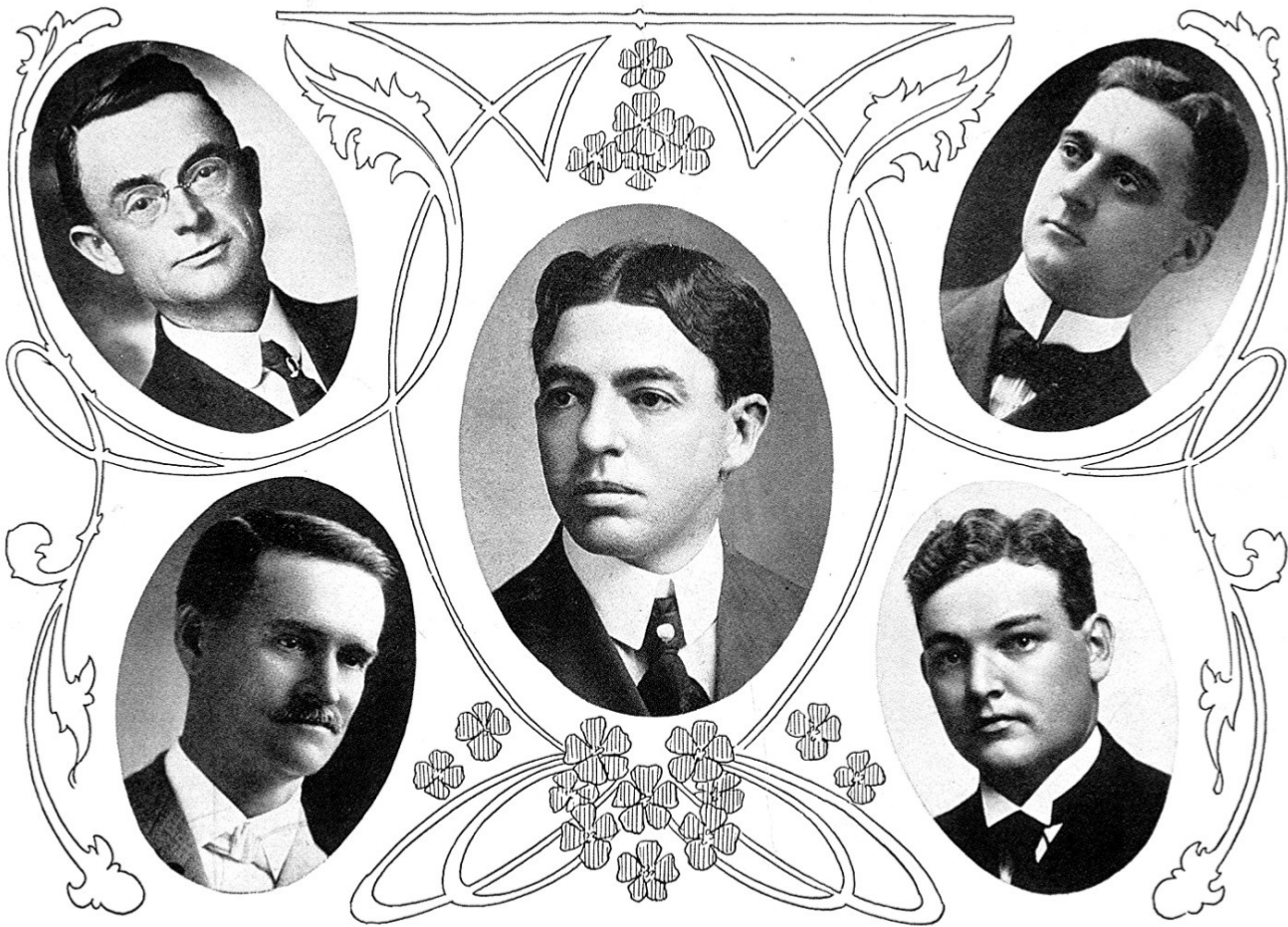
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN JULY 26-30, 2006

HISTORICAL



HIGHLIGHTS

The Grand Nest Officers in the year 1906.



