

HISTORY OF THE GRAND NEST

Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International

2008 – 2009



103rd GRAND NEST CONVENTION

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino

RENO, NEVADA

JULY 19 – 22, 2009

JoAnn M. Clark

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

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada----July 19 – 22, 2009



The current and past Grand Nest officers started arriving on Saturday July 17th to be on time for their per-convention meeting that started Saturday morning. The meeting was held in the Silver States Pavilion S-1 room. The Most Loyal Grand Gander JoAnn M. Clark presided. Grand Wielder Maloney called the roll. The following current officers were present. Grand Supervisor William Wasakanes, Penn Pond; Grand Custodian Joseph C. Coccia, Michigan Pond; Grand Guardian Lorena Dunlop, Alberta Pond; Grand Wielder Terrance M. Maloney, Home Nest; Judge Advocate Robert Tayloe Ross, Virginia Pond; and Grand Historian Barry L. Snyder, National Capital Pond. Grand

Keeper Guy Charron, Quebec Pond was absent. Rex Clark, Settle Pond and Barry L. Snyder were the only Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders in attendance.

The Seattle Pond has sponsored four Grand Nest Conventions since it was chartered in 1929. It appears the number nine has a magic inspirational effect on the Pond. They held the convention in 1949, 1979, 1999 and in 2009. Fortunately a few of the Ganders that worked on the 1979 convention are still active in the organization. Almost all of the Ganders that participated in the 1999 convention are still active in the Pond and many volunteered to work this convention.

The Seattle Pond decided to host the Grand Nest Convention in Reno, Nevada, since Seattle was too expensive. How can you beat the price of the hotel at \$69.00 per day, plus tax? Nevada from silver mines to neon signs, from desert scenes to slot machines; Nevada is a place of superlatives. It boasts America's lowest average rainfall, the most mountain ranges, more ghost towns than anywhere else and the biggest herd of wild mustangs. Seventh state in size, but few people live outside the two largest cities.

The Grand Sierra Resort has over 1,900 rooms, plus over 800 suites. You sure got your workout due to the fact that you had to walk a long way to your events, which were almost all held in an approximately five-acre room.

Reno—is located in the foothills of many mountain ranges; Virginia, Pine Nut, Trinity, Stillwater, Clan Alpine, Shoshone and Wassuk to name just a few of the surrounding mountains. It's considered high desert for weather, meaning dry and hot in summer when temperatures can reach in the nineties. It's part of Nevada called Pony Express or Cowboy country. Reno has a population of about 140,000 and contains the University of Nevada campus. Like all western US cities it is casual and you will see lots of cowboy attire in stores and on folks.

On Saturday, July 17th some of the Ganders and guest started to arrive from all over the United States and Canada, especially those who wanted to play in the Convention Golf Tournament Sunday morning at Wolf Run Golf Club. It was a scramble format and the weather was sunny and warm, 101 degrees, but dry.

The other Ganders and guests arrived Sunday in time for the Welcome Party Sunday night. The event was held on the premises. The party featured Western garb, magicians, balloon artists, and a "Flavors of the Southwest" buffet dinner. Many met new friends that they will long remember. Those that have been coming to the Conventions for years enjoyed visiting with their old friends that they haven't seen for a year. Some of us

missed our fellow Ganders, who have taken their long last flight. The kids along with the adults enjoyed trading Blue Goose pins that represent their Pond



PMLG Dale and Finetta Cowman of the Dakota & Seattle Pond
MLGG JoAnna Clark & PMLGG Rex Clark of the Seattle Pond



PMLG Pat Snyder of the National Capital Pond
PMLG Mike Nardulli of the New York City Pond

The above pictures were taken at the Sunday night's Western garb Welcome Party. PMLG Nardulli was paying PMLG Snyder her money that she won on chances he was selling for the Penn Pond Convention in 2010.

There were ninety-four Ganders; forty-one Spouses & Guests; and eleven Children that enjoyed the Convention that was held on the premises at the beautiful Grand Sierra Resort.



Monday July 20th The Convention opened with a showgirl escorting in the Grand Nest Officers and a cowboy delivering the Convention gavel to MLGG JoAnn Clark. All eyes were on the Showgirl; no one was paying attention to the Grand Nest Officers. I have been to many Grand Nest Conventions and this is the first time we were escorted in such an enjoyable fashion. You never know what to expect at Grand Nest Conventions, that is what makes them so much fun. MLGG Clark give the opportunity to all those that wanted their picture taken with the showgirl and the cowboy, before calling the Grand Nest meeting to order. The Ganders and Guests sang Happy Birthday to MLGG Clark, who celebrated her birthday at the Convention.

The National Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Australia were played and Saul Saldana gave the opening invocation. MLGG Clark introduced the Grand Nest Officers and Guest at the head table, along with their spouses. The PMLGGs and spouses and the DMLGGs from the five regions. Sharon Aston, National Sales Manager of the Grand Sierra, Seattle Convention Chair Nora Saldana and MLG Shari Cox of the Seattle Pond welcomed the delegates, Ganders and guests.



Each Current Grand Nest Officer sat below their Pond's banner that was hung on the wall behind them .

After the opening ceremony all the Officers, Delegates, Ganders and Guests witness a very dignified Memorial Service presented by the Utah Pond. The service was conducted by PMLG Ken Miller, PMLG Bruce Christensen and PMLG Doug Stewart. A bell was tolled as each Pond's name was called and the names of their departed Ganders were recited. Small candles resting on the head table were lit one by one in the darkened meeting room. This was culminated by a Eulogy for two Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, King Luck and Bruce Bolton.



IN MEMORIUM

PMLGG Bruce Bolton

I had the pleasure of meeting Bruce Bolton and his father Browne when I became active in the Kentucky Pond transferring from the West Virginia Pond.

Bruce was born January 11, 1954 and attended his first Grand Nest convention as a youthful guest in New York City in 1961 along with his parents Browne and Lois Bolton and his sister Sharon.

With his blue goose parents and family, he attended twelve of the next thirteen conventions as a guest until he reached age twenty-one and was then initiated into the Kentucky Pond in 1974. in all Bruce attended thirty-six conventions including twelve as a youth.

Bruce was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg at Grand Cypress, August 13, 1987. He then went through the chairs of the Grand Nest officers and was the Most Loyal Grand Gander at the 1992 International Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Bruce and his father Browne (who incidentally was Most Loyal Grand Gander in 1972), have the distinct honor of being one of two father and son who have served as the Most Loyal Grand Gander of the Blue Goose.

