



Grand Nest Bulletin

Volume 103
103rd Grand Nest Convention Issue



July 21-25, 2010
Penn Pond sponsors Grand Nest in Philadelphia, PA

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Future Conventions

Michigan Pond	Amway Grand Hotel Grand Rapids, MI	July, 2011
Alberta Pond	Calgary, AB	July, 2012
Quebec Pond	Quebec City, QB	July, 2013
Utah Pond	Little America Hotel Salt Lake City, UT	July, 2014

Mid Year Grand Nest Officers Meeting

Grand Rapids, MI

Amway Grand Hotel

April 23-25, 2010

2009 - 2010 GRAND NEST OFFICERS

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103rd GRAND NEST CONVENTION
JULY 19-22, 2009 GRAND SIERRA RESORT, TAHOE, NEVADA

The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose's 103rd Grand Nest Convention was held from Sunday July 19 through Wednesday July 22, 2009 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Tahoe, Nevada.

Sunday July 19

The Convention Golf Tournament teed off on Sunday morning, but for most Ganders, the Convention officially started with Sunday Night's Welcome Party.

Held on premises at the beautiful Grand Sierra, the party featured Western garb, magicians, balloon artists, and a "Flavors of the Southwest" buffet dinner.

This was a great chance to meet our old friends, make some new ones, and trade Blue Goose pins.

Monday July 20

The Convention opened with a show-girl escorting in the Grand Nest officers, and a cowboy delivering the convention gavel to MLGG JoAnn Clark. After a Happy Birthday serenade in her honor, MLGG Clark called the 103rd Grand Nest Meeting to order and the Opening Ceremonies were under-way.

The national anthems of the United States, Canada, and Australia were played and Saul Saldana (husband of Convention Chair Nora Saldana), gave the opening invocation.

The Grand Nest officers at the head table, Grand Nest Officer spouses, PMLGGs and spouses)

including Hartford's Jerry & Joanne Hale, and the DMLGGs of the five regions were introduced.

Sharon Aston, National Sales Manager of the Grand Sierra welcomed the convention, as did Seattle Convention Chair Nora Saldana, and Seattle MLG Shari Cox. The Seattle Pond's Convention Committee stood and were thanked by the crowd. They raised all funds needed for the convention themselves with no corporate sponsors.

A dignified Memorial Service was conducted by PMLGs Ken Miller, Bruce Christensen, and Doug Stewart of the Utah Pond. 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.

Two PMLGG eulogies were given, as PMLGG George Harwood honored the memory of PMLGG King Luck and PMLG Don Greeno remembered PMLGG Bruce Bolton.

A tremendously creative and entertaining Model Initiation was performed by members of the Alberta Pond. 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. Alberta's initiation team was comprised of John Conti, Steve MacInnis, Clay Purves, GGN Lorena Dunlop,

Michael Peck, Carlene Sorenson, Dennis Bymak, and David Bruell. They did a fabulous job.

The names of the initiates were revealed by hatching an egg out of a prop chicken, complete with appropriate sound effects.

The crowd-pleasing performance of the ritual, including several squeaky helium-tank induced passages, culminated in the initiation of four new Ganders.

The Convention's All-Industry Luncheon featured speaker Bill Stainton, who creatively merged his Beatles expertise with a motivational talk on team building and organizational success. Using "*The Five Best Decisions the Beatles Ever Made*" as the theme of his address, he used strategies, decisions, and principles used by the Beatles as a mirror to examine corporate behavior and rules for organizational success.

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 (include an unnamed Hartford Ponderings editor) lip-synced their way through a ground-breaking version of "*Twist & Shout*".

Dinner was held on-site at the Grand Theater, and featured one of the more spectacular entrances I have ever seen at a Blue Goose convention. As the curtain was raised onstage, a jet plane with (engines roaring) moved across 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 reviews- a white chocolate ganache covered strawberry shortcake.

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

Tuesday July 21

The day started with the roll call of Ponds, from Alabama to Wisconsin. When the Hartford Pond was called, delegates Kim Albert and Ed Phinney were present and accounted for. MLGG Clark called the business meeting to order and reported on her year in office. She thanked the Seattle Pond's Convention Committee and thanked the Honorable Order's membership for supporting her year in office as our first female MLGG.