In the center is the Most Loyal Grand Gander Walter E. Atwater; top left hand corner, W. E. Golden, His Highness Supervisor of the Flock; lower left hand corner, George A. Roberts, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg; upper right hand corner, Walter W. Conkin, Grand Custodian of the Goslings and the lower right hand corner, George Heller, Jr., Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

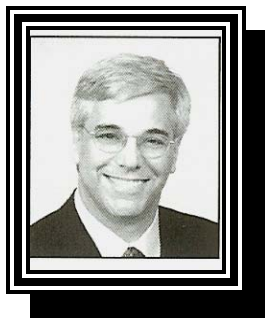
2005 – 2006 GRAND NEST OFFICERS

The 100th anniversary of the Grand Nest

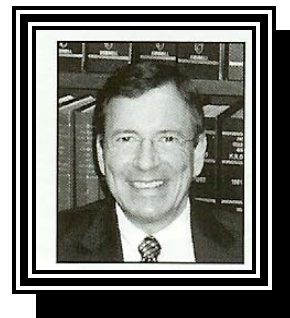
1906 -- 2006



Most Loyal Grand Gander
Timothy T. Seider



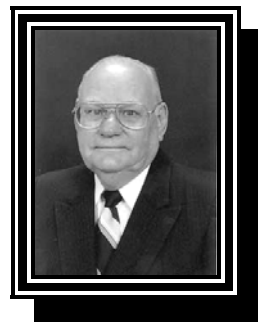
Grand Supervisor
Keith Strohecker



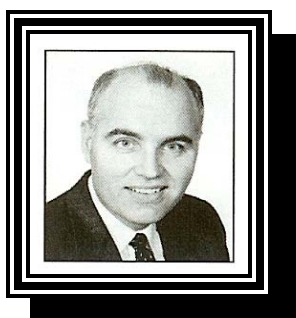
Grand Custodian
Jack Fitch



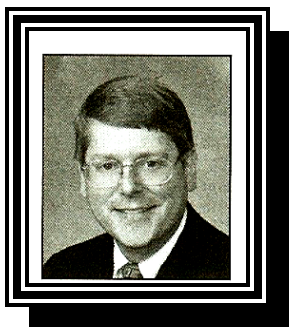
Grand Guardian
JoAnn M. Clark



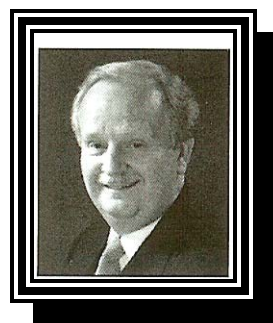
Grand Keeper
Bill Wasekanes



Grand Wielder
Terrence M. Maloney



Judge Advocate
Robert Tayloe Ross



Grand Nest Historian
Barry L. Snyder

GRAND NEST HISTORY



MILWAUKEE SKYLINE

On Tuesday, July 25th, the current and past Grand Nest Officers started to arrive to gear up for the one- hundredth Grand Nest Convention. On Wednesday, July 26th they meet in the Crystal Room for their pre-convention meeting. MLGG Timothy T. Seider from the Wisconsin Home Nest presided, Grand Welder Maloney, also from the home Nest called the roll. The following current officers were present. Grand Supervisor Keith Strohecker from the Virginia Pond; Grand Custodian Jack Fitch from the Ontario Pond; Grand Guardian JoAnn Clark from the Settle Pond; Grand Keeper William Wasekanes from the Penn Pond; Judge Advocate Robert Tayloe Ross, from the Virginia Pond and Grand Historian, PMLGG Barry L. Snyder, from the National Capital Pond. Also, present were the Past Most Loyal Ganders, Rex W. Clark, George Hardwood Larry Lewer, Jerry Simpson. Christopher J. Reith, John T. Zeldam and John C. Bishop.

The Blue Goose came back to the same hotel that hosted the Diamond Jubilee Convention of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International in 1981. Douglass G. Snyder was the MLGG. This is the second time that the MLGG was from the Home Nest. Every twenty-five years the site of the convention is held in Wisconsin, at the Home Nest. The twenty-fifth anniversary in 1931, the MLGG was Henry L. Rose of the Chesapeake Pond, from the Eastern Region. The fiftieth anniversary held in 1950, the MLGG was Robert L. Wiseman of the National Capital Pond, from the Eastern Region. The Central Region and the Eastern Region in 1975 switch, so that every twenty-five years the MLGG will be from the Wisconsin Home Nest and will host the convention. (a little bit of ancient history)

GRAND NEST HISTORY

The Home Nest was honored to welcome 238 Ganders and guest (including a total of 30 youth and children) to their Convention. Delegates, Ganders and guest came for the United States, Canada and Australia. This is the first time in the history of the Blue Goose we had a member from another Continent. Congratulation to the Wisconsin Home Nest and all the Ganders for a very successful Convention.

Those that were going to play golf came in on Tuesday, so they would be on time to tee off at 8:00 am Wednesday. Some Ganders and guest also arrived on Tuesday to get settled before the start of the convention. There are many things to see and do in Milwaukee. That weekend they had a German fest, which is one of the largest in the United States.

The convention officially opened Wednesday evening with a Welcome Party on the second floor in the open Atrium of the hotel. There was a cocktail hour prior to dinner. Ganders, spouses and guest visited with old friends that they have seen for a year. Many meet new friends that they will long remember. The children were having a good time trading Pond pins. After cocktails we entered the dinning area where there were different food stations set up. We enjoyed a "Taste of Milwaukee". While we ate we were entertained by a jazz quartet.