Bruce had a liver transplant in 1993 and subsequently has had several health issues thereafter. To compound his problem, he had a horse that stumbled and fell on him and crushed him. However, Bruce always seemed to bounce back.

However, time ran out on him and he passed away on June 14, 2009. His wife Adele who has attended several conventions with him survives.

We will truly miss Bruce Bolton, PMLGG and a Kentucky Colonel.

Honored, departed Gander, 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 103rd Grand Nest Convention in Reno, Nevada by KGGE Don Greeno of the Kentucky Pond.

**IN MEMORIUM**

PMLGG King Graham Luck

King Graham Luck was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on May 23, 1928. He was raised a Christian Scientist, but later joined the Methodist Church. He graduated Glynn Academy in Brunswick, Georgia in 1946. In 1949 he joined the Army and was sent to Fort Jackson near Columbia, South Carolina, where he was injured during basic training and Honorably Discharged. He then attended the Atlanta School of Law.

He began his insurance career with the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York in their Atlanta office. This was before the days of multi-line insurance and Fidelity and Casualty was a casualty insurance operation of the Continental Insurance Group. He was later transferred to Birmingham. Then he left and became involved in several ventures in the insurance agency and managing general agency business in Birmingham.

King joined the Blue Goose December 8, 1955. In 1982, King was the Most Loyal Grand Gander representing the Alabama Pond at their convention in Birmingham. In 1985 he closed his agency in Birmingham and moved to Tampa, Florida to work for O. H. Carter and Associates, where soon to be Most Loyal Grand Gander Jerry Simpson was also employed in a different division. He retired in 1992 and returned to Birmingham to live out his twilight years near his large family.

As a younger man, King enjoyed the great outdoors, being an avid hunter and fisherman. King belonged to a host of insurance relayed organizations, but claimed that Blue Goose is where he truly enjoyed the fellowship of other insurance professionals and which allowed him to travel all over the United States and Canada.

King died December 1st following an extended illness. King is survived by his lovely wife Mildred and a host of children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews and a brother.

Honored, departed Gander, 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 103rd Grand Nest Convention in Reno, Nevada by PMLGG George Harwood, Florida Pond.

IN MEMORIUM

Dorothy Brussell Gravenstive

Normally our Memorial Celebration is reserved for our Ganders who have taken their final flight. However, because of the extraordinary nature of her relationship to our Order, I wish to mention the name of Dorothy Brussel Gravenstine, who was born in Decatur, Georgia on April 10, 1919. She moved to St. Petersburg, Florida in 1946 and married George H. Buussel, who was our Order's Most Loyal Grand Gander in 1967, when the Florida Pond hosted the Grand Nest. Dottie was involved in so many charities and civic organizations, we would be here all day if I started to read them. After George's death, Dottie and our then Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Jack Gravenstine married.

Dottie was a rare breed of what I can call a true Southern Belle. When she entered a room, it would light up with her sunshine. She know how to work the room with broad smile, making sure to speak to everyone, and in the process, making sure that those to whom she spoke knew that she understood they were very important people to her. Sadly, we lost Dottie's spirit of warmth on October 31st.

Hail Fiend, and Farewell!

Prepared for presentation during the Memorial Service at the 103rd Grand Nest Convention in Reno, Nevada by PMLGG George Harwood, Florida Pond



Lorena Dunlop gave the Charge.

The Alberta Pond presented the Model Initiation. Representing the commerce and culture of the region, they dressed in a variety of costumes that included cowboys; oil millionaires; miners; Indians; hockey players, oil-field workers and farmers. The initiation team consist of PMLG John Conti; PMLG Steve MacInnis; COP Clay Purves; GGN/PMLG Lorena Dunlop; GOP Carlene Sorenson; PMLG Dennis Bymak and PMLG David Bruell were the Guards. The Admonition was given by PMLG Steve MacInnis. GGN/PMLG

The names of the initiates were revealed by hatching an egg out of a prop chicken, complete with appropriate sound effects. Four new Goslings were initiated that day

The Convention's All-Industry Luncheon featured speaker Bill Stainton. Bill said that the secrets of the Beatles' success could be the secrets to your success as well! Bill Stainton is an internationally recognized expert on the Beatles and the author of *"The Five Best Decisions the Beatles Ever Made". A Handbook for "Top of the Charts" Success*. He met a number of key players in the Beatles' story...including two of the Beatles. While Bill would hate to draw any conclusions from this, he would like to point out that the two Beatles he has met...are still alive!

In addition to being a Beatles expert, Bill was also the Executive Producer of Seattle's long running comedy television show, *Almost Live!* Which was on the air fifteen years and was number one in its time slot for ten straight years. During that time, Bill won twenty-nine Emmy Awards...thus shattering his dream of winning thirty Emmy Awards.



He peppered his talk with Beatles trivia questions and the correct answers earned \$20 for a quartet of lucky Ganders.

The lucky Ganders may have changed their mind about being so lucky when the four of them were called onstage at the end of the presentation. Donning Beatle wigs, prop guitars and an imaginary drum kit, the four winners lip-synced their way through a groundbreaking version of *"Twist and Shout"*.



Dinner was held on site at the Grand Theater and featured one of the more spectacular entrances that any one has seen at a Blue Goose Convention. As the curtain was rising onstage, a jet plane with engines roaring moved across the stage and the Seattle Convention Committee exited the plane and descended the walkway. A Jazz pianist and singer provided dinner entertainment. The dessert drew rave review, a white chocolate gouache covered strawberry shortcake.

The evening ended with a gaggle of Ganders at a Hospitality Suite co-hosed by the Michigan Pond and Penn Pond/Eastern Region.

Tuesday July 21st ---Grand Wielder Terry Maloney took the roll call to be sure all the delegates were present. Most Loyal Grand Gander JoAnn Clark called the business meeting to order and reported on her year in office.

**Most Loyal Grand Gander's Report 102nd Grand Nest Convention
Grand Sierra Resort, Tahoe, Nevada
Monday July 21st, 2008**



Grand Nest Officers—Past & Present—Delegates, Ganders and Guests:

It has been an honor for me to serve as your MLGG this past year. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to serve as your officer, “Appreciation is the memory of the heart”, your lasting gift to me. As the first woman on Grand Nest thank you for being open to not only expanding your membership rules in 1989 to accept women; but for the tremendous support you have provided to me during my five years on the Board. And my special thanks to Seattle Pond for being willing to host yet another convention. Seattle Pond has a mystic with the number nine having sponsored Grand Nest in 1949, 1979, 1999 and 2009.