She said that after 100 years, Blue Goose is "mostly strong", but that fraternal organizations are having membership troubles. There is a perception of what "*fraternal*" means, and maybe that perception is different in today's world of laptops, Blackberrys, instant messages, constant stress, and time management challenges.

What can Blue Goose offer to prospective members in these

high-pressured times? The answers may vary from Pond to Pond, but the key themes might be charity, education, community service, and health – or "*the feeling of well-being when you do something for someone else.*"

JoAnn spoke of the "*challenge of the aging Ponds*" and asked the Convention how they can attract young members? Perhaps Continuing Education? Ponds have to have contact people available to answer questions and inquiries about Blue Goose. Another problem is that as the traditional field office disappears, many people work in a "remote" office (working out of their home), so it isn't easy for the Ponds to identify what prospective members are out there. In today's technological business world, there are less "*people-to-people skills and opportunities*".

She spoke of improvement opportunities in the ways our Ponds communicate with their members and other Ponds. She received newsletters from just six Ponds, and wondered how much information was lost between geographically close Ponds. Had there been some better communication between the Ponds, who knows how many events may have been better attended? How many new members might we have attracted? .

JoAnn spoke of the expenses Ponds have just to get by –dinner expenses for speakers, Pond mailing and administration costs, chaplain's costs. She reminded us that Ponds HAVE to charge more

for our meals than just enough to break even.

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney welcomed the Convention first-timers, then delivered his report. Dues payments by the Ponds were 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 an appearance 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 our five regions had a membership increase last year, the first time that Terry has ever seen this.

Grand Nest Historian Barry Snyder reported next. He remarked that when JoAnn Clark joined the Grand Nest in 2004, he had the pleasure of installing her and the other officers. Barry remarked that Blue Goose has now had two MLGGs with the same last name (Rex Clark and JoAnn Clark, and this probably will not happen again.

The full Grand nest history from 1906-2006 is now on the website.

Mike Nardulli of the NYC Pond and Linda Meik of the Texas Pond scanned the old history (1906-57) and that document is on the website along with the recently completed new history (1957-2006).

Barry thanked his wife Pat for helping to set up, maintain, and pack up the Grand Nest archives this year, and he asked our members to e-mail him their Grand Nest Convention memories.

Barry also asked for the Ponds to prepare a report on their history, and also asked all MLG's to appoint a Pond Historian to head up the project.

Judge Advocate Robert Ross reported next. He has spent the year actively addressing the long-term and short-term challenges and issues before the Grand Nest. Some of these issues include the role of the regions, Ponds, and Grand Nest in the areas of Convention planning, communication, and funding. Key issues also include expansion and growth, and Robert solicited ideas to help accomplish this.

JA Ross also spoke of the PLRB and how we will be again be exhibiting in San Antonio at the 2010 Conference. We cannot miss going to an event where there are between 3,000 and 4,000 industry employees- every one of which is eligible for membership. This is a worthwhile endeavor because we can rekindle old members and identify new members. At this year's PLRB in Seattle, "thousands" came by to visit us – *"how do we maximize the contacts we make"?*

Turning toward our Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. Ross spoke of two amendments to be voted on by the Convention. The Florida Pond proposed the first one. In the spirit of transparency, it was proposed that we change the word "secret" to "sacred" in our ritual. The second amendment was proposed by the Ontario Pond, and called to remove the age requirement in our ritual so as to comply with the Ontario Civil Rights Code.

Grand Keeper Guy Charron delivered his Audit Report. The 2008-09 budget reflected income of \$77K, expenses of \$75K and a surplus of \$2K.

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 (6 Ponds), Western (6 Ponds), Canadian (6 Ponds), Southern (3 Ponds) and Eastern (3 Ponds).

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

MLGG Clark awarded certificates to the DMLGGS, several exemplary Ponds, and to individual Ganders for their service to Blue Goose.

The Pond Awards rounded out the morning session before the convention broke for the day.

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.

A dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe saw 27 Ganders aboard, making up nearly one fourth of the passenger list. That evening, many Ganders finished the long day with a visit to a crowded Hospitality Suite co-hosted by the Alberta and Utah Ponds.

Wednesday July 22

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 24, 2010.

As Bill spoke, he showed power-point slides of the hotel and Philadelphia sites. CDs of the presentation were given to the DMLGGs in the room. Anyone that would like to have a copy of the presentation can contact DMLGG Dan Rich at dsr23@comcast.net.

The 4-story contemporary-style hotel has an open atrium, courtyard bar and a pool on the 4th floor. 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, Camden Aquarium)

Golf will be on Wednesday morning at the Wedgwood Country Club in Turnersville, NJ – be sure to enter the “Worst Dressed Golfer” contest!

Wednesday Night’s Welcome Party will be on-site with a Taste of Philadelphia theme for the food stations. Expect to see Philadelphia cheese steaks and lots of child-friendly fare on the menu. Also expect to see some special guests (Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross). DJ and music will round out the evening.

Thursday’s agenda will include the Opening Ceremonies, Memorial Service, Model Initiation, and All Industry Lunch with entertainment. Ganders and guests will have a free evening to enjoy the sites.

On Friday, after the morning meetings, there will be a 1:00 BBQ on the Battleship New Jersey. The evening will be free for our Ganders to explore the many attractions.

After Saturday morning’s meetings, there will be a Family Brunch with entertainment by a 20-piece Mummer’s band. The children’s Banquet and Grand Banquet will follow that evening. The Banquet theme is American Bandstand, and banquet entertainment is by a Bruce Springsteen cover band.

The children’s program starts with a “National Treasure” style scavenger hunt at the Welcome Party. The Youth Program is loaded with attractions: a Philadelphia City Tour, Independence Mall, Liberty Bell, The Bourse (Food and Shopping),

Nat’l Constitution Center, Phil. Trolleyworks, Philadelphia City Pass, Franklin Institute Science Museum, a Ride the Ducks Tour, Penn Landing - Camden Waterfront, Camden Aquarium, Reading Terminal Market, and a Children’s Banquet.

After the presentation and delegate roll call, Delegate Steve Smith of the Penn Pond proposed that next year’s convention should be held in Philadelphia. Steve Smith, Bill Olson and Michael Nardulli made nominating, seconding and closing speeches in support of Bill Wasekanes of the Penn Pond. When he was voted in, Mr. Wasekanes became the new Most Loyal Grand Gander.

The slate of officers for 2009-2010 was similarly nominated and voted in. In addition to Bill Wasekanes, Joe Coccia of the Michigan Pond was voted in as the new Grand Supervisor, Lorena Dunlop of the Alberta Pond was voted in as the new Grand Custodian, Guy Charron of the Quebec Pond was voted in as the new Grand Guardian, and John Paris of the Utah Pond was voted in as the new Grand Keeper. Mr. Paris is a Viet Nam veteran, has been a fire department member, and has had a long career as an insurance agent. He “*believes in the ideals of Blue Goose*” and we look forward to his Grand Nest service and the 2014 Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

PMLGG Jerry Hale of the Hartford Pond installed the new slate of officers. Bill Wasekanes’ son Ken (himself a veteran of 25 conventions) pinned the MLGG pin on his father.

MLGG Wasekanes delivered a very emotional address of acceptance. He has been a Blue Goose member for 53 years or “*for over half of our history*”.

Mr. Wasekanes acknowledged the influence of the late PMLGG Gordon Crowther of the Hartford Pond on his Blue Goose career.

The morning ended with Rex Clark presenting the PMLGG pin to JoAnn Clark, and GW Terry Maloney presenting JoAnn with her PMLGG plaque.

Grand Historian Barry Snyder reported on JoAnn’s year in office and remarked that she had visited Michigan, Utah, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Nevada in the “*earnest performance of her duties*” during her term as MLG.

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.

Congratulations to PMLGG JoAnn Clark, the Seattle Convention Committee, and the Seattle Pond for hosting such a memorable and enjoyable convention.

