



Grand Nest Bulletin

Volume 104
104th Grand Nest Convention Issue



July 20-25, 2011
Michigan Pond sponsors Grand Nest in Grand Rapids, MI

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2011 MICHIGAN MIGRATION 105th ANNUAL GRAND NEST CONVENTION

Fellow Ganders, if you are seeking a Grand Nest Convention gathering like no other, consider migrating to Michigan in July of 2011. **RIGHT NOW** save the dates of **JULY 19 THROUGH 23, 2011** for the 105th Blue Goose International Grand Nest Convention being hosted by the Michigan Pond in picturesque Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Michigan Pond's renowned hospitality will prevail at the site of the convention, the luxurious AAA Four Diamond Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. This promises to be one of the most affordable conventions in our history. With a registration fee of only \$250.00 for adults (\$150.00 for children), room rates starting at \$138.00 per night and convention amenities too numerous to list, you will receive extraordinary value for every dollar spent. Please visit the Michigan Pond web site at **bluegoosemichiganpond.com** and link to the 2011 convention page for all the details. By the time you read this, the registration page should be up and running. Don't miss out on this unprecedented opportunity.

"2011 Michigan Grand Nest Convention Committee"

Dick Chenard
Dave Kosdrosky

Fred Fernandez
Joe Lothschutz

Future Conventions

Alberta Pond	Calgary, AB	July 25-27, 2012
Quebec Pond	Hyatt Regency Calgary Quebec City, QB	July, 2013
Utah Pond	Chateau Frontenac Salt Lake City, UT	July, 2014
National Capital	Little America Hotel	July, 2015

Mid Year Grand Nest Officers Meeting

Calgary, AB

Hyatt Regency

February 12, 2011

2010 - 2011 GRAND NEST OFFICERS

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104th GRAND NEST CONVENTION
JULY 21-24, 2010 SHERATON SOCIETY HILL, PHILADELPHIA PA

117 Ganders, 63 spouses and guests, and 28 children from across the US and Canada journeyed to Philadelphia, PA to attend the Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention from July 21-24, 2010. The convention was held at the Sheraton Society Hill in the city's historic district – within easy walking distance of the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and a myriad of historic attractions.

Wednesday July 21, 2010

The Convention golfers played Wednesday morning, but for most attendees, the Convention kicked off with a terrific Welcome party at the Sheraton. Dressed in red, white, and blue, we enjoyed a terrific dinner of Philadelphia food stations, a three piece Mumpers band, an address from Ben Franklin, and karaoke and dancing galore.

Thursday July 22, 2010

Thursday morning's Opening Ceremonies featured the presentation of the colors by the U. S. Marines, and singing of our three anthems- Australia Fair, O Canada, and the Star Spangled Banner. In a beautiful honorary tribute, to our late MLGG Bill Wasekanes, his son Ken Wasekanes called the Convention to order before handing the gavel to GSOF Joe Coccia. Joe called up Convention Chairman Bill Olson for the invocation, and Bill handled the master of Ceremonies duties for the balance of the

Opening Ceremonies. The dignitaries at the head table, as well as the PMLGs, DMLGGs and their spouses were introduced. Bill introduced Guest Speaker Karen Randall of Philadelphia Mayor Nutter's office, and she gave a fantastic address welcoming us to the City of Brotherly Love.

MLG Steve Smith of the Penn Pond welcomed the convention. DMLGG Dan Rich addressed the group and spoke of three proclamations and citations received by the Convention. A letter from Insurance Commissioner Joel Ario was presented to GN Historian Barry Snyder, a letter from Governor Rendell was presented to Convention Chair Bill Olson, and a letter from Mayor Nutter was presented to Dottie Wasekanes.

The Convention's Memorial Service was conducted by Nick Fitzwater, Michele Fitzwater, Barry Snyder, and Pat Snyder the National Capital Pond, and featured a moving eulogy for PMLGG Bill Wasekanes by his son, Ken Wasekanes.

The Hartford Pond next put their own spin on the Honorable Order's Model Initiation Ceremony.

The Initiation Team consisted of: Most Loyal Gander (Bob Partridge), Supervisor of the Flock (Jerry Hale), Custodian of the Goslings (Kevin Brady), Guardian of the Pond (Paula

Pelletier), Wielder of the Goose Quill (Wendy Hubbard), Captain of the Guards (Kim Albert), Guards (Jim Gustin, Ed Phinney, Richard Mancuso, Admonition (Dan Rich), Charge (Lisa Mullen). Ryan Maloney was a late addition to the team as the iPod Director.