Blue Goose is not a hard taskmaster to their officers. Basically most years no specific duties are required of us. That leaves us the time to concentrate on convention planning and raising funds for our hosting of the convention in our year as MLGG. This is a good thing as most organizations that require multi tasks or travel by their officers become burdened with excess expenses. The majority of “duties” and expenses provide very little benefit to the individual members or chapters. The strength of any organization is in the members. Grand Nest should oversee that we are on a sound financial basis and encourage ponds to practice good fiscal policy. Grand Nest can provide guidance but must operate within the dictates of our Constitution and By-Laws. We need to continue the freedom these rules allow our ponds so that they serve the needs of our members. Remember Grand Nest does not nominate nor support candidates for national office. Ganders as members of a pond are the only ones that support a gander for national office. Ponds renew their commitment to host a convention every year until the officer they annually nominate becomes MLGG.

Blue Goose really honors our object of Good Fellowship. Attending just one of our conventions shows that we are committed to acts of benevolence toward one another. An organization set up by business people that hold annual family conventions is unique. By having ponds sponsor these annual gatherings we provide an opportunity for our members to learn and improve their organization and leadership skills. Each host pond offers their own individual talents to add the special events that we so enjoy. Thank you Seattle Pond, for the outstanding work you perform, hosting conventions.

At our post convention meeting in Niagara some ideas came up about changing some of our committees. The Publications Committee suggested that after working on it for three years that the same ponds were winning the awards and that maybe some changes should be considered. Out of this discussion came the Communications Committee. The object would be to first find out how ponds communicated with their members, region, GN and other ponds. Then determine how to improve and promote exchanges of information between our members. The other committee was Membership which was modified slightly to include consideration of developing a marketing plan for ponds to use. Results of these committees will be discussed in Reno.

Rex and I hosted a Wine Tasting Dinner Party in our garden in August to raise funds for our convention. We also attended Seattle Pond's Day at Emerald Downs. In mid September, Rex and I flew to Denver to attend the 100th anniversary of Colorado Pond. They had a lovely dinner party to celebrate; and we were able to visit a former Seattle gander PMLG Ron Gardner and Jerry and Bobbie Womak, long time convention attendees. The next day we flew to Salt Lake City to renew our efforts to have them host the 2014 Grand Nest. PMLG John Paris and Zelma met us at the airport and after lunch drove us around Salt Lake, a lovely city filled with mini parks with flowers. That evening we had dinner with MLG Curt Westphal. We met John and Zelma for breakfast and John took us to the airport.

My wallet and checkbook was stolen in late August and after canceling all the cards, etc I went to get my driver's license reissued. However I could not pass the eye exam. After visiting the eye Doctor the verdict was; you either get glasses or since you have cataracts have them removed (they were not hindering my sight). I opted for surgery and had one eye done in early October the other at the end of the month. What a relief to be able to drive again and no glasses! Rex was even happier.

I was honored to participate in two of our most prestigious events. Michigan Pond invited me to attend their annual charity luncheon December 4th in the Detroit area. I attended their convention planning committee prior to the lunch and was impressed not only with their financial status (\$\$\$\$) but also with the professional way they are handling arrangements. I roamed the crowd and talked up membership to non-ganders, then sat with the Michigan folks for lunch. I noticed no one was eating the salad and asked do they usually have an invocation? They nodded, yes. Two minutes later the Chairman introduced me to give the invocation!! Obviously unprepared, so while walking to the podium I hastily formed an appropriate message. GCOG Joe Coccia presented a check for \$500 to Seattle Pond for their Reno convention, a gift from Michigan Pond. Fellowship is what we are all about!

The next week Rex accompanied me to attend the National Capital Ponds Charity Lunch. Both Ponds hold these events every year and raise thousands of dollars for charity. They set a good example of what we can accomplish if we just try. Thanks to Joe Coccia and Barry and Pat Snyder for chauffeuring us on these visits.

The end of March PLRB held its annual conference in Seattle. Rex and I met David Harvey, organizer of the LA/Orange Co. Puddle at his hotel and took him to breakfast and a long visit on Sunday. After taking him back to his hotel we picked up GWGQ Terry Maloney at the airport and took him to dinner at another waterfront restaurant. Monday I was at the convention center at 7:30am to staff the Blue Goose Exhibit Booth. I was joined by Terry, Michael Nardulli, Scott Nathan and John Kiernan and we spent two and a half days promoting Blue Goose to attendees. Lists of those indicating interest in our Order have been distributed to ponds for follow-up of these potential ganders. Seattle Pond has sent invitations with pond information to the people in our area. I encourage all ponds to take advantage of these lists and solicit these prospective ganders.

Mid-Year meeting was held late this year in mid April in Philadelphia. They combined this with Eastern Regions Spring meeting, a great opportunity to meet more ganders. The executive meeting included our newly appointed GGN Lorena Dunlop. Minutes of the meeting are available, but most of the business was routine with discussions on committee, conventions, amendments and membership. GSOF Bill Wasekanes and Penn Pond with the help of PMLG Bill Olson and Eastern Region provided a pleasant venue for us with good food and great fellowship.

In addition to GN travel we also traveled to Reno three times to discuss our convention with the hotel staff, a wonderful group of professional, caring individuals.

As with all fraternal and trade organizations membership is a primary concern, please continue to ask your friends and business associates to consider membership—the only solution to most organizations problems is increasing their numbers. However this is a big problem and we need to continue to work hard to gain new members.

I cannot put into adequate words the tremendous support; my husband Rex has given to me all our married life and especially these past five years. He took care of all the Grand Nest requirements for the convention and kept me on track to have things done on time (his timing).

What a great way to celebrate our fifty-fifth wedding anniversary with our Blue Goose friends at the Welcome Party. Then the next day at Opening Ceremonies to have the entire gathering sing Happy Birthday to me as I celebrated my “39”, my cup runneth over.

After five years planning it is time to conclude my adventure with Grand Nest with a glorious, wonderful convention— “Seattle Rides to Reno” and accept my Life Membership another first for a woman!

“Shoot for the moon...
Even if you miss, you’ll be among the stars”

JoAnn M. Clark
Most Loyal Grand

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney welcomed the Convention first-timers, then delivered his report. Dues payment by the Ponds was very good this year, a big improvement over the previous year. During the year, the Grand Nest wrote to all Life (dues exempt) members and asked them for a donation to support the organization. The letters resulted in a voluntary donation of \$2,200.

Blue Goose has now had a presence at three consecutive PLRB conferences and will extend that streak to four in a row with appearance in San Antonio in 2010. Terry requested that our Ponds contribute to the PLRB Fund to help “*brand Blue Goose to the Insurance Industry*”. After the PLRB, there were 15,000 hits on the Blue Goose website and lists of the interested parties that stopped at the Blue Goose booth were distributed to the Ponds.