Those attending for the first time played "Blue Goose Bingo". They received a piece of paper that had squares on it. In the squares there were clues describing some of the Blue Goose members, such as the Grand Nest Officers, the MLGG, the Grand Wielder, etc. Those that filled all the boxes received a prize.

After dinner, we returned to the atrium where the Blue Goose logo holography was displayed on the wall. The lights dimmed and an audio-visual presentation took place celebrating our 100-year history of the Blue Goose. There was music, lights, confetti and cannons. Everyone stood there in awe of this spectacular event.

Water Atwater the Most Loyal Gander from 1906, was present. He spoke to us from high above. The character was played by PMLGG John Bishop dressed in golf knickers and cap acting the part of a founder as did several other Ganders during the social events. This kept the historical theme moving through the convention.

Thursday was the opening day of the convention. The day started with a full breakfast that was held in the atrium. The conventioners were greeted by the Germanfest festival participants. The D'Oberlander Bavarian Folk Dancers, Jean Rex on the accordion and Doug Scott on the Flugel horn accompanied the dancers. Being of German decent this is the first time I ate breakfast to the Polka. I found it hard to stay seated when the music started.

GRAND NEST HISTORY



Doug Scott and Jean Rex

After breakfast we went to the Regency Ballroom for the opening ceremonies. There was definite feeling of awe and wonder among the attendees at this convention due to the fact our organization was celebrating **100** years of the Order, we were making history.

The theme followed this format throughout the convention starting with enlarged photos of our founding fathers. These photos were displayed in the back of the head table to be seen by all in attendance. It was difficult to imagine such somber looking gentlemen creating an organization with such humorous names. Humor is a definite part of Blue Goosedom, along with great fellowship and large hearts toward others.

MLGG Tim Seider called the 100th Grand Nest Convention to order, the gavel dropped and the flags were brought in by the Milwaukee Police Department Color Guards. We then sang the national anthems of the three countries, *Australia Fair*, *O Canada* and *The Star Spangled Banner*.

The invocation was given by Reverend Douglas J. Leonhart of Marquette University. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett officially welcomed us to their City and declared these convention days, the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose Days in Milwaukee.

Special presentations were made to our Order. Governor Jim Doyle represented by Deputy Insurance Commissioner Claire Stapleton Concord, Australian Native, proclaimed this Blue Goose International week in the State of Wisconsin. Next, State Representative Jeff Stone presented a citation from the Wisconsin Legislative recognizing our organization.

The Milwaukee County Executive, Scott Walker, sent us a proclamation acknowledging Blue Goose Day in the County of Milwaukee. Joseph Pause, the Mayor of Green Lake, WI. sent us a proclamation recognizing our return to the “banks” of Green Lake, WI. for our special birthday celebration.

Two charitable presentations followed. MLGG Seider presented to a representative of the Special Olympics a check for \$2,000. GWGQ Maloney then presented on behalf of the membership a check for \$12,000 to our fellow Ganders of the Louisiana Pond who were

GRAND NEST HISTORY

devastated by the hurricane Katrina. These funds were collected from all the Ponds. MLG Jon Masanz and WGQ Fred Combs accepted on behalf of their fellow Ganders.

The Greater Chicago Pond presented the Memorial Service honoring those who passed away this past year. This tradition has been held every year since 1907.

Grand Guardian JoAnn Clark eulogized Harry M. Merrifield from the California Pond. Harry was the MLGG in 1989.

The Michigan Pond did it again. They know how to put on an outstanding model initiation. Their performance in St. Louis was great, but I think they out performed that one. They reenacted the original initiation ceremony using the 1900's dress. Twelve Goslings were initiated; among them were Ryan and Sean Maloney, the two sons of the Grand Wielder. Also, one of them could become the future Grand Wielder.



Dave Beger was the MLG
Kathy Wezalis, SOF
Dave Kosdrosky, COG
Fred Fernandez, GOP
Dick Chenard, Wielder
Bob Morlock, Capital of the Guards
Joe Coccia, Guard
Joe Lothschutz, Guard
John Zeldam, presented the Charge
Gary Rogers, offered the Admonition
Ken Shelley provided the music and
Special effects



Kathy Wezalls and Dick Chenard



PMLGG Zeldam, Chenard and Berger

GRAND NEST HISTORY

The guest speaker at the All Industry Luncheon was Bill Carullo, an NFL official that has worked many playoff games and Super Bowls. He gave us a fascinating glimpse into the background and lives of men that officiate the country's most popular pro sport.

After lunch, Grand Wielder Terry Maloney gave a demonstration of the of the Order's new software program that just replaced the 1986 program. The system is designed to let each Pond's Wielder manage their Pond's roster with adds, drops, reinstatements and e-mail capabilities.

