

History of the Grand Nest Honourable Order of the Blue Goose

2017-2018



**112 Grand Nest Convention
Westin Edmonton
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
July 11-13, 2018**

Mark Robertson, MLGG

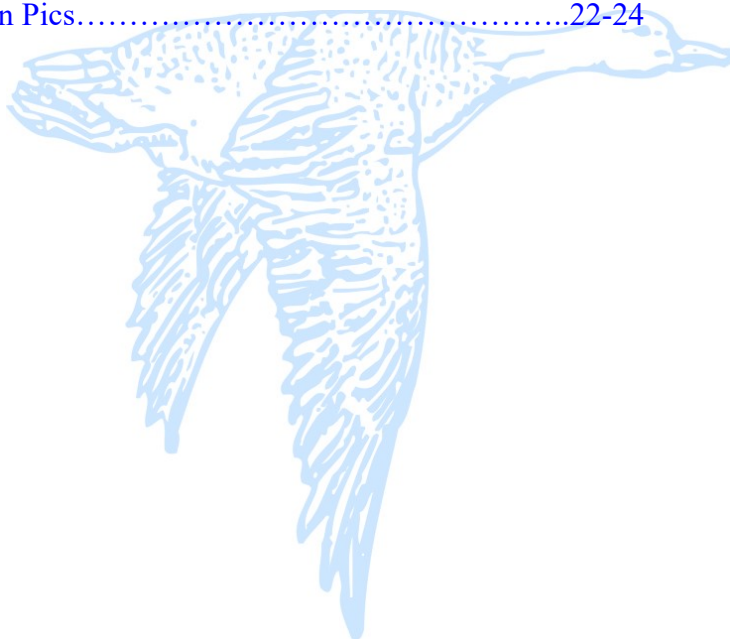
**Prepared by John C. Bishop, PMLGG
Grand Nest Historian**

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The Grand Nest would like to give a big Blue Goose shout out to PMLG Neil Miller of the Edmonton Pond for the pictures shown in this history and to GGN Dan Rich for the Convention Report, both without which this publication would be nothing.

Grand Nest Officers 2017-2018



MLGG Mark Robertson



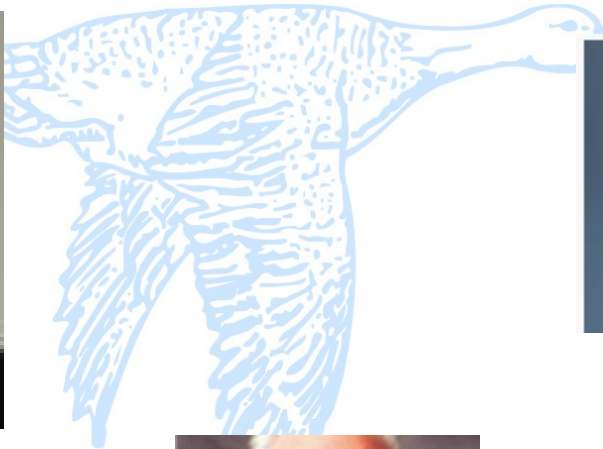
GSOF Kim Bilbrey



GWGQ Terry
Maloney



GCOF Dan Rich



GGOF Mike Smith



JA Lorena Kohlruss



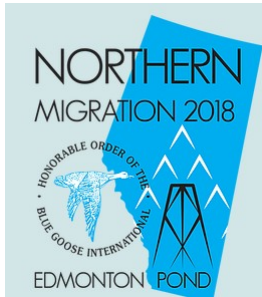
GKGGE Archie Gillis



GNH John C. Bishop

Grand Nest History

Blue Goose Holds
Grand Nest Convention in Edmonton, Alberta Canada
July 10-July 13, 2018



162 Ganders, spouses and guests, including twelve children from across the US and Canada journeyed to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to attend the 112th Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention. The convention was held at the Westin Edmonton in the heart of downtown, in close proximity to dozens of shops, restaurants, attractions and Sir Winston Churchill Square.

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

The opening day began with the Convention Golf Tournament for those who had registered, beginning at 9:00am with a shotgun start. The location was the Ranch Golf & Country Club, a very challenging but fair piece of golf property.

Prior to the evening's Welcome Party, two special meetings took place-a mandatory parent's meeting and a get together to welcome our first time conventioners where MLGG Mark Robertson and his fellow Grand Nest Officers answered questions about Blue Goose.

The Welcome Party began with a check in desk resembling a game warden station, where we registered our souvenir goose bands and received a wrist band that snapped tight around our wrists. Next, we went to another station where our wing spans were measured and recorded. All the while, we had to dodge a shady looking poacher who ran around with his pop gun in search of illicit game.