Four of the five regions had a membership increase last year, the first time that Terry has ever seen this.

Most Loyal Grand Gander JoAnn Clark called upon PMLGG/GNH Barry L. Snyder to give his report.



Another first in the History of our Order is the Seattle Pond will have two Past Most Loyal Ganders by the name of Clark, Rex and JoAnn, which is unique. I don't think we will ever see a couple again hold this title, the odds are too great.

Last year I reported that the Grand Nest History for the year 1956-2006 has been completed and added to the Grand Nest Web site. This is a PDF file, which you can download. This passed year Linda Meik, Wielder of the Texas Pond and Michael Nardulli, Wielder of the New York City Pond scanned the History from 1907 - 1956 that the Grand Nest Historian Paul E. Rudd did in August 1956. This also is on the Grand Nest Web site and can be downloaded. Those of you that don't have a computer I have a limited supply of Volume I and II in booklet form. The cost is \$25.00 each or \$45.00 for the both copies. The profit from the sale will go to the archives fund to help preserve our rich History.

MLGG JoAnn Clark suggested that it would be a great ideal to add to the History special memories or funny things that happened at the Grand Nest Conventions that you have attended. I can remember one as if it just happen yesterday, it was at the late PMLGG Bruce Bolton's convention in 1992. All the current Grand Nest offices were on the platform, Grand Nest was in session and the late PMLGG Gordon Crowther of the Hartford Pond got up to speak and all the Grand Nest officers left the stage. You should have seen Gordon's face, everyone laughed, and poor Gordon did not know what to think. This is an excellent suggestion and would add to our History. I was reading some of those that JoAnn and Rex sent to me and it has brought back memories of those Conventions that Pat and I have attended. Grand Nest would appreciate if you would take time to share some of your memories with us. We will add them to the back of Volume II of the Grand Nest History that is on the Blue Goose Website. Please e-mail them to me. My address is on the Grand Nest website.

At the Grand Nest Convention that was held in San Francisco, California in 1954, it was decided to ask the Ponds to each prepare and file with the Grand Nest a History of their Ponds. It was reported by the Grand Historian, Paul E. Rudd that eighteen Ponds prepared a History of their Pond. However, when PMLGG/GNH John Zeldam and I worked on the History back in the year 2000 we did not find any evidence of the individual Pond's history. I would like the Most Loyal Ganders that are here today to go back to their Ponds and appoint a Historian to prepare a History of their Pond and file it with me to be part of the history of the Grand Nest. If the Most Loyal Gander is not at this convention, than will the delegate of that Pond advise their Most Loyal Gander what we want to accomplish. If any of you have any question on how to go about preparing the history, please see me.

Again, we make an appeal to you Ganders, that have items from past Grand Nest Conventions and you wish to donate to the Grand Nest Archives, we would appreciate having them to add to our collection.

Cash donations are also welcome to help maintain the rich History of our Order.

Thank you MLGG Clark, Grand Nest Officers and Ganders for this opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barry L. Snyder, PMLGG/GNH

MLGG JoAnn Clark called upon Robert Tayloe Ross for his report.



Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Nest Officers and Ganders:

During this one hundred and third year of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International, your Judge Advocate is pleased to give you this report.

In particular, the Grand Nest continues to be actively addressing the immediate and future challenges of the Order. The Grand Nest is focusing on critical issues about the organization as well as annual conventions. Short term, as well as long-term issues is being considered, including the role of the Grand Nest, the Regions as well as the Ponds in putting on annual conventions. Funding is a big issue, as you know.

The Grand Nest continues planning for the future, including expansion and growth of the Order. New ideas are welcome and will be considered by the Grand Nest. For example, again this year the Grand Nest supported a booth at the Property Loss and Liability Conference presented by the Property Loss Research Bureau (PLRB) and the Liability Loss Research Bureau (LLRB) in Seattle, Washington, this spring. Thousands of members of the insurance industry attended the Conference. The booth was a great promotion of the Blue Goose, which brought many potential applicants to the table from around the U.S. and potentially Canada.

For over one hundred years, the Constitution and Bylaws have been strong, and have been changed only to meet the times, opportunities and realities facing the Blue Goose. This year the Grand Nest supports two such proposed amendments. The first is a change proposed by the Florida Pond from the word “secret” to the word “sacred” in the Ritual. Our organization is to be conducted with transparency, so we should change the word “secret”. The word “sacred” emphasizes the venerable nature of our work and means “worthy of respect”. The second amendment which is proposed by the Ontario Pond removes the age requirement of membership. This proposal removes any potential argument that the requirement may violate the Ontario Human Rights Code and similar legislation elsewhere that bars discrimination based on age. These proposed changes simply update our Constitution and Bylaws.

As we endeavor to pursue our guiding principles of charity, character and fellowship, we must be mindful of the importance of increasing membership, expanding our reach within the insurance community and strengthening our leadership for the continued vitality of our Order.

It has been a great honor and a distinct pleasure for me to serve this past year as the Judge Advocate of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International.

Fraternally,
Robert Tayloe Ross
Judge Advocate, PMLG

Grand Keeper Guy Charron delivered his Audit Report. The 2009-2009 budget reflected income of \$77,000, expenses of \$75,000 and a surplus of \$2,000.

PMLG Tom Toale of the Arizona Pond spoke on behalf of the Charity Committee and reported they have received the Pond's Charity Award applications and made a decision.

Grand Guardian Joe Coccia reported for the Communication Committee. Their Pond survey was replied to by 63% of the Ponds as follows: Central six Ponds; Western six Ponds; Canadian six Ponds; Southern three Ponds and Eastern three Ponds.

MLGG George Hardwood and Grand Guardian Lorena Dunlop reported on the Constitution & By-Laws and Jurisprudence as lead-ins to the delegate vote on the By-Laws. Both proposals passed the vote.

MLGG JoAnn Clark awarded certificates to the Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders, several exemplary Ponds and to individual Ganders for their service to Blue Goose.

That afternoon and evening Ganders enjoyed the many spectacular sights the region had to offer. Lake Tahoe, Carson City, and Virginia City were popular destinations.

That evening many Ganders finished the long day with visit to a crowded Hospitality Suite co-hosted by the Alberta and Utah Ponds.

Wednesday July 22nd ---After breakfast, Eastern Region DMLGG Bill Olson presented a preview of the 2010 Convention to be held at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia, PA. the Convention will start on Wednesday July 21, 2010 and end on Saturday July 24, 2010.