Thursday evening's theme was the "*Streets of Old Milwaukee in 1906*". The Milwaukee Museum was the setting. Throughout the streets that were recreated to take you back to the turn of the century were buffet food stations serving the ethnic dishes of the times.

Friday opened as Grand Wielder Terry Maloney called on two Ganders for special presentations. Mike Nardulli of the NYC Pond stepped forward and read a letter from the White House expressing President Bush's best wishes to Blue Goose on our 100th Anniversary. Mike then presented the letter to Grand Historian Barry Snyder for a place in the History Archives.

Next, Terry called up Leo Fluitsma of Blue Goose's Australia Puddle. Leo presented Terry with an Australian flag signed by their members to symbolizes their commitment to Blue Goose.



MLGG Seider, Leo Fluitsmsa from the Australia Puddle
And Grand Wielder Maloney

GRAND NEST HISTORY

MLGG Seider reported on this year in office. (see Grand Nest Bulletin, Volume 100 for his complete report).

MLGG Seider called upon GN Historian Snyder for his report. He reported that the following Ganders are working on the next fifty-years of the History of the Order, from 1956 thru 2006. PMLGG Rex Clark; Grand Guardian JoAnn Clark; PMLGG Larry Lewer; PMLGG John Bishop; PMLG Dan Rich, PMLG Tom Cattell; PMLG George Kinder and the Wielder of the Texas Pond, Linda Meik. Snyder stated they hope to have it available soon for distribution. This will be available on a disk and also on the Grand Nest Web site.

MLGG Seider called upon the Judge Advocate Robert Ross for his report. Ross reflected that our Constitution and By-Laws have been changed over the years to mirror the needs and realities the Order has been faced with. He said we are now facing the reality of evaluating regional structure and the role of the Grand Nest and the individual Ponds.

Than GWGQ Maloney offered his report, the theme of which was upcoming changes in the Order's Regional structure. The current structure of five regions (West, Central, East, South and Canada) dates to the 1930's.

PMLGG John Bishop gave the Audit report and said the Order's financial health would be much better were it not for \$10,000 in uncollected dues.

After the officers gave their reports. MLGG Seider called upon PMLG Dan Rich of the Hartford Pond to give the Membership Committee report. Lorena Dunlop from the Alberta Pond for the Jurisprudence report, followed by Linda Meik of the Huston Pond for the Education Committee report.

The Grand Nest Award presentation followed. (see Grand Nest Bulletin, Volume 100 for the listing of these awards).

The rest of the day was open for the attendees to take part in the Germanfest, brewery boat tours, Milwaukee Brewers baseball game and many other venues.

Saturday, after breakfast the Grand Nest Convention reconvened. The Virginia Pond gave their presentation for next year's Grand Nest Convention in Williamsburg. The State of Virginia will be celebrating their 400th year. The Virginia Pond will be celebrating their 100th year. This will be the first time Virginia will be hosting a Grand Nest Convention.

The slate of officers was placed in nomination, they were seconded and the closing remarks were given for each Gander as they ascended the Chairs of the Grand Nest. Each current officer moved up to the next position. Joe C. Coccia of the Michigan Pond joined the Grand Nest as the new Grand Keeper. Joe has been a member of the Blue Goose since 1980.

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The Grand Nest Officers met for their Post Convention Meeting after the Family Luncheon. The other conventioners were getting ready for the big event that closed the Convention, *The Grand Banquet and Ball*.

That evening, we attended a cocktail hour in the hotel Atrium. The area was colorfully decorated with blue and white balloons. The doors to the ballroom were opened and the conventioners entered. The PMLGG's in attendance and the Grand Nest officers were introduced. PMLGG Seider and GWGQ Maloney and their wives came in last followed, by the University of Wisconsin marching band playing "On You Goslings" to the tune of "On Wisconsin" just as it was played 100 years ago in Green Lake, WI by our founding fathers.



University of Wisconsin Marching Band

The band started the evening off with upbeat music and they had the crowd dancing before dinner was served. Dinner was delicious, wild mushroom bisque; tossed field greens with heirloom tomatoes; filet mignon with melted gorgonzola cheese; roasted halibut with lemon oil and sage; Yukon garlic mashed potatoes; asparagus and red pepper medley.

A special dessert was served for the occasion, it was an eight inch chocolate goose, filled with chocolate mousse and fresh berries. An elegant touch to an outstanding dinner.



Chocolate Goose Trilogy

GRAND NEST HISTORY



Before, anyone could enjoy their dessert, all stood up to sing a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday Blue Goose while we rolled out a uniquely built three tier birthday cake. The real surprise was “Cliffie the Goose” who came back out of the archives to grace us with his presence just as he did for almost twenty-five years when one of our most dedicated Blue Goose members, PMLGG Cliff Needham would bring him to our Balls to add to the festivities. “Cliffie” had everyone on the dance floor doing the famous Goose dance (chicken dance).