Shady Poacher

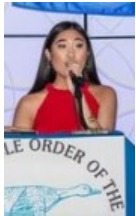
Prizes were awarded in some fun categories-longest wing span, shortest wing span, who was born the farthest distance from Edmonton, and whose Goose Band matched two lucky numbers. Our good friend Gordie Goose was there and became a popular partner for some memorable selfies with our members and some Canadian themed props. Pond pins were traded and it was a great time catching up with old friends to start the convention..



Gander Entrance to
Warden Station

Thursday July 12, 2018

After a full breakfast, the 112th Grand Nest Meeting was ready to get underway. MLGG Mark Robertson welcomed the group and gavelled the meeting to order.



Tia Gonzalez

Convention chair Andrew Happer gave the invocation and asked for spiritual assistance as we follow our paths to develop Character, Charity and Fellowship in our Ponds and our communities. Edmonton City Councillor Michael Walters welcomed us to Edmonton and acknowledged that **"so many people travelled far to get here because I counted your banners"** He thanked us for our dedication to local and international charities.



Members of the
Royal Canadian
Jasper Place Le-
gion #255

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Grand Nest History

(Continued from page 4)

Ken Lakhram of the Convention Committee introduced the morning's keynote speaker-Diane Brickner, CIP< ICD.D and Past President and CEO for the Peace Hills Insurance Group, with offices in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Winnipeg. She was "**struck by how much our values mirrored**" hers with respect to shared values such as giving back, continuous learning and volunteering. She spoke of the Fellowship of Blue Goose, and how relationships are built over time, and the challenges that result when technology stresses speed to the detriment of relationship building. She urged us to "**trust in your friends**" and not sacrifice relationships for technology. Peace Hills Insurance was the first insurer to be started by Canada's Indigenous people, and their strategy and values of Community Service, volunteerism, and education sure do mirror ours at Blue Goose.



Diane Brickner, CIP,
ICD.D

The Convention's Memorial Service was conducted by Gander Brennan Mills of the Saskatchewan Pond. The name of each Pond was called and the members of that Pond stood in unison. If a Pond had lost a member during the year, their name was announced and a Pond member stepped forward to receive a rose in honour of their departed Gander (s).



Gander Brennan Mills of
the Saskatchewan Pond

In honour of Canada's recent election to liberalize their marijuana laws, The British Columbia Pond conducted a raucous and cannabis themed Model Initiation Ceremony The Initiation team tweaked the ritual by replacing honks with bong bubbles, and contemporary references to texting, dudes, and Twitter. The ballot box saw Cheezies and Nanaimo Bars (generally only known north of the border) replace the usual black and white marbles, and when the ballot box was examined, we discovered the "**the munchies are unanimous**".



Initiation of the Goslings

The All Industry Luncheon kicked off with more goose band drawings and a charitable donation. MLG Halie Wispinski of the Edmonton Pond presented PMLG Tony Thibaudeau, a board member of the Women in Insurance Cancer Crusade, a donation.

The Luncheon's Guest Speaker was Shawn Kanungo. His talk was on "Strategy in the Age of Disruption" and focused on "**the intersection of creativity, business, and technology**". He entertained us in a wide ranging talk that touched on innovation, technology, consumerism, digital media, a sharing economy, crowd sourcing, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the challenges they create for insurance and finance.



Shawn Kanungo

After lunch, the Regional Breakout meetings followed, where regional issues were discussed. A series of three special meetings were also offered after the Regional's ended, on Convention Hosting, Finance, and Engaging Membership.



PMLG Tony Thibaudeau
accepting a cheque from
and MLG Halie Wispinski

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Grand Nest History

(Continued from page 5)

That evening we boarded buses for the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex, for the evenings Family Night Dinner. We were greeted at the door by a costumed Jell-O shooter team. Monies collected to buy the Jell-O shots were donated to the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton. We saw some gorgeous Ukrainian native costumes and some gorgeously decorated Ukrainian Easter Eggs, listen to some Ukrainian songs, were wowed by three athletic Ukrainian dances and ate a wonderful Ukrainian feast.



Beautifully costumed
Ukrainian Dancers

Friday July 13, 2018

The convention resumed and we enjoyed a presentation for the 2019 Convention in Indianapolis. The Convention will be held from July 17-19, 2019 at the Alexander Hotel where the room rate will be \$169 per night. There will be free time to see the sights, and some type of a volunteer event. A motion was made and passed to hold next year's convention in Indianapolis.



MLGG Mark Robertson

MLGG Mark Robertson introduced the Order's Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders and asked them to stand and be recognized. He also announced a Regional Challenge. The Pond that raises the most funds to assist next year's Indianapolis Convention will receive twelve bottles of wine.

PMLGG and Grand Nest Historian John Bishop eulogized PMLGG Richard (Dick) Philippsen, Chair of the 1989 Convention aboard the Queen Mary