Sheraton Society Hill is a four-story contemporary style hotel has an open atrium, courtyard bar and pool on the four floors. It's located downtown in the Historic District and within walking distance of most convention activities. (Independence Hall, Penn's Landing, ferry to the Camden waterfront and Camden Aquarium).

MLGG Clark called the meeting to order. Grand Wielder Maloney called the roll to be sure all delegates were present. The first order of business was the delegates to vote on next year's convention. Steve Smith of the Penn Pond proposed that next year's convention should be held in Philadelphia, PA. The delegates voted unanimously to host the Grand Nest Convention in 2010 in Philadelphia.

PMLGG Jerry Hale of the Hartford Pond installed the newly elected officers William Wasekanes of the Penn Pond was elected the Most Loyal Grand Gander. The other officers of the Grand Nest that were elected were...Joseph C. Coccia. Grand Supervisor; Lorena Dunlop, Grand Custodian; Guy Charron, Grand Guardian and John Paris, Grand Keeper.

MLGG Wasekanes appointed Terrence M. Maloney as the Grand Wielder, Robert Tayloe Ross as Judge Advocate and Barry L. Snyder as the Grand Nest Historian.



The newly elected Grand Keeper, John C. Paris was born December 25, 1947, son of Charles (Chick) and Vickie Paris of Salt Lake City, UT. John attended Webster Elementary School and Brockbank Junior High. He graduated in 1966 from Cyprus High School. John attended LDS Business College. On April 15, 1967 he married Zelma Stultz. November 8, 1967 John joined the United States Navy, made three West PAC Cruises from San Francisco to Viet Nam area. John was discharged on September 1, 1971 as Signalman, Second Class Petty Officer E-5. November 1, 1971 he joined the Salt Lake Country Fire Department and retired on April 15, 1994.

On January 21, 1971 he started the John Paris Insurance Agency and is still active in the business. He joined the Utah Pond-HOBGI August 19, 1999 and is a Past Most Loyal Gander. At the present time he is the permanent Wielder for the Pond.

PMLGG Clark called upon the newly elected MLGG Wasekanes to deliver his acceptance addressed. Bill has been a Blue Goose member for fifty-three years or *“for over half of our history”*.



Bill Wasekanes
Most Loyal Gander Acceptance Address

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander, JoAnne, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Fellow Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Fellow Ganders:

I am honored to be here today to accept our Order's highest office as your next Most Loyal Grand Gander for 2010. I sincerely appreciate the importance of the confidence you have placed with me and promise to do my best for our Order, to help make 2010 a year of accomplishments.

As a member of the Blue Goose International for over 53 years, or for more than half of our history, I feel uniquely qualified to respect the traditions of the past yet help guide our Order to face the challenges of the economy we find ourselves in today.

And even though, at age 81, I may be the most senior Gander to ever hold this office, or for that matter maybe in our Order today, I feel as energized as I did back when I joined the Marine Corps when I was 17... just a few years ago!

The media has labeled my age group, “The Greatest Generation” due to the sacrifices we had to face growing up within the challenges of the Depression in the 1930's, the horror of fighting World War II, and eventually doing our collective part in helping to build our country into a successful economy while creating the most prosperous middle class to have ever existed in the world.

Now really... I don't know about all that. My generation was only doing what we had to do.... at that time. I always felt any generation would have done the same facing such dire straits. But it is no coincidence, that all during those years, the Blue Goose International grew and grew and mirrored those successes.

I'm pretty sure, I will be the last guy from my generation to pass the torch to the next generation in our Order. And ironically, in many ways, the cycle in our economy seems to be starting all over again.

So it is only fitting that in 2010, the Blue Goose convention comes back to Philadelphia, our nation's birthplace, for a rekindling of our individual and collective spirit, and to refocus our commitment to face today's challenges

in our Order. Now, more than ever, we need to appreciate the importance of what has to be accomplished so that the Blue Goose International will prosper for another one hundred years!

We need to start at the individual Gander level with each person adding something back into our collective success, which in turn will lead to their own professional success network. Every Pond should establish higher goals for fund raising, charitable works, membership and just as importantly, fellowship, to achieve the enthusiasm needed to prosper and develop interest in our Order. They are the cornerstones of our Order. New ideas must be developed and shared. Some old ideas need to be changed or discarded. All of this will not happen, unless every one of us invests our time back into the Order. It is the network of relationships and the success of our Order, that becomes the lifeline to each of our own professional successes. Nothing could be more important in these difficult financial times. It is the individuals we meet at Blue Goose Meetings, Outings and Conventions that help us learn about who it is that we can rely on, or utilize, in problem solving customers' insurance needs, while at the same time, improving our own professional success in the industry.

As a senior Gander, I have been fortunate to see a great many individuals hold this office or be dedicated members of our Order. And I have been in awe of their commitment. Many of them friends whose company I enjoyed, year after year, with every convention, who live on in my heart within my own fond memories of them. Without their influence upon me through the years, especially Gordon Crowthers, I probably would not be here today. His unending commitment to our Order is the baseline we all strive to follow.

One of my best memories of the conventions through the years was sharing the company of Jim Inman from the Seattle Pond. I am thankful that his wife, Gloria Inman and her sister, Lavola Seith made the trip to this convention to share this moment with me. Thank you.

As a member of the Penn Pond, I would like to thank all the members of the Penn Pond for their efforts in helping us sponsoring the 2010 convention. Especially, Steve Smith, & Larry Ciechanowski.

One thing we have all learned with the complexity of this task is that it takes more than just a Pond to organize and plan a convention. It takes a Region. I would like to thank the Eastern Region, especially my Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders: Bill Olson, Mike Nardulli and Dan Rich. Every Most Loyal Grand Gander should have support from guys like Bill, Mike and Dan. I could not do this without them. In particular, I would also like to thank the Hartford Pond and Jerry Hale for their significant donation to help support the Convention in Philadelphia. Their support was way beyond any expectation from our Pond. Thank you all!

As some of you know - I'm a little bit computer challenged... so I would like to thank my sons, Tom, Bill & Ken for all their help with the computer and Convention Budgeting for the past four years. Especially, I want to thank my son, Ken, who, since he was 8 years old, has attended many a Blue Goose Convention, and is here attending this convention with three of his four children for a third generation of Wasekanes Family Blue Goosers. Thanks so much Ken for everything.