This only fired up the group to continue enjoying the rest of the evening by rocking to the music of “Diamond” whose lead female singer was a back-up singer to Aretha Franklin.

(Some of the above information was taken from the current Grand Nest Bulletin and the Hartford Pondering, by PMLG Dan Rich of the Hartford Pond).



Harry Michael Merrifield
June 27, 1921 – February 26, 2006

Nature, with equal mind,
Sees all her sons at play;
Sees man control the wind,
The wind sweep man away.

By Matthew Arnold

Harry was born to Harry M. Merrifield and Mary Cullen Merrifield in Butte Montana. He served as an altar boy for St. Anne’s Parish and graduated from Butte High School.

Harry joined the army at age eighteen and attended flight school in San Antonio Texas. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant and served in England during World War II. He was discharged in 1946 as a major.

He met the love of his life, Opal while working for General Insurance Agency in Los Angeles. They were wed at Holy Spirit Church on July 4, 1947. Opal and Harry have three children, Terri Ann, Kevin Michael and Stephen Patrick.

He attended law school at night receiving his LLB degree. Harry was recalled to duty during the Korea Conflict and spent his service time in the legal office at Topeka Kansas. Returning to civilian life he settled in Pomona, CA where he started his own adjusting firm under the name William E. Marshall & Associates. Later they moved to Canoga Park CA where they remained for forty-six years.

Opal said, “Harry was a life member of Blue Goose International and enjoyed every minute of it.”

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I met Harry at the 1989 Grand Nest when he was the MLGG. The convention was on the retired ocean liner Queen Mary and truly one of the most memorable ones we have attended.

My first impression of Harry was this was a small man with a big heart. When Harry smiled his whole face was merry—such a gleam in his eye. He was truly well named by having Merri as part of his name, though I hear he was also stubborn and opinionated. Imagine a Grand Nest Officer being opinionated.

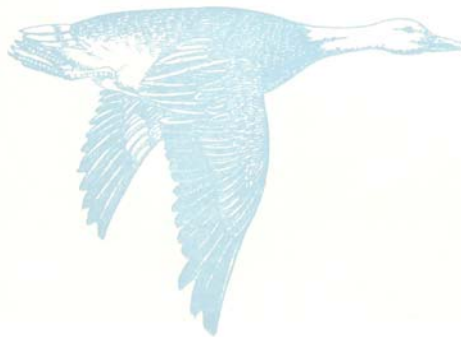
At the Welcome party we sat with Harry, Opal, Chuck and Helen Palmerton. Since he was the top officer also joining us at the table were look-a-likes of Burt Reynolds and Elizabeth Taylor. “Liz” was specializing in cleavage and Harry kept encouraging the fellows at the table to dance with her. Rex asked “Liz” to dance and instead of worrying about stepping on her toes was trying not to stare at her cleavage to the great amusement of Harry who was watching the dancing.

When Rex was being nominated for Grand Nest Harry came out to the lobby looking for me. He said, ‘ JoAnn you need to come in and see Rex being installed’. I asked if it was ok and he said of course. He led the way and made sure I had a good place to see the installation, and beamed his merry smile at me the whole time.

Harry was diagnosed with Parkinson Disease forcing them to leave their home in October 2003 and move to Mesa AZ to be near their daughter. But not until after he attended the California Pond sponsored Mid-Year Grand Nest meeting in Los Angeles in early February 2003.

Harry leaves his loving and lonely wife of fifty-eight years, Opal, three children, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Honored departed PMLGG Harry, we salute you and greet you in the silent hall of memory. Hail Friend and Farewell.



Prepared for presentation during the Memorial Service at the 100th Grand Nest Convention, Grand Guardian JoAnn Clark, Seattle Pond, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 27, 2006