Article by Dan Rich

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Maloney, GWGQ

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 task master to their officers. Basically most years no specific duties are required of us. That leaves us the time to concentrate of 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 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 Gander

Address of Acceptance 103rd Grand Nest Convention – William Wasekanes
Grand Sierra Resort, Tahoe, Nevada
Wednesday, July 22, 2009



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!

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!

A W A R D P R E S E N T A T I O N

GORDON F. CROWTHER CHARITY AWARD:

The criteria is based on all types of varied works of charity. The winner of this year's award is the **ONTARIO POND**

ST. JOE VALLEY POND MEMBERSHIP AWARD:

This coveted award for the greatest percentage increase in membership went to the **HEART OF AMERICA POND**.

LINK OF THE YEAR

Outstanding internet Pond web site winner is the **BAY STATE POND**

HEART OF AMERICA POND'S FELLOWSHIP AWARD:

This year the pond with the least percentage drop in membership by reason of drop-outs and resignations was the **BAY STATE POND**.

KENTUCKY POND'S NO DROP-OUT AWARD:

This is an extremely difficult award to achieve. This year's winner was the **NEW YORK CITY POND**.

PEACE GARDEN AWARD:

This plaque is presented to the Pond having the most First Time attending conventioners. The winner this year is the **ALBERTA POND**.

REGIONAL CHALLENGE AWARD:

The best Region determined by using 5 membership award criteria is the **WESTERN REGION**

REGIONAL CHARITY AWARDS

East	HARTFORD	.....	22 - Most New & Reinstated
	NATIONAL CAPITAL	.....	16.36% - Best % Increase
West	SEATTLE	.....	25 - Most New & Reinstated
	SEATTLE	.....	24.75% - Best % Increase
South	KENTUCKY	.....	9 - Most New & Reinstated
	TEXAS	.....	19.05% - Best % Increase
Central	MICHIGAN ***	.....	28 - Most New & Reinstated
	HEART OF AMERICA*	.....	33.33% - Best % Increase
Canada	ONTARIO **	.....	27 – MOST NEW & REINSTATED
	ONTARIO	.....	13.64% - BEST % INCREASE

* 2ND Year in a row **3RD Year in a row ***7TH Year in a row

COMMITTEES 2009-2010

CHARITY

Grand Nest Advisor: Guy Charron

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE
OPERATING STATEMENT

	08-09	08-09	09-10
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
501 DUES - CURRENT YEAR	60,055	69,124	68,354
502 CANADIAN RELIEF	0	(400)	0
503 DUES - PRIOR YEAR	342	3,000	5,791
511 SALES - EMBLEMS	2,786	2,650	2,500
531 INTEREST - MONEY MARKET	498	1,200	600
532 CONVENTION MEMBERS DONATION	0	-0-	-0-
541 POND GN DONATIONS	0	-0-	-0-
551 LIFE MEMBER DONATIONS	2,195	-0-	-0-
561 PLRB DONATIONS	3,950	-0-	1,000
650 ARCHIVE CONTRIBUTIONS	14	-0-	-0-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>69,840</u>	<u>76,543</u>	<u>78,245</u>
 <u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>			
601 GRAND NEST OFFICE	22,332	22,332	22,332
605 TELEPHONE	965	1,200	1,100
607 POSTAGE	242	500	400
609 INSURANCE & BONDING	4,306	4,357	4,300
611 OFFICE SUPPLIES	730	300	500
613 I.T. SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE	3,583	4,000	4,000
615 DATA SUPPORT	2,022	2,000	2,000
617 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	250	250	250
619 ACCOUNTING	2,520	2,760	2,760
629 GNO - PRINTING, ETC.	65	400	300
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>37,015</u>	<u>38,654</u>	<u>37,942</u>
 <u>MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES</u>			
621 GNO - POND VISITATION	1,720	1,550	1,550
623 GNO - CONVENTION	6,312	6,750	12,000
625 GNO - EXECUTIVE COMM TRAVEL	922	2,400	2,300
627 GNO - EMBLEMS	552	500	500
631 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS	1,600	2,500	2,200
633 SPECIAL OLYMPICS	500	500	500
637 MEMORIALS	0	100	100
641 DELEGATE EXPENSE	8,468	14,000	14,000
645 POND EMBLEMS	1,669	2,000	2,000
647 HOST POND FUND	2,948	3,150	2,948
649 ARCHIVE EXPENSE	0	(1,293)	(1,021)
661 PLRB EXPENDED	5,658	0	0
 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	<u>30,349</u>	<u>31,738</u>	<u>37,077</u>
 TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>67,664</u>	<u>70,392</u>	<u>75,019</u>
 SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)	<u>2,476</u>	<u>6,151</u>	<u>3226</u>