Hartford used a Western theme, dressed as cowboys, sheriffs, and saloon girls. Their theme was "Open Bar" – a reprise of the popular slogan used during their 2005 Foxwoods Convention. The ceremony started with Grand Nest Bartenders Partridge and Brady entering the room to the strains of "Beer, Beer, Beer" by the Clancy Brothers. Brady had a cooler handcuffed to his wrist, and Partridge produced a key to unlock the cuffs. There were three Sheraton bartenders in the room with two large serving carts that held 100 cold beers –their label read "Open Bar -2020- Guess Where?" After the rest of the initiation team paraded in, the Hartford saloon girls assisted in distributing a cold beer to everyone in the room. The beers were a private-label batch run off by the Manayunk Brewery in Philadelphia. The Pond ordered custom labels from an internet site, and shipped the labels to Manayunk – where the labels were applied to their beer.

MLG Partridge delivered his lines while standing in front of bar that bore a large banner that read "Blue Goose Bar and Grille". At the end of the ceremony, a second

banner was revealed that read “2020 Open Bar Guess Where?” Hartford more or less followed the ritual, substituting black and white bottle caps for the black and white marbles in the ballot box. The team initiated seven new ganders, and exited the room to the “Beer Barrel Polka”.

The All Industry Luncheon featured a tremendously humorous and entertaining address by Atty Philip G. Kircher of Cozen O’Connor’s Philadelphia office. Regional meetings took place after lunch, and the group was free to enjoy Philadelphia on their own in the evening.

Friday July 23, 2010

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney called the alphabetical Roll Call of the Ponds, as the delegates from Alabama to Westchester checked in. Grand Supervisor/Acting MLGG Joe Coccia called the assembly to order, and asked the DMLGGs in attendance to stand and be recognized for their service to the Honorable Order.

Grand Wielder Maloney reported that in 2010 Blue Goose continued to increase our industry visibility. Specific accomplishments included attending our fourth consecutive PLRB in San Antonio in March, and two very complimentary news articles in trade magazines (CPCU Magazine and Claims Magazine). Maloney stated “there is definitely an increase in respect and recognition” among the industry. The increased

awareness of Blue Goose has resulted in 3 to 4 hits per month on the Grand Nest website, a net gain of 200 members, and 600 new members this year. The PLRB has contributed to this result.

Terry spoke about how Blue Goose has always outlasted adversity (from the San Francisco earthquake to World War Two), and that today’s economy is the latest challenge to overcome. Terry recognized the convention first-timers, and congratulated GSOJ Joe Coccia on his hard work in leading Blue Goose during the transition following the passing of MLGG Bill Wasekanes.

Grand Historian Barry Snyder reported on the history of the past year and recounted the passing of MLGG Bill Wasekanes on November 13, 2009. He recalled his request at the 2009 Reno Convention for the Ponds to appoint History Committees to record their histories. Regina, Hartford, and the National Capital Pond have started to do so. He asked Hartford’s Dan Rich to give a brief report on how Hartford has started their project. Dan presented Barry with a “work in progress” version of Hartford’s report.

Barry reported that this is the Honorable Order’s third convention in Philadelphia, having previous conventions in 1940 and 1971. The membership total in 1971 was approximately 9,000.

Judge Advocate Robert Ross spoke of some short-term and long-term issues facing Blue Goose, including the role of the Grand Nest, regions and Ponds. He spoke glowingly of the PLRB, and of the “thousands” of potential members at the conference. Just one matter came before the Jurisprudence Committee, and the decision is pending.

Grand Keeper John Paris gave the audit report on a very successful year that saw a net gain of 200 members and a closing balance of +\$4,000,00.

Grand Guardian Guy Charron gave the Charity Report and recounted that our Ponds had donated over \$90,000 and hundreds of Ganders’ hours in support of food collections, clothing collections, hospice, hospital and veteran causes, scholarships, shelters, and teen services. Copies of his report were made available to the members.

Grand Supervisor Coccia reported on the Grand Nest’s Communications Survey in which 28 Ponds responded. Joe told the group that “communication is a key ingredient for a successful Pond”, and that newsletters and websites are a big asset. Copies of his report were made available to the members.

Grand Keeper John Paris reported on Future Conventions. The 2011 Convention will be at the 5 Star Amway Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2012 will be at the Calgary Hyatt with possible trip

extensions to Banff and Lake Louise, 2013 will be at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, 2014 will be at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City with possible trip extensions to the Snowbird Ski Resort, Park City, Las Vegas, and Jackson Hole, 2015 will be a Baltimore to Bermuda cruise, and 2016 might be St. Louis.

Grand Custodian Lorena Dunlop and DMLGG Jacques Cuirriere reported for the Marketing Committee and said they are working on Blue Goose support for the Canadian equivalent of the PLRB. They asked the Ponds to communicate with the Committee and report on what they are doing and what is working.