G R A N D N E S T H I S T O R Y

GRAND NEST OFFICER'S PRE-CONVENTION MINUTES JULY 26, 2006 HYATT REGENCY, MILWAUKEE, WI

1. All current Officers in attendance plus PMLGG's R. Clark, Harwood, Lewer, Simpson, Reith, Zeldam, and Bishop.
2. Virginia Pond is set for Williamsburg in 2007. Financial plans were reviewed. Niagara Falls, Ontario is the location however, financial still needs more detail. Seattle Pond's venue at the Grand Sierra Resort is set. The Reno budget is conservative and on target. Penn and the Eastern region are still debating their venue of choice. As a result, no financial data was available.
3. All dues, membership and related reports were provided to Officers by GWGQ Maloney. Ponds overdue in dues are Peace Garden, Heart of America, Manitoba, Quebec, and Thunder Bay.
4. MLGG Seider announced the award presentation for the Pond recipients.
5. All nominators, seconders, and closers were confirmed for election.
6. PMLGG Zeldam will install new Officers.
7. GWGQ Maloney confirmed insurance contract was in force.
8. Audit report given by MLGG Seider. He reported all was in order.
9. Committee reports for Jurisprudence, Education, Constitution and By-Laws, Publication, and Charity were filed.
10. The convention survey is to be sent out via email in September after the convention is over.
11. Blue Goose software is being presented in Milwaukee to members. The Software vendor is prepared to go "Live" as soon as presented to the attendees.
12. GWGQ Maloney announced that West Virginia, California, and Empire State returned their charters this past year.
13. MLGG Seider reported that the Blue Goose International corporate statute was confirmed by the State of Wisconsin.
14. MLGG Seider led a lengthy and substantive discussion on what direction our organization needs to go for the future. Three main points were defined. Status quo was not acceptable. How national conventions are run and organized must be changed. Finally, but not least the restructuring of our regional set-up was discussed.

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A sub committee chaired by PMLGG Hale for convention funding alternatives was established. GGN Clark and PMLGG Reith will assist.

A second sub-committee on defining options for the direction of our Order was also established. MLGG Strohecker will chair. JA Ross, GCG Fitch, incoming Officers Joe Coccia, and PMLGG's R. Clark, Zeldam, Bishop and Hale will share their ideas.

A fall special meeting will be called by incoming MLGG Strohecker to refine and these concepts forward.

GRAND NEST OFFICER'S POST CONVENTION MINUTES JULY 29, 2006 HYATT REGENCY, MILWAUKEE, WI

1. All current officers present including PMLGG's Seider, R. Clark, Harwood, Lewer, Reith, Zeldam, and Thurber.
2. MLGG reappointed GWGQ Maloney, JA Ross, and GNH Snyder.
3. GWGQ Maloney's contract was executed.
4. Bankcards and resolution were executed and signed by MLGG Strohecker.
5. No honorariums were needed.
6. Unanimous approval was granted for all GN Officers expensed to the Milwaukee convention. GSF Fitch made a motion. GCG Clark second.
7. The 2006-2007 budget was approved after funding was added for special planning meetings to reorganize the Order.
8. MLGG Strohecker called for a special meeting tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2006 in Chicago, Illinois to discuss the direction of the Order.
9. Two committees set to report in Chicago are:
 - a. Advertising and other fund-raising options for conventions.
Chair – PMLGG Hale, including PMLGG Reith and Gander Lisa Mullen. PMLGG Hale will name others.
 - b. Financing conventions, how to manage successful programs.
Chair – GSF Fitch, PMLGG's Thurber, Bishop, R. Clark, Hale, Zeldam, JA Ross and MLGG Strohecker.
10. March 2007 will be the Mid-Year meeting time frame per MLGG Strohecker.

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11. Photo and signature of GKGGE Coccia obtained soon.
12. BG will attempt to order booth space at the national PLRB meeting in Orlando in March 2007. GWGQ Maloney will be assisted by GKGGE Coccia, JA Ross, MLGG Strohecker, PMLGG's Hale and Harwood. PMLGG Hale stated that the Eastern region will fund the costs.
13. GN Officers will forward regional minutes and roll calls to GWGQ Maloney.
14. MLGG Strohecker assigned Officers their committee appointments.
15. All Officers were reminded to provide MLGG Strohecker with their appropriate committee members and depute appointments.
16. Mileage rate for 2006-2007 is 44.5 cents per mile (US).

Respectfully Submitted,
Terrence Maloney, GWGQ

The Century Club

Terry Maloney and MLGG Tim Seider were deciding on some ways to raise funds for two Conventions, Milwaukee and Green Lake, as they were traveling to and from the Central Region Meeting held in Indianapolis. Terry suggested to Tim that, they should consider a Century Club, but they both agreed that \$100 would not cut it.

So, on the way back, they started coming up with concepts that would provide the members that donated to this special fund some benefits. Some benefits would cost some money, but others added a lot of value, added benefits for those members while not necessarily costing money.

The rest is history. Terry donated a \$1000, then Tim, then Noel Kott. It continued to grow and so did the value added concepts. A total of thirty donations were made, which provided a large core for our dual Convention plan. Everyone that attended even just Milwaukee or both venues owes a debt of gratitude for these special individuals.