CENTRAL REGION

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Pond and Year Chartered

Most Loyal Gander

Wielder of the Goose Quill

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February, 1910

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Greater Chicago
August, 1985

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Heart of America
November, 1906

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Indiana
December, 1906

Michigan
November, 1906

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Ohio
July 22, 2007

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Peace Garden
June 16, 1955

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St. Joe Valley
November 25, 1957

John Downie
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St. Louis
October 4, 1916

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Wisconsin Home Nest
June 19, 1906

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Pond and
Year Chartered

Most Loyal Gander

Wielder of the Goose Quill

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December, 1908

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April, 1908

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May, 1907

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Louisiana
December, 1907

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504-347-0437 – Fax
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May, 1907

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Oklahoma
November, 1907

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Tennessee
August, 1915

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Texas
January 31, 1907

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Virginia
May, 1907

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Pond and Year Chartered

Most loyal Gander

Wielder of the Goose Quill

Alberta
November 19, 1916

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March 3, 1917

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July 1, 1953

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May 12, 1915

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February, 1973

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May, 1914

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September 1, 1958

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August, 1980

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Pond and
Year Chartered

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Wielder of the Goose Quill

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November 28, 1931

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February, 1908

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November, 1911

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Seattle
July 14, 1922

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July 26, 1914

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EASTERN REGION

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Pond and
Year Chartered

Most Loyal Gander

Wielder of the Goose Quill

Bay State
August, 1976

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Garden State

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July 1, 1954

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National Capital
May 17, 1948

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Penn
1908

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Westchester
August, 1983

Bill Lifrieri
49 Wheeler Avenue
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Lisa Kane
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Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
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kanemotors@aol.com