The Grand Nest Awards were next on the agenda. The Membership Cup (Greatest % increased membership) was won by the Ohio Pond, the Fellowship Cup (Lowest % drops & resignations) was won by the Quebec Pond, the No Drop-Out Cup (No dropped members) was won by the Kentucky Pond, the Peace Garden Award Cup (Most first time attendees) was won by the National Capital Pond, the Link of the Year (Outstanding Pond Website) was won by the Ontario Pond, the

Gordon Crowther Charity Award (Total charitable activities) was won by the Heart Of America Pond, and the

Regional Challenge Cup (5 combined membership criteria) was won by the Canadian Region.

The Regional Charity Awards were notable inasmuch as in all of the regions, the same Pond in each region won both regional awards. The regional winners were: Seattle Pond in the West Region with a 26 % membership increase and +30 members, Ohio Pond in the Central Region with a 148% membership increase and +78 members, the Louisiana Pond in the Southern Region with a 19% membership increase and + 11 members, the National Capital Pond in the Eastern Region with a +21% membership increase and + 24 members, and the Quebec Pond in the Canadian Region with a 45% membership increase and + 113 members.

In new business, the Dayton Puddle has accrued enough members and petitioned for a charter. The Charter was granted and the Dayton Pond was recognized as Blue Goose's newest Pond.

Friday afternoon, the Ganders, spouses, and children all rendezvoused in Camden, NJ for a BBQ lunch upon the battleship, New Jersey. The evening was free, and quite a good number of Ganders travelled to see the Phillies play the Rockies at Citizen's Bank Park.

Saturday July 24, 2010

After breakfast, the Michigan Pond presented a preview of the 2011 Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The room rate at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel will be at \$138 plus taxes for single or double occupancy. The registration fee will be \$250 for adults 18 years of age and older. The registration fee for children up to 18 years of age is \$150.

Terry Maloney called the delegate roll call and recognized Michigan Pond delegate Richard Chenard, who made a formal motion that next year's Convention be held in Grand Rapids. The motion was seconded, and accepted by acclamation.

Nominating speeches for the 2010-11 slate of Grand Nest officers ensued, and PMLGG John Zeldam installed Joe Coccia of the Michigan Pond as Most Loyal Grand Gander, Lorena Dunlop of the Alberta Pond as Grand Supervisor, Guy Charron of the Quebec Pond as Grand Custodian, John Paris of the Utah Pond as Grand Guardian, and Bill Olson of the National Capital Pond as Grand Keeper. John Zeldam and Grand Wielder Maloney presented the new officers with their Grand Nest pins and ribbons.

Bill Olson, the Grand Nest's newest officer shared his thoughts with the convention. Bill is a 22-year member of the National Capital Pond, and he thanked the many long-time friends he has made as a result of Blue Goose's fellowship. He thanked Mike Nardulli, and Dan Rich, his fellow Eastern Region Deputies, PMLGG's Barry Snyder and Jerry Hale, and MLGG Joe Coccia. He commented on the strength of the Eastern region, and our need to keep the organization strong. He implored the Ponds to take advantage of today's social networking options, such as Facebook, Linked In, and Twitter. Bill remarked that "our time is precious" and we should use our time to the best possible advantage.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Joe Coccia's Address of Acceptance followed. He said that successful Ponds or regions must take advantage of all of the tools at our disposal. Communicating with each other, sharing information across the Regions are vital practices we must strive for. He thanked DMLGG Linda Meik of the Southern Region and Dan Rich of the Eastern Region for their efforts to link the Regions and share news.

He cited the recent articles in Claims Magazine and CPCU

Magazine, and our PLRB presence, to illustrate our current initiative to increase our visibility. There is interest in Blue Goose sponsoring a hospitality function at next year's PLRB. Joe pledged to dedicate his efforts to make Blue Goose a successful and viable organization.

Grand Nest Historian Barry Snyder reported on MLGG Bill Wasekanes' year in office. He was a 53-year member of the Penn Pond, a Blue Goose Life Member, and a veteran of 39 Grand Nest Conventions. He was installed as Grand Keeper at the Hartford Pond's 2005 Convention at Foxwoods, and was installed as Most Loyal Grand Gander at the Seattle Pond's 2009 Convention in Reno.

On September 9, 2009, he attended the Hartford Pond's first meeting of the year and thanked the 52 attendees for their Pond's support of the Philadelphia Convention. The next day, on September 10, 2009, he drove to New Jersey to attend the Garden State Pond's Golf Outing and promote the convention.

On October 16 he was diagnosed with cancer and passed away on November 13 at the age of 82. Grand Supervisor Joe Coccia took responsibility for the leadership of the organization as

acting Most Loyal Gander. He presided over the Grand Nest Mid Year Meeting, and coordinated the distribution of the Claims Magazine and CPCU magazine articles, as well as PLRB fundraising.