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The following is a list of those that are Century Club Members

Noel Kott
MLGG Tim Seider
Terry Maloney Grand Wielder
PMLGG Rex Clark
JoAnn Clark, Grand Guardian
Jim Myers
PMLGG John Zeldam
George Kindler, PMLG
Bill Herman
St. Louis Pond purchased seven memberships
Michigan Pond purchased two memberships
Keith Strohecker, Grand Supervisor

Joe Coccia, PMLG
Kenneth Meyer
Michael Nardulli
PMLGG George Hardwood
Donna Hardwood, PMLG
Indiana Pond
PMLGG Marc Thurber
Sylvie St. Amour
Don Greeno
Gary Rogers
PMLGG Doug Snyder

MOST GRAND NEST CONVENTIONS ATTENDED TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS (THROUGH 2006)

39 Phillip J. Simpson PMLGG
35 John B. Gravenstine, PGWGQ (34 Gander, 1 youth)
35 Bruce B. Bolton, PMLGG (23 Gander, 12, youth)
33 Ivar H. Awes, PMLGG
32 Rex W. Clark, PMLGG
32 JoAnn M. Clark, PMLG (11 Gander, 20 spouse)
31 William J. Wasekanes, Grand Keeper

30 Walter Bennett, PMLG
30 Nancy J. Bennett (16 Gander, 14 spouse)
27 King G. Luck, PMLGG
26 Clifford C. Needham, PMLGG
26 Don Grott, PMLG
26 Jason Smith, PMLG

WANTED! PLEASE DONATE

- **Blue Goose Jewelry** (pins, medals, ribbons, badges, etc.)
- Grand Nest **convention gifts items** (ladies and men)
- Old Grand Nest **trophies and awards** (membership, charity, golf, etc.)
- Old Blue Goose **costumes** (ritual teams, fun events, etc.)
- Old Grand Nest **Bulletins**
- Old Grand Nest **Convention programs**
-

Please assist us in “rebuilding” our Grand Nest archives. We are only interested in items that have a general interest to all Blue Goosedom, not just one Pond. **Please provide us with origin and history of each item to be donated.** If you can help us, contact the Grand Historian.

GRAND NEST HISTORY



A GATHERING BY THE WATERS THE HEIDEL HOUSE RESORT GREEN LAKES, WISCONSIN JULY 30—AUGUST 1, 2006

On Sunday, July 30th a caravan of Blue Goosers headed towards Green Lake, Wisconsin—the birthplace of our Order. Some of us drove and others boarded the bus. A wild thunderstorm rolled in from Lake Michigan. With rain beating on the bus windows we started our adventure to the beginnings of our Order. As we toiled along the weather turned dry and then sunny. The area became farmland with crops and pastures, real bucolic scenery. There were many nodding heads and snoozing after the late night dancing.

After settling in our rooms some played golf on the same golf course as our forefathers, (even though the course has been revamped, some of the holes have the markers defining what was what back in 1906). The Tuscumbia Golf Course (the oldest in the State—1896, was across the street from the Heidel House. This was the infamous course, which was hit with a rainstorm. This turned the men's attention to having a fun evening program, which hatched our organization. Others rented jet skis, pontoon boats for some great water activities; and then some just went on tours of the area. Those on tours of the area drove thru some of the surrounding towns such as the Ripton, where the birth of the Republican Party occurred. Many visited the town of Green Lake and saw the site where the Oakwood Hotel has been in 1906, where the creation of Blue Goose occurred.

The first night we had an outdoor barbecue on the terrace overlooking the Lake. The weather was mild with nary a mosquito in site. We had great food and plenty of it, no one went away hungry. Later we could walk or ride on a golf car up to the bonfire.....roasting marshmallows and making smors. As we were visiting

GRAND NEST HISTORY

with our friends, Walter Atwater our first MLGG appeared out of the dark woods and revisited the events of 1906.



Heidel House Resort guests enjoying the view from the dock of the yacht *Escapade*.

The second day many lolled around the pool getting a tan and swimming. There was boating, canoeing or site seeing. A big attraction in the town was a tavern called the “Goose Blind”. Blue Goosers flew to this place like a magnet was drawing them----BUT not to partake of and libations, but to buy the--- you guessed it, tee shirts and caps with the logo of a Goose wearing sunglasses.

That evening we had a nice banquet in the ballroom. The room was filled with balloons. Photos were taken to enhance our memories of the group and the 100th Anniversary of the Blue Goose. There were six Ganders with fifty plus years of membership in attendance. The evening ended with two cakes decorated with the Blue Goose logo and 100th anniversary wishes.

Only once before in 1926 and then for just a railroad day trip from the Milwaukee convention site did our members return to Green Lake for a “gathering of our flock”.

The 100th anniversary was witnessed and celebrated by one-hundred adults and thirteen youths. Fifty-six of them were Ganders. The following Ganders names will be forever inscribed in our archives just as our six Founding Fathers have been ever since the first “meeting” 100 years ago.

The next morning was a time for good byes until next year and the bus trip back to Milwaukee to make our various ways home. Onward Blue Goose to another 100 years of following our precepts of ***Character, Charity and Fellowship***.



Green Lake, WI.