PAST MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDERS

*1906 – Walter E. Atwater, Wisconsin Home Nest
 *1907 – Arthur F. Hegben, Wisconsin Home Nest
 *1908 – Geo. C. Main, Minnesota
 *1909 – Geo. C. Main, Minnesota
 *1910 – Chas. H. Pescay, Louisiana
 *1911 – Thomas H. Williams, California
 *1912 – Wm. T. Benallack, Michigan
 *1913 – Ed. E. Wells, Colorado
 *1914 – Frank G. Snyder, Kentucky
 *1915 – Fred W. Ransom, Ohio
 *1916 – J. Ross Stewart, Ontario
 *1917 – E.G. Carlisle, Illinois
 *1918 – G.M. Wise, Missouri, Kansas
 *1919 – W.J. Sonnen, Illinois
 *1920 – John A. Hanson, Minnesota
 *1921 – E.D. Marr, Heart of America
 *1922 – M.M. Hauxhurst, Michigan
 *1923 – W.P. Fess, Manitoba
 *1924 – John F. Stafford, Illinois
 *1925 – W.E. Mallalieu, New York City
 *1926 – H. Vem Myers, Iowa
 *1927 – Wirt Leake, Texas
 *1928 – T.L. Geraghty, Quebec
 *1929 – J. Charles Harris, California
 *1930 – D.L. McCoy, Dakota
 *1931 – Henry L. Rose, Chesapeake
 *1932 – Wm. F.C. Fellers, Florida
 *1933 – D.A. McKinley, Washington
 *1934 – L. H. Bridges, Nebraska
 *1935 – Samuel A. Mehorter, New York City
 *1936 – T. Ray Phillips, Oklahoma
 *1937 – H.B. Leuty, British Columbia
 *1938 – J. Clark Buchanan, California
 *1939 – Ralph W. Hukill, Ohio
 *1940 – General J.R. Knowlan, Penn
 *1941 – Ben S. McKeel, Carolinas
 *1942 – Clifford J. Malcolm, Ontario
 *1943 – H.A. Reynolds, Colorado
 *1944 – H.A. Reynolds, Colorado
 *1945 – Thomas G. Linnell, Minnesota
 *1946 – P.M. Winchester, New York City
 *1947 – G.E. Edmondson, Florida
 *1948 – E.J. Beauvais, Quebec
 *1949 – E.W. Trenbath, Seattle
 *1950 – J. Ray Hull, Indiana
 *1951 – Paul M. Fell, Penn
 *1952 – Charles L. Beale, Texas
 *1953 – S.L. Sterling, Manitoba
 *1954 – John Henry Martin, California
 *1955 – A.B. Young, Heart of America
 *1956 – R.L. Wiseman, National Capital
 *1957 – Jules Simoneaux, Louisiana
 *1958 – R.L. Fenerty, Alberta
 *1959 – Mark A. Wells, California
 *1960 – E.C. "Gene" Saulcy, Michigan
 *1961 – Robert F. Stumpf, New York City
 *1962 – W.G. Stephens, Jr., Georgia
 *1963 – Frank G. Chandler, Ontario
 *1964 – Lester L. Large, Oregon
 *1965 – Earl S. Hannan, St. Louis
 *1966 – K.S. Carmody, Chesapeake
 *1967 – Geo. H. Brussel, Florida
 *1968 – Harry Cutler, British Columbia
 *1969 – Frank Hunter, Arizona
 *1970 – Howard Dobbs, Ohio
 *1971 – Joseph W. Knowlan
 711 Bill Smith Blvd.
 King of Prussia, PA 19406
 Res. 610-265-2543
 *1972 – Browne B. Bolton, Kentucky
 *1973 – A.J. MacDonald, Quebec
 *1974 – Roland G. Lett, Utah
 *1975 – Ivar H. Awes
 6405 Colony Way
 Edina, MN 55435
 Res. 952-926-4567
 Fax 952-925-1034
 ivarandlois@aol.com
 *1976 – Gordon Crowther, Hartford
 *1977 – Stanley Spore, Texas

1978 – G. E. Morgan
 Sun Tower
 1550 Bedford Hwy, Ste 711
 Bedford, NS Canada B4A 1E6
 Off. 902-429-4560
 Res: 902-479-2076
 Fax: 902-429-4567
 edmorgan@ns.sympatico.ca
 *1979 – Charles Palmerton, Seattle
 *1980 – Alfred Kregel, Jr., Long Island
 *1981 – Douglass G. Snyder, WHN
 *1982 – King Luck, Alabama
 *1983 – Dennis N. Ellergodt, Alberta
 *1984 – Robert J. Rice, Colorado
 *1985 – David E. White, National Capital
 *1986 – Lyle C. Johnson, Nebraska
 1987 – Phillip Jerry Simpson
 PO Box 587
 Brandon, FL 33509
 Res: 813-626-4870
 csamay59@yahoo.com
 1988 – Gordon C. Crutcher
 15 Thornlea Road
 Thornhill, ON L3T 1X2
 Res: 905-731-8389
 Gordon@crutcher.ca
 *1989 – Harry M. Merrifield, California
 1990 – Tim Holland
 P.O. Box 277
 Ayer, MA 01432
 Off. 508-772-0800
 Res. 508-772-5084
 timh@markhampriest.com
 1991 – John T. Zeldam
 45815 Meadows Circle W.
 Macomb, MI 48044-3910
 Res. 586-247-5677
 Fax 586-247-1238
 johnzeldam@ameritech.net
 *1992 – Bruce B. Bolton, Kentucky
 *1993 – Trevor E. Newitt, Edmonton
 1994 – Clifford C. Needham
 10880 S.W. Davies Road, Apt. 113
 Beaverton, OR 97005
 Res: 503-521-3175
 thefrogman@conspeed.net
 1995 – Christopher J. Reith
 1107 Boneset Dr.
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014
 Bus. 815-455-5930
 Res. 815-455-2522
 chris@dgp.com
 1996 – Larry Lewer
 11 Forest Hill Ct.
 Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
 Res: 931-707-8354
 larrylewer@frontier.net
 1997 – George Harwood
 1936 Bruce B Downs Blvd, Ste. 501
 Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-9262
 Off. 813-929-6440
 Res. 813-929-6287
 Fax. 813-929-6113
 gharwood@egrandhampton.com
 1998 – Marc Thurber
 6675, Place Beaubien
 Montreal, QC H1M 3V9
 Off. 450-671-6147
 Cell: 514-914-4023
 marc.thurber@rpq.ca
 1999 – Rex W. Clark
 10738 9th Ave. N. W.
 Seattle, WA 98177
 Res. 206-365-8275
 pmlggrex@comcast.net
 2000 – Barry L. Snyder
 107 Chartsey St.
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-1805
 Res. 301-249-6680
 Fax. 301-249-9301
 barrysnyder@hotmail.com