The Family Luncheon was held on site with entertainment from the 20-piece Woodland String Band. They entertained us with great music and quite a few ganders were seen doing the Mummer Strut.

That evening, we were back at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel for a cocktail reception and Grand Nest Ball. The music was provided by the B Street Band – a Bruce Springsteen cover band. The theme was American bandstand, and many Ganders were dressed in 1950's style outfits. MLGG Joe Coccia sat in on drums for a few rousing performances.

Article by Dan Rich



Grand Nest Officers 2010-2011



Standing: Gary Kohlruss, Terry Maloney, Lorena Dunlop, Bill Olson, Joe Coccia,
Robert Ross, Guy Charron, Johanne Charron, John Paris

Sitting: Lynn Maloney, Courtney Coccia, Laurie Ross, Zelma Paris

JOSEPH C. COCCIA
MLGG ACCEPTANCE SPEECH – JULY 24, 2010



Fellow Grand Nest Officers, members, spouses, friends and most importantly, my family. I quite frankly never thought I would ever be standing here in front of you like this, although I always wondered what it would be like if I ever had the chance. I watched many good men and one very good woman stand here and accept the nomination of Most Loyal Grand Gander. My first Grand Nest Convention was in 1986 when Lyle Johnson was the MLGG. It was a convention that I will not soon forget. I drove from Michigan to Omaha with Noel Kott and Bernie Kress. I never ever got a word in with those two. And somehow Bernie and I ended up buying most of the meals on the road. I think Noel had a double headed coin!

I have attended every convention since then with the exception of Baltimore in the year 2000. I have had the pleasure of meeting many people during those many years of Grand Nest Conventions but my Blue Goose experience did not start there. I joined the Detroit Puddle of the Michigan Pond over 29 years ago on June 16, 1981 after being invited to attend a Puddle Meeting by Mike Mathews, one of my fellow adjusters at Michigan Claim Service. At that first meeting, I was introduced to many enthusiastic members who later became my mentors as I became more involved and accepted the challenge of going through the Puddle chairs and ultimately the Pond chairs. I owe my involvement in Blue Goose to many people who were influential in getting me involved in Blue Goose and were my biggest inspiration. Indulge me for a moment to thank some people.

I am thankful for the friendship and early guidance from fellow Michigan members Jack Allen, Art Schafer, Vic Pruder, Noel “Gus” Kott, John Zeldam, Carl Gaerig, Bob Quartermous and Dave Beger.

As I became more involved with the Central Region and Grand Nest, members like Bill Gates, John Downie, Don Grott, Jane Rogaliner, Harold Faith, Ivar Awes, Trevor Newett, Gordon Crowther, Cliff Needham, Bruce Bolton, George and Donna Harwood, Marc Thurber, Gordon Crutcher, Larry Lewer, Chuck Palmerton, Jerry Simpson, Jerry Hale, Rex and Joanne Clark, Jack Fitch, Tim Seider, John Bishop and Barry Snyder all influenced me and demonstrated a commitment and loyalty that I share with all of you today.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the special relationship and friendship that I have with fellow Convention Chairpersons, Rich Mancuso and Chip Dahle.

I have intentionally left out two very important people who have guided me and helped me stay enthusiastic and focused. They are Grand Wielder, Terry Maloney and our Judge Advocate Robert Ross. Without these two gentlemen, the Blue Goose would no doubt have a very large void and would not be where it is today. They provide tireless advice and support and I owe much of my success and determination to be a good Grand Nest Officer to both Terry and Robert. I am very pleased that they have agreed to serve as my

Grand Wielder and Judge Advocate during my term as Most Loyal Grand Gander. Barry Snyder will also continue to serve as our Grand Nest Historian for the coming year.

I cannot forget the influence and friendship that I have received from my 2011 Convention Committee Chairpersons Dick Chenard, Joe Lothschutz, Dave Kosdrosky and Fred Fernandez. They have been extremely supportive of me and for this I am eternally grateful. They share my values and want what is right for Blue Goose. They, like me, are committed to a successful 2011 Convention.

Lastly, I want to thank my family, my two lovely and beautiful daughters Alyssa and Cristina who are here today to support me. They grew up in Blue Goose and it is fitting that they be a part of this day; And Courtney, my wife, my friend, my protector, my cheerleader, and my lover.

She has endured a lot over these many years. She did so with quiet resilience and loyalty. I frankly could not be standing here today if it was not for her support and encouragement. Courtney, Thank you ever so much.

Over the years, we have had heard some very eloquent Grand Nest Officers stand here and tell you about how important growing the organization is or how important bringing in younger members is or how very important it is to be charitable and to remain loyal to our cardinal precepts of Character, Charity and fellowship.