Each August, (many times coinciding with our annual convention), my wife, Dot and I have celebrated many anniversaries while attending our convention. Next week, we will be married for 61 years.Dot, thank you for your love and support through the years and especially through our own trials and tribulations. You've helped me in so many ways become a better person, husband and father. We've always been a great team ever since your old wedding ring was new. Please help me acknowledge my wife, Dorothy Wasekanes who has attended over 39 Blue Goose International Conventions with me. Thanks Dot! I love you!

GRAND NEST HISTORY

JoAnne. Thank you running a fantastic convention. I think I can speak for all of us, we all had a great time and sincerely appreciate the efforts you put into it.

As my first formal duty, I am proud to announce the appointment of the new, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Congratulations! to PLMG John Paris of the Utah Pond. Good luck, John. You will be a great addition to the Grand Nest officers. I look forward to the 2014 convention in the great State of Utah.

Once again, please accept my heart felt gratitude for the privilege you have bestowed upon me. Thank You!



PMLGG JoAnn Clark receiving her PMLGG Pin
From her husband PMLGG Rex Clark



Grand Wielder Maloney presented PMLGG
Clark with her PMLGG Life Membership Plaque

Most Loyal Grand Gander Wasekanes calls upon PMLGG/GNH Barry L. Snyder to report on JoAnn Clark's year in office.



JOANN CLARK, MLGG REPORT OF HER YEAR IN OFFICE

As soon as Most Loyal Grand Gander Clark was installed at the Grand Nest Convention in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada in July 2008 she took control of Grand Nest and outlined her agenda to her currently elected officers at the post convention meeting. She appointed Terry Maloney to serve under her as The Grand Wielder; Robert Taylore Ross as Judge Advocate; and Barry L. Snyder as The Grand Historian.

MLGG Clark appointed seventeen Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders from the five Regions to serve under her to help her be aware of what is going on in the local Ponds and to bring to her attention any problems that need to be addressed with the Grand Nest.

MLGG Clark appointed the many committees that are necessary to service the Grand Nest and was in communication in order to provide the best information to the Ponds and Puddles.

Within a few months into her term of office she was confronted with a major problem. She quickly addressed the issue and brought it to a successful conclusion.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

MLGG Clark was supportive of the PLRB Conference that was held in Seattle this year. MLGG Clark along with other Ganders staffed the exhibit booth that Blue Goose had at the conference.

MLGG Clark sent a letter to all our life members asking them to continue to support the Grand Nest Conventions. She asked if they would be willing to make a donation to a Convention Fund. She received over \$2,500.00.

In mid September 2008, MLGG Clark along with her husband PMLGG Rex flew to Denver to attend the 100th anniversary of the Colorado Pond. The next day they flew to Salt Lake City to meet with John Paris and his wife Zelma to firm up the plans of the Utah Pond to host the Grand Nest Convention in the year 2014.

December 4, 2008, she attended the Michigan Pond annual charity luncheon in the Detroit Area. Prior to the luncheon she attended their convention planning committee meeting.

The next week she and Rex attended the National Capital Pond charity luncheon in the D. C. area. Over 400 were in attendance.

In April she attended the Mid-Year Grand Nest executive meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In addition to Grand Nest travel she traveled to Reno three times to discuss with the hotel staff the convention plans.

A few minutes ago you heard PMLGG Jerry Hale install the new officers. He turned to the incoming MLGG and addressed him, and I quote, "To you Most Loyal Grand Gander, is entrusted a very sacred duty, that of teaching the Cardinal Principles of the Honorable Order of The Blue Goose to The Grand Nest membership and demonstrating those principles in you life". Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Clark, during your term in office you did demonstrate those principles. Quote, "To you is entrusted supervision of duties of all other officers of the Grand Nest. Loyalty to the Grand Nest, to its membership is a duty, which you now assume", ***and this you did.*** Quote, "You are guided by the constitution and by the decisions of Grand Nest as a body, yet the responsibility for failure or success of the year's program is largely upon your shoulders". ***You have followed the constitution; you did initiate and carry thought to completion programs for the education and entertainment of your membership and for the good of the Order.*** Quote, "You must thoroughly familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of the Grand Nest and of the Honorable Order of The Blue Goose, International". ***You did follow the policies and upheld the traditions of Grand Nest.*** "By your sincere acceptance and earnest performance of these duties may the great trust your fellow Ganders have reposed in you be justified" ***and they have.***

PMLGG Clark, your earnest performance of your duties as the Most Loyal Grand Gander did not let us down. We thank you for the many hours you spent serving this Honorable Order and we wish you well. We the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders welcome you, the first female into this fraternity of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders.

Respectfully Submitted,

PMLGG/GNH Barry L. Snyder, Chair
PMLGG Jerry Hale
PMLGG Jack Fitch

The Convention concluded with an elegant Grand Banquet and Ball. The customary practice of setting aside a head table for the Grand Nest was set aside so that the officers could sit with the Ganders and guests. The food was terrific and so was the DJ team that had everyone up dancing until the very end of the evening.

Our beloved Order congratulates and thanks PMLGG JoAnn Clark and her husband PMLGG Rex Clark, all members of the convention planning committee, their spouses and families, and the Seattle Pond for a successful Grand Nest Convention.



PMLGG Rex Clark & PMLGG JoAnn Clark

The first husband and wife Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders in the History of the Order.

PMLGG Rex Wellington Clark was elected GKGGE 1994, San Diego, CA. MLGG 1999 in Seattle, WA. PMLGG JoAnn Elizabeth Mackenroth Clark was elected GKGGE 2004, in Los Angeles, CA. MLGG 2009 Reno, NV. They celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary July 19, 2009 at the Convention in Reno.

(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. We thank PMLG Neil Miller of the Edmonton Pond for providing pictures of the Convention).