Green Lake, WI.

(Some of the above information was taken from the current Grand Nest Bulletin, Texas Pond Honker, by Linda Meik, and Grand Supervisor, JoAnn M.Clark)

GRAND NEST HISTORY

THE FOLLOWING GRANDERS ATTENDED THE 100TH BLUE GOOSE BIRTHDAY PARTY GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN SUNDAY JULY 31—AUGUST 1, 2006

David	Beger	Ryan	Maloney
Jeff	Berty	Sean	Maloney
John C.	Bishop, PMLGG	Terrence M.	Maloney, Grand Wielder
Barbara	Blumenfield	Chris	Mancuso, DMLGG, PMLG
Richard	Chenard	Richard	Mancuso, PMLG
JoAnn M.	Clark, Grand Custodian	Linda	Meik, DMLGG
Rex M.	Clark, PMLGG	Kenneth	Meyer
Joseph	Coccia, Grand Keeper	Edwin	Meyers
Frederick	Combs	Neil	Miller
Alan	Dahle	Jim	Myers
Bruce	Delvoye	Michael	Nardulli
Harold	Faith, DMLGG	Fred	Nintzel
Fred	Fernandez	William	Olson, DMLGG, PMLG
Jack	Fitch, Grand Supervisor	John	Paris
Richard	Grant	Ralph	Reese
Donald	Greeno	Chris	Reith, PMLGG
Terry	Hackett	Gary	Rogers
Donna	Harwood, PMLG	Robert Tayloe	Ross, Judge Advocate
George	Harwood, PMLGG	Tim T.	Seider, PMLGG
Donald	Hart	Jason	Smith
Bill	Herman	Barry L.	Snyder, PMLGG,GNH
Jane	Herman Schultz	Patricia A.	Snyder, PMLG
Lisa	Kane	Kenneth	Strobel
Tim	Keary	Keith	Strohecker, MLGG
George	Kindler	Jane	Sullenger
David	Kosdrosky	Marc	Thurber, PMLGG
Noel	Kott	William J.	Wasekanes, Grand Guardian
Art	LeMaistre	John	Zeldam, PMLGG

As it was said back in 1926, when a group of Ganders and their wives visited this area, “It was a happy day, never to be forgotten by those who participated”.



GRAND NEST HISTORY

Historical Highlights

1925 - 1926

The Twentieth Annual Grand Nest Meeting marked an important new departure, because it was the first time such a meeting was ever held outside of Chicago and not in conjunction with the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest. This was held at Hotel Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 8, 9 and 10, 1926, with His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander H. Verne Myers, Iowa Pond presiding. Mayor Daniel Hoan of Milwaukee delivered the address of welcome.

His Highness introduced Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Walter E. Atwater, Wm. T. Benallack, Frank G. Snyder, Fred W. Ransom, W. J. Sonnen, John A. Hanson, E. D. Marr and John F. Stafford.

Seventy-six delegates representing 40 of the 43 Ponds answered the roll call.

Myers traveled over 13,000 miles from coast to coast and in Canada, during which twenty Ponds were visited. He was accompanied on most of his travels by Grand Wielder, Paul E. Rudd.

Myers was pleased to tell the delegates they have admitted to membership 651 new members and have reinstated 49, a total gain of 700 during the year. The total membership for that year was 6,487.

There was a new departure at this Twentieth Anniversary Grand Nest meeting in that the Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders each made written reports of their activities.

Various Ponds and cities through their Chamber of Commerce were anxious to secure our next annual Grand Nest Meeting. Dallas, Texas, and its Texas Pond was chosen by unanimous vote.

Friday, at eight o'clock, a special all steel train on the C. & N.W. Railroad has been arranged for to convoy every one who wishes to go to Green Lake, about 90 miles from Milwaukee, where the original egg was laid and hatched back in June, 1906. A special committee is arranging suitable entertainment. The round trip fare will be \$5.20, with 75 cents extra each way for those desiring to ride in the parlor car. We are assured every convenience on this trip by the Railroad Company and they intend to cut the running time down to approximately two hours. The train will return at 4 o'clock arriving in Milwaukee in the early evening, but in ample time to transfer passengers here who desire to make sleeper connections for all points out of Chicago. All those coming from the West should take advantage of tourist rates, buying their tickets possibly to Chicago or some point near to Milwaukee. The round trip fare from Milwaukee to Chicago via the C. & N. W. Railroad is \$5.14.

It was a perfect day that greeted those Ganders and their wives who were fortunate enough to have time to make the trip to the Blue Goose shrine at Green Lake. The train arrived at Green Lake before 11 o'clock, where buses met and hurried them to the Oakwood Hotel, where a splendid fish and chicken dinner was waiting to be served promptly at twelve.

It was a happy day, never to be forgotten by those who participated.