All of these goals remain important today as they were in the past and they are worth mentioning again. But my message to you today as your newest Most Loyal Grand Nest Officer is this. To be a successful member in this organization, to be a successful Puddle or Pond or to be a successful Region, or to be a successful Blue Goose organization we need to use all the tools available to improve on our communication. "The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement." I know that we can do a better job at communicating within our Puddle, our Pond, our Region and our Grand Nest. Our internal surveys have shown that we are communicating within our local Ponds and within our Regions but the Western Region does not know what the Eastern Region is doing to grow the organization. The struggles of the Westchester Pond are not known to the Ohio or Heart of America Ponds. We need to follow the lead of Eastern Region DMLGG Dan Rich and Linda Meak. They are singlehandedly crossing the Regional borders and sharing with all members what their Pond and Region is doing.

The Grand Nest felt that communication was so important that it established a Grand Nest Communications Committee in 2008. I intend to maintain that committee going forward and have asked incoming Grand Nest Officer Bill Olson to serve as its chairperson.

As your Most Loyal Grand Gander, I would like to see a coordination of our marketing efforts with the communication committee because I feel that our "branding" is so vitally important and depends on good communication.

As MLGG, I will continue our “branding” efforts where it makes sense. The Claims Magazine and CPCU Society Newsletter both of which can be found on our Blue Goose web site have enhanced our image as a viable and meaningful organization. Our presence at the Property Loss Research Bureau, the PLRB, has helped increase our industry visibility.

We will in an effort to be fiscally responsible, continue to review on an annual basis whether we can continue to participate as an exhibitor in future PLRB Conventions. Since many of our members attend this conference on an annual basis, we should also consider hosting a hospitality function to promote Blue Goose in lieu of the cost of a hosting a booth.

As your new Most Loyal Grand Gander, I want us all to rededicate ourselves, to remember our cardinal principals and remember why we joined the Blue Goose. John Zeldam, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander from Michigan said it best in his acceptance speech at the 84th Annual Grand Nest Convention in Boston in August of 1990, and I quote, “Therefore, I admonish each of us to reexamine ourselves, to reevaluate our motives, and rededicate ourselves to developing personal character, practicing charity, and fostering meaningful fellowship. These are the qualities which will bring honor and respect to our industry and all past, present and future Ganders.”

The driving force that keeps me enthusiastic and willing to put in that extra effort is this, “you only get out of an organization what you are willing to put into it.” I promise as your MLGG, that I will continue to dedicate my efforts to make this a successful and viable organization as Most Loyal Grand Gander. I will listen to you, my fellow members and I will do what I can to help you be a successful Blue Goose Member and one that is proud to say that you belong to the Blue Goose. I will do this along side my fellow Grand Nest Officers and our Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders who have agreed to take on their Grand Nest responsibilities and be accountable. We will work especially hard to change where it makes sense within the framework of our traditions and values. We will have challenges and we will do what is right for Our Order all the while remembering that we represent you.

I am humbled by your acceptance of me as your Most Loyal Grand Gander and I thank you for your vote of confidence. But most importantly, thank you for your friendship.

Joseph C. Coccia
Most Loyal Grand Gander
July 2010 – July 2011



Address of Acceptance 104th Grand Nest Convention – William G. Olson

I accept the nomination of the office of GKGGE and I will do my best to promote the good of the order for the next 5 years. I have been a loyal member of the National Capital Pond for 22 years, 2/3 of my adult life. I have attended 13 Grand Nest conventions. I have made many friends throughout North America because of attending Blue Goose Conventions. When my mother died a year ago I was overwhelmed by the amount of cards and emails I received from ganders across the country. That is an example of the fellowship we share in the Blue Goose. Mom attended 4 Grand Nest Conventions, more than most members attend. Some of my closest friends are fellow ganders in the National Capital Pond. Thank you to Barry and Pat Snyder, Michelle and Nick Fitzwater, Gene Newman and Jimmy Lanham ...PMLG George Burgee, MLG Kyle Cordiero AND Alan Levine, Ed Noye, John Alderman, Jack Daley and Gerry Kaplan who ran the Baltimore 2000 convention and the rest of the National Capital Pond for their support.

The 3 DMLGG's for the Eastern Region, Dan Rich , Mike Nardulli and myself have worked together over the last 5 years to organize this convention. Along with the support of the rest of the ponds in the Eastern Region we pulled this off. Shout out to Gerry Hale, the other PMLGG from the Eastern who was so important to this convention and the Eastern Region in general. He is the reason we sing Australian Faire at our conventions now. In 2015 we hope to take this convention on a cruise ship from Baltimore to Bermuda. Maybe Jerry can get us a POND there too.