LIFE MEMBERS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GRAND NEST CONVENTINOS

In November, 2008, MLGG JoAnn Clark sent a letter to Life Members asking them to continue to support our family Conventions. The following Ganders replied with a donation and we now have a fund of \$2,500 plus dollars for our Convention Host Ponds. To be fair and not allow any one Pond to take the entire fund a limit of \$300 per year will be in place. The year a Host Pond holds their Convention, the Convention Chairman may request the \$300 by submitting a simple written request to the Grand Nest at mid-year and upon approval, a check will be issued. We hope that contributions to this fund will continue from our Life Members.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

CURRENT DONORS

William H. Bradley-IL
Bill Brown-WA
Rudy Buchotz-MB
Greg Ceil-MO
Richard Cerny-AZ
Myron Chehowy-AB
PMLGG Rex Clark-WA
Fred Coryell-MA
William Dovorak-MO
Harold Faith-MO
Robert Forbes-MI
Michael Grob-PA
Don Hart-WA
George Hemsley-CA
Craig Hubble-CA
Donald Hurst-UT
Del Jensen-CO
J. B. Johnson-FL
Lewis King-AZ
John Koenig-AZ

Graham Loughton-AB
Rich Mancuso-MA
James R. Matthews III-MI
Albert M. McCain-AL
Bernard E. Meredith-MO
Ken Meyer-AR
John Mitchell-MN
R. M. Morgan-NC
Ron Newcomb-BC
Lowell Osog-MN
Victor H. Pruder-MI
Raymond Puffer-MN
Donald J. Rich-AZ
Roger A. Richter-CO
Donald Ross-GA
Jules Simoneaux-LA
PMLGG Barry L. Snyder-MD
The Trust-FL
Gordon Turnbull-ON
Thomas H. Woods-BC

It is certainly an indication of true fellowship that these Ganders enjoyed our Grand Nest Conventions and wish them to continue by offering their support to our great tradition of family Conventions.

Thank you, Life Members!
MLGG JoAnn Clark

PRE CONVENTION MINUTES

JULY 18, 2009

GRAND SIERRA HOTEL ~ RENO, NEVADA

1. Attendance: MLGG JoAnn Clark, GOF Bill Wasekanes, GCG Joe Coccia, GGN Lorena Dunlop, GWGQ Terry Maloney, GNH Barry Snyder, JA Robert Ross, PMLGG Rex Clark. Absent: GKGGE Guy Charron
2. MLGG JoAnn Clark discussed the need for the GN Officers to do more than oversee their convention. Get more involved and personalize your work.
3. Seattle, Michigan, Alberta and Penn filed their convention budgets. Quebec needs to comply next meeting. Copies were passed out.
4. Future convention sites appear to be:

2015 – National Capital

2016 – St. Louis

2017 – Texas, Kentucky or Ohio

2018 – Edmonton

2019 – Oregon

2020 – Hartford

5. GWGQ Maloney reported that each region except the South had an increase in active dues paying members. The officers need to assist in getting Ponds to pay their dues earlier.
6. MLGG Clark led discussion on the progress of the California Pond and the Akron Puddle. Also the charter of Georgia was reviewed. That Pond definitely needs to be decided upon this year.
7. All GN Officer nominators were provided.
8. The year-end financial statement was a \$2476 surplus.
9. There was no activity from the Marketing and Jurisprudence. The CBL approved the 2 amendments. GCG Joe Coccia provided copies of the Communication Committee.
10. Future PLRB funding should be discussed at Regional meetings to solicit donations to determine if San Antonio is possible.
11. No Canadian Relief this year.
12. Georgia should disband. The DMLGG's will assist.
13. Marketing approach is being revamped due to lack of previous results.
14. Suggestion made to add to application, where you heard about BG? See if any marketing is more effective than others.

Respectfully Submitted
Terry Maloney, GWGQ

**POST CONVENTION MINUTES
JULY 22, 2009
GRAND SIERRA HOTEL ~ RENO, NEVADA**

1. Attendance: MLGG Wasekanes, GSF Coccia, GCG Dunlop, GGN Charron, GKGGE Paris, GWGQ Maloney, GNH Snyder, JA Ross, PMLGG's J. Clark, R. Clark, Fitch, Thurber, Harwood, and Hale.
2. MLGG Wasekanes confirmed appointments JA Ross and GNH Snyder. GWGQ Maloney's contract was approved and signed by the GN officers.
3. Bank cards and resolution were signed by MLGG Wasekanes and GWGQ Terry Maloney
4. GGN Charron made a motion, second by GSF Coccia that GN Officers expenses for Reno convention be paid. Passed Unanimously.
5. GSF Coccia made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 budget. GKGGE Paris second. Was approved unanimously.
6. GSF Coccia stated that the mid-year Executive meeting will be in Grand Rapids, MI one of the last 2 weekends in April 2010.
7. GKGGE Paris will attend the annual Audit meeting in Milwaukee, WI in July 2010.
8. GKGGE Paris sent a photo and signature to GWGQ Maloney.
9. GN Officers were reminded to give all minutes and roll call from the Regional meetings to GWGQ Maloney.
10. DMLGG appointments. East is the same. Central – Cowman and Faith remain. Hackett for Chicago, Wisconsin, Michigan. J. Rogaliner for Ohio, St. Joe, Indiana. South is the same. West is B. Turner, N. Saldana, and Johnson of Oregon. Canada is J. Courier, M. Brugger, C. Pielak and M. Martin of B.C.
11. 2009-2010 mileage is approved at 55.0 cents (US)

12. There was discussion of the next South region convention representative. Potential is Texas and Kentucky but Ohio has also made their intentions known.
13. The GN officers authorized to move forward with being represented at the PLRB meeting in San Antonio, TX next March.
14. GSF Coccia asked to have his communication survey sent to the Ponds and DMLGG's
15. The Constitution and By-Law committee members will stay the same. The Jurisprudence group will be J. Fitch, Klemanski, and McCarthy. There may be 1 change? Marketing committee will be Thurber, Currier, Nardulli, Fitch, Hale plus 2 from Texas and 2 from Ohio. GCG Dunlop will oversee. GSF Coccia will appoint the Communication Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Maloney, GWGQ

MOST GRAND NEST CONVENTIONS ATTENDED TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS (THROUGH 2008)

40 Phillip J. Simpson, PMLGG
35 Rex W. Clark, PMLGG
35 JoAnn M. Clark, PMLGG (16 Gander, 19 Spouse)
33 Ivar H. Awes, PMLGG
31 Walter Bennett, PMLG

31 Nancy J. Bennett, (17 Gander, 14 Spouse)
28 Don Grott, PMLG
27 George R. Hardwood, PMLGG
25 Clifford C. Needham, PMLGG
25 Terrence M. Maloney, GWGQ

Historical Highlights

Grand Nest Convention August 23-25, 1949 Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Washington

The 42nd Annual Grand Nest meeting was held in the Olympic Bowl of the Olympic Hotel with Most Loyal Grand Gander E. W. Trenbath presiding.

Eighty-five delegates from forty-six of the forty-eight Ponds responded to the roll call. Visitors registered numbered 300, or a total of 385 present.