2001 – Charles L. Cramer
 22 Elm Ave.
 Saint Louis, MO 63122
 Res. 314-822-1946
 canddcramer@aol.com
 *2002 – Marvin P. Wilson, Jr., North Carolina
 2003 – John C. Bishop
 2809 George Dauphinee Ave.
 Halifax, NS Canada B3L 3S7
 Res: 902-455-6332
 uncle.bish@ns.sympatico.ca
 2004 – Dick Philippsen
 988 Ironwood Rd.
 Beaumont, CA 92223
 Res: 951-769-8690
 philippsen1@verizon.net
 2005 – Gerald F. Hale
 85 Inverness Ct.
 Cheshire, CT 06410
 Res: 203-272-6479
 Off: 203-333-6200
 Fax: 203-334-0695
 geraldhale@eastlandclaim.com
 2006 – Timothy T. Seider
 12253 W. Morgan Oak Drive
 Greenfield, WI 53228
 Res: 414-321-6101
 timseider@wi.rr.com
 2007 – Keith Strohecker
 15731 Moss Fire Court
 Moseley, VA 23120
 Home: 804-639-6645
 Office: 804-608-8080
 Fax: 804-608-8081
 kstrohecker@usfg.net
 2008 – Jack F. Fitch
 c/o Hughs Amys LLP
 48 Yonge Street, Suite 201
 Toronto, ON M5E 1G6 Canada
 Res: 289-235-9558
 Off: 416-367-1608 ext. 268
 Fax: 416-367-8821
 jfitch@hughesamys.com
 2009 – JoAnn M. Clark
 10738 9TH Ave N.W.
 Seattle, WA 98177
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 pmlgjoann@comcast.net

PAST GRAND WIELDERS OF THE GOOSE QUILL

*1906-08 George Heller
 *1908-10 Charles N. Silkworth
 *1910-11 Walter E. Atwater
 *1911-12 C. C. Clark
 *1912-14 Rudolph H. Wieben
 *1914-16 Bernard A. Lehnberg
 *1916-31 Paul A. Rudd
 *1931-37 Charles P. Helliwell
 *1937-51 Richard Kenzal
 *1951-61 Henry L. Mauritsen
 1961-62 David Armitage
 1962-88 J. B. Gravenstine

IN MEMORIUM
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 YOUTHFULL 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 12 OF THE NEXT 13 CONVENTIONS AS A GUEST UNTIL HE REACHED AGE 21 AND WAS THEN INITIATED INTO THE KENTUCKY POND IN 1974.

IN ALL BRUCE ATTENDED 36 CONVENTIONS INCLUDING 12 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 INCIDENTLY WAS MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER IN 1972), HAVE THE DISTINCT HONOR OF BEING THE ONLY 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 WHO STUMBLERD 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.

HAIL, FRIEND AND FAREWELL

Don Greeno, KGGE
Kentucky Pond

IN MEMORIUM
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 related 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.

Hail, friend and farewell!

George Harwood, Florida Pond

IN MEMORIUM
Dorothy Brussel Gravenstine

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. Brussel, 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 the 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 friend, and farewell!

George Harwood, Florida Pond