We all agree that the Grand Nest Convention is now a regional effort and not just the responsibility of the host pond. The efforts we made in organizing the Penn Pond and drum up support within the Penn Pond failed. Only a few dedicated ganders of the Penn Pond supported the convention and I thank them for their support. Bill Wasekanes was the heart and soul of the Penn Pond and with his death we fear that the Penn Pond may die too. Kenny Wasekanes is now the legacy gander of the Penn Pond. He and Steve Smith are charged with keeping the pond alive in Bill's honor.

The future of the Blue Goose is uncertain. In the Eastern Region we have lost 3 ponds since 2004: Long Island, Empire State and West Virginia. Other ponds face challenges with membership and leadership. The other regions are facing similar challenges. It is a time for CHANGE and together WE CAN DO IT. I believe we need a reorganization of the regions in order to make to order stronger.

Having helped plan and organize this convention has made me realize that the convention format needs to be streamlined, made more convenient and less expensive for our members to attend. , but still keep the ritual and traditions that make us different.

Our pond meetings and functions need to be innovative, informative and current. There has to be value to attending our meetings. We have to do a better job of marketing our organization on a National and International basis too. Participation in the PLRB Convention Expo has been a good start but the Insurance companies and adjusters no longer support the Blue Goose like they used to. Our membership is getting older and needs to be replaced with younger active members. Mentor your new members. The social networking aspect of our order that we call fellowship has been affected by technology. People communicate by email, text and cell phones and on sites like Facebook, Linkedin and Twitter. USE IT. Our time is limited because of our work and family obligations. Time is precious. Let us make the most of it.

I am proud to be a Grand Nest officer now.

Tote Faire,
Bill Olson Deputy DOGG GKGGE

July 21-July 24, 2010
Annual Convention and Meeting
Report of the Judge Advocate
Year Ending July 1, 2010



Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Nest Officers and Ganders:

During this one hundred and fourth 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 has been actively addressing the immediate and future challenges of the Order. The untimely death of our beloved MLGG Bill Wasekanes raised important issues which have been effectively handled by the Grand Nest and able leadership of the Eastern Region. The Grand Nest has been focused on critical issues about the organization as well as annual conventions. Short term, as well as long-term issues have been considered, including the role of the Grand Nest, the Regions as well as the Ponds in putting on annual conventions.

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 San Antonio, Texas. 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 US 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 updated and circulated the Constitution and Bylaws. There are no proposed amendments this year. However, there has been one referral to the Jurisprudence Committee regarding eligibility of membership under Section 2(b) of the 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 the past year as the Judge Advocate of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International.

Fraternally,

Robert Tayloe Ross
Judge Advocate, PMLG

AWARD PRESENTATION

GORDON F. CROWTHER CHARITY AWARD:

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

ST. JOE VALLEY POND MEMBERSHIP AWARD:

This coveted award for the greatest percentage increase in membership went to the **OHIO POND**.

LINK OF THE YEAR

Outstanding internet Pond web site winner is the **ONTARIO 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 **QUEBEC POND**.

KENTUCKY POND'S NO DROP-OUT AWARD:

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

PEACE GARDEN AWARD:

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

REGIONAL CHALLENGE AWARD:

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

REGIONAL CHARITY AWARDS

East	NATIONAL CAPITAL	.....	24 - Most New & Reinstated
	NATIONAL CAPITAL*	.....	20.87% - Best % Increase
West	SEATTLE*	.....	30 - Most New & Reinstated
	SEATTLE*	.....	26.09% - Best % Increase
South	LOUISIANA	.....	11 - Most New & Reinstated
	LOUISIANA	.....	18.64% - Best % Increase
Central	OHIO	.....	78 - Most New & Reinstated
	OHIO	.....	147.17% - Best % Increase
Canada	QUEBEC	.....	113 – Most New & Reinstated
	QUEBEC	.....	44.31% - Best % Increase

* 2ND Year in a row

COMMITTEES 2010-2011

CHARITY

Grand Nest Advisor: Guy Charron

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Grand Nest Advisor: Robert Ross

George Harwood, PMLG, Chair

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**HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE
OPERATING STATEMENT**