MLGG Trenbath in his report said in part: *"No greater tribute can be given to those who founded this Order than keeping our membership wholly within the limits first suggested by them, and from which we have thus far chosen not to change. Today we look with pride on Blue Goose as an organization encouraged by its happy years of history and still processing those same ideals and principles that were incorporated in its original Consitution, By-Laws and Ritual. Ours is an organization composed of Fire Insurance men, working for the betterment of the insurance business, in which 'no reference is made of distinction created as to the gather in greater numbers each year in the belief that the ultimate object of the Fire Insurance business is to protect life and property from destruction by fire. This we are endeavoring to accomplish by working together in peace and harmony as Ganders with the principles and precepts the same sincerity that we do our forefathers who gave us the United States of American and the Dominion of Canada to keep as our own so long as we are able. If, in*

GRAND NEST HISTORY

you minds, there exist a tendency to broaden the eligibility rule, I hope you will proceed cautiously least, for the fallacy of numbers, we destroy our heritage.”

The Secretarial Report of Grand Wielder R.A. Kenzel showed an increase in membership for the past year of 297, raising the total to 10,583. Colorado Pond won the Membership Cup.

Grand Nest Convention August 12-15, 1979 Seattle, Washington

Sunday, August 12th all the registration attendees were bussed to the waterfront to board two excursion boats, which took them to the Kiana Lodge, where all were served steamed clams in broth and sumptuous baked fresh salmon.

Monday, August 13th MLGG Charles “Chuck” Palmerton called the 73rd Grand Nest Convention to order. The keynote speaker was Jay D. Porter, CEO of Unigard Insurance Group. The Washington Pond put on the Memorial service. After the Memorial Service all the Ganders sat down for the “All Industry Luncheon” while the juniors visited Woodland Park Zoo and the ladies went to Edgewater Inn for lunch.

After lunch the Ganders re-assembled to witness one of the finest initiation of fourteen Goslings into the Seattle Pond. The eighteen-man team from the Arizona Pond is known as the “Ragtime Cowboys”.

That evening all were ushered into the ballroom for a delicious banquet. Seattle Pond’s SOF Jack Howard’s witticisms and a professional song team who featured “Songs of the Twenties” entertained the group.

Tuesday, August 14th Reports were given by the officers and the committees. GWGQ Gravenstine reported that membership has advanced for the second consecutive year—an increase of 281 Ganders produced a new total of 9,074 members. There are 1,415 life members and 7,466 active members.

Dues were increased from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per active dues paying member to be effective July 1, 1979. Also, increasing the maximum return granted each Pond by Grand Nest from the dues for delegate’s attendance at the Grand Nest Convention from the present \$3.00 to \$3.50.

Wednesday, August 14th Election of the new officers for the year 1979-2000, Alfred Kregel was elected as the new Most Loyal Grand Gander from the Long Island Pond. That evening all Ganders and guests attended the Grand Ball.

Grand Nest Convention August 15-18, 1999 Four Seasons Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Washington

Sunday evening School Bazaar Welcome Party included midway games, magic tricks, dinner and dancing.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Monday morning the Convention was brought to order by MLGG Rex Clark. The keynote speaker was Randy Stoddard, President of Safeco Insurance Co. He spoke of the progression of the Internet and it's effect on the insurance industry our culture.

Current Grand Nest officers were present GSF Barry L. Snyder; GCG Charles Cramer; GGN Marvin P. Wilson, Jr.; GKGGE John C. Bishop; GWGQ Terrence M. Maloney; JA William Gast; and GNH Gordon Crowther.

Colorado Pond conducted the Memorial Service. The Model Initiation was performed by the California Pond.

The All-Industry luncheon guest speaker was Cliff McGrath, Seattle Pacific University soccer coach. The spouse luncheon was held at the Washington Club, featured Rosalie Whyel, who had a most interesting presentation on the history of dolls. That evening we visited the Boeing Museum for dinner and exploring all the exhibits. The day ended with a wonderful dinner on the grounds of the Boeing Museum of Flight.

The Grand Nest membership was 6,262. There were forty-two Pond represented, along with sixty-five Delegates. The total attendance was 228 Ganders and Spouses, 17 Guest and 32 youths.

A new award, the Gordon Crowther Charity Award was introduced by PMLG Gerry Hale of the Hartford Pond. The first recipient will be recognized at the next Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore.

A new charter for the Houston Pond was accepted by Linda Meik and Teri Cluck, representing the Houston Pond.

The Seattle Pond MLG Marilyn Slanina, proposed an Amendment to the By-Laws, Section 21 requiring notice to Ponds ninety days (90) prior to Grand Nest meetings and notice to the Constitution & By-Laws Committee one-hundred-twenty days (120) prior to Grand Nest meeting. The amendment was passed.

Wednesday the new Grand Nest officers were installed. Barry L. Snyder of the National Capital Pond was elected as the Most Loyal Grand Gander; Charles Cramer GSF; Marvin Wilson, Jr., GCG; John Bishop, GGN and Richard Philipsen of the California Pond as the new Grand Keeper.

The finale to the Convention was the Grand Banquet and Ball. It was a great evening. The Duke and Duchness of Nice, Rex and JoAnn Clark received a nice round of applause for being such *nice* host at such a fun Convention.

As of July 1, 2009 we have a total of forty-four Ponds. The Central Region has a total of 854 members; Southern Region 322 members; Canadian 1130 members; Western 208 members; and the Eastern Region 592 members. A total of 3,106 members.

CURRENT GRAND NEST OFFICERS AND THEIR WIVES



Front Row: Lynne Maloney; Courtney Coccia; Dorothy Wasekanes; Zelma Paris; and Johanne Charron

Back Row: JA Robert Ross; GW Terry Maloney; Grand Supervisor Joseph C. Coccia; Grand Custodian Loena Dunlop; MLGG William Wasekanknes; PMLG Patricia A. Snyder; PMLGG/GNH Barry L. Snyder; Grand Guardian Guy Charron; Grand Keeper John Paris.

PAST MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDERS AND THEIR WIVES



Front Row: PMLGG George Hardwood; PMLGG Rex Clark; PMLGG Marc Thurber; PMLGG/GNH Barry L. Snyder

Back Row: PMLGG Gerald Hale; Joanne Hale; PMLG Donna Hardwood; PMLGG JoAnn Clark; PMLG Patricia A. Snyder; and PMLGG Jack Fitch

GRAND NEST HISTORY

2008---2009 GRAND NEST OFFICERS



Most Loyal Grand Gander
JoAnn Clark



Grand Supervisor
William Wasekanes



Grand Custodian
Joseph C. Coccia



Grand Guardian
Lorena Dunlop



Grand Keeper
Guy Charron



Grand Wielder
Terrence M. Maloney



Judge Advocate
Robert Tayloe Toss



Grand Nest Historian
PMLGG Barry L. Snyder

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.