	09-10	09-10	10-11
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
501 DUES - CURRENT YEAR	64,816	68,354	72,116
502 CANADIAN RELIEF	0	0	0
503 DUES - PRIOR YEAR	2,801	5,791	6,600
511 SALES - EMBLEMS	3,277	2,500	2,500
531 INTEREST - MONEY MARKET	221	600	250
532 CONVENTION MEMBERS DONATION	0	-0-	-0-
541 POND GN DONATIONS	0	-0-	-0-
551 LIFE MEMBER DONATIONS	0	-0-	-0-
561 PLRB DONATIONS	5,750	1,000	-0-
650 ARCHIVE CONTRIBUTIONS	106	-0-	-0-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>76,971</u>	<u>78,245</u>	<u>81,466</u>
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>			
601 GRAND NEST OFFICE	22,332	22,332	22,332
605 TELEPHONE	1,356	1,100	1,100
607 POSTAGE	219	400	300
609 INSURANCE & BONDING	4,611	4,300	4,600
611 OFFICE SUPPLIES	949	500	500
613 I.T. SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE	5,085	4,000	4,000
615 DATA SUPPORT	931	2,000	2,000
617 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	250	250	250
619 ACCOUNTING	2,760	2,760	2,880
629 GNO - PRINTING, ETC.	0	300	200
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>38,491</u>	<u>37,942</u>	<u>38,162</u>
<u>MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES</u>			
621 GNO - POND VISITATION	358	1,550	2,000
623 GNO - CONVENTION	8,555	12,000	10,800
625 GNO - EXECUTIVE COMM TRAVEL	1,487	2,300	2,500
627 GNO - EMBLEMS	968	500	500
631 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS	972	2,200	2,400
633 SPECIAL OLYMPICS	345	500	500
637 MEMORIALS	400	100	100
641 DELEGATE EXPENSE	12,097	14,000	12,500
645 POND EMBLEMS	3,555	2,000	2,000
647 HOST POND FUND	3,059	2,948	3,045
649 ARCHIVE EXPENSE	0	(1,021)	(691)
661 PLRB EXPENDED	<u>5,201</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(549)</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	36,997	37,077	35,105
TOTAL EXPENSES	75,488	75,019	73,267
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)	<u>1,483</u>	<u>3,226</u>	<u>8,199</u>

CENTRAL REGION

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D.M.L.G.G. for Dakota, Peace Garden, Iowa Ponds and Wisconsin Home Nest: Dale Cowman, 3601 S. Florence Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103
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<u>Pond and Year Chartered</u>	<u>Most Loyal Gander</u>	<u>Wielder of the Goose Quill</u>
Dakota February, 1910	Karl Weber PO Box 1898 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 605-333-9810 – Work	Dale Cowman 3601 S. Florence Ave Sioux Falls, SD 57103 605-371-8951 – Home dcowm@q.com
Dayton July 23, 2010	Kim Bilbrey 145 Cousins Drive Carlisle, OH 45005 937-746-0964 – Work 937-743-6155 – Home kim@bilbreymarketing.com	Jackie Downs 2517 Dowden Lane Kettering, OH 46420 937-432-1502 – Work 937-416-9059 – Home jdowns1178@earthlink.net
Greater Chicago August, 1985	Tim Voncina 33 N. Dearborn St., #310 RGL Forensics Chicago, IL 60602 312-251-4500 – Work 630-213-8692 – Home tvoncina@us.rgl.com	Greg Brown 9823 Chetwood Drive Huntley, IL 60142 847-466-1273 – Work 847-669-7099 – Home gbrown@us.rgl.com
Heart of America November, 1906	Ron Folsom 413-Division Street Kansas City, KS 913-722-0228 – Work ronf@drick.com	Angela McReynolds 2807 Independence Ave. Kansas City, MO 64124 816-792-5551 – Work 816-781-0190 – Home angela.mcreynolds@crdn.com
Indiana December, 1906	Randy Peters 1306 Willow Ct. Noblesville, IN 46060 317-773-7282 – Home	Steve Greger 8645 E. 200 S Zionsville, IN 46077 317-769-6884 – Home sgreger@tds.net
Michigan November, 1906	Sheldon West Certified Contractors LLC 27224 Southfield Rd. Ste. 4 Lathrup Village, MI 48076 248-424-9088 – Work 248-647-4309 – Home shelwest1@sbcglobal.net	Richard P. Chenard 1135 Paradise Lake SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546-3862 616-676-1960 – Home biggoose@earthlink.net
Ohio July 22, 2007	Jane Rogaliner 7174 Normanton Dr. New Albany, OH 43054 614-558-1587 – Work 614-933-9457 – Home jane@janerogalinermarketing.com	Tod Felton P.O. Box 30804 Gahanna, OH 43230 614-478-1603 – Work 614-403-2101 – Cell tod_felton@cinfin.com
Peace Garden June 16, 1955	Ken Zetocha 623 Main Ave. E. West Fargo, ND 58070 701-282-9344 – Work 701-282-7525 – Home kjzetocha@borderareadj.com	Jeremy Majerus P.O. BOX 757 West Fargo, ND 58078 701-282-8053 – Work jmajerus@borderareadj.com
St. Louis October 4, 1916	Jim Myers 2124 hedgewood Drive High Ridge, MO 63049 636-677-7550 – Work 314-605-3095 – Home jmyers@brick.net	Harold Faith 108 Rightfield Dr. O'Fallon, MO 63366 636-345-2163 – Cell 636-379-9201 – Home hbfaith26@centurytel.net

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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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August, 1915

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British Columbia
March 3, 1917

Edmonton
July 1, 1953

Manitoba
May 12, 1915

New Brunswick
February, 1973

Nova Scotia
March 15, 1955

Ontario
June, 1908

Most loyal Gander

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<u>Pond and Year Chartered</u>	<u>Most Loyal Gander</u>	<u>Wielder of the Goose Quill</u>
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Colorado February, 1908	June Schiff 7000 E. Quincy Ave A401 Denver, CO 80237 303-996-5437 – Work 720-482-6766 – Home jschiff@beechercarlson.com	Carol Kats 1885 S. Emerson Denver, CO 80210 303-395-7153 – Work 303-722-7453 – Home ckats@onpointunderwriting.com
Oregon November, 1911	Mark Johnson 11100 SW Tony Ct. Tigard, OR 97223 503-672-8007 – Work	Mike Meadows 8258 SW Lori Way Beaverton, OR 97007 503-799-7541 – Work 503-642-4421 – Home mjmeadowsvette@verizon.net
San Diego July 1, 1954	Dale Swan 10210 Corte Tierra Baja La Mesa, CA 91941 619-464-8505 – Home dswan1@yahoo.com	Dale Swan 10210 Corte Tierra Baja La Mesa, CA 91941 619-464-8505 – Home dswan1@yahoo.com
Seattle July 14, 1922	Jill Hilgendorf 19010 68 th Ave. NE, B101 Kenmore, WA 98028 206-473-4421 – Work 425-398-8038 – Home jill.hilgendorf@libertymutual.com	Marylyn Graham 2718 Nob Hill Ave N Seattle, WA 98109 206-282-5227 – Home marylynsis@comcast.net

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July 26, 1914

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Pond and Year Chartered

Most Loyal Gander

Wielder of the Goose Quill

Bay State
August, 1976

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July 1, 1954

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National Capital
May 17, 1948

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November, 1907

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Penn
1908

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Westchester
August, 1983

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Lisa Kane
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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
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 Edina, MN 55435
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 Fax 952-925-1034
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 *1976 – Gordon Crowther, Hartford
 *1977 – Stanley Spore, Texas
 1978 – G. E. Morgan
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 1550 Bedford Hwy, Ste 711
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 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
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 csamay59@yahoo.com
 1988 – Gordon C. Crutcher
 15 Thornlea Road
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 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
 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@dgpa.com
 1996 – Larry Lewer
 11 Forest Hill Ct.
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 llewer11@comcast.net
 1997 – George Harwood
 1936 Bruce B Downs Blvd, Ste. 501
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 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, National Capital
 2001 – Charles L. Cramer
 22 Elm Ave.
 Saint Louis, MO 63122
 Res. 314-822-1946
 *2002 – Marvin P. Wilson, Jr., North Carolina
 2003 – John C. Bishop
 2809 George Dauphinee Ave.
 Halifax, NS Canada B3L 3S7
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 uncle.bish@ns.sympatico.ca
 2004 – Dick Philippsen
 988 Ironwood Rd.
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 Res: 951-769-8690
 philippsen1@verizon.net
 2005 – Gerald F. Hale
 85 Inverness Ct.
 Cheshire, CT 06410
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 Off: 203-333-6200
 Fax: 203-334-0695
 ghale@vericclaiminc.com
 2006 – Timothy T. Seider
 12253 W. Morgan Oak Drive
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 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
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 Toronto, ON M5E 1G6 Canada
 Res: 289-235-9558
 Off: 416-367-1608 ext. 268
 Fax: 416-367-8821
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 2009 – JoAnn M. Clark
 10738 9TH Ave N.W.
 Seattle, WA 98177
 Res: 206-365-8275
 pmlgjoann@comcast.net
 *2010 – William Wasekanes, Penn

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. Mauritson
 1961-62 David Armitage
 1962-88 J. B. Gravenstine

IN MEMORIUM
BARRY SNYDER



PMLGG Barry Lee Snyder passed away suddenly at the age of 69, on August 15th. He will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched throughout his 31 years as a member of the National Capital Pond. Barry was initiated into the Pond on March 3, 1979. He served as MLG, and was also appointed permanent Wielder of the Golden Goose Quill.

Barry had the honor of serving as MLGG of the Grand Nest in 1999-2000, and the 2000 national convention in Baltimore will always be remembered as a wonderful event. He was appointed Grand Nest Historian in 2003. Barry kept impressive records, and he and Pat spent hundreds of hours compiling, labeling and organizing an amazing array of Blue Goose memorabilia, which was displayed at each convention for the viewing pleasure of all Ganders.

The National Capital Pond bids a fond farewell to a great man, and one who contributed so much to the success of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

***Honored Departed Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Snyder,
we salute you and greet you in the silent hall of memory.
Hail, Friend and Farewell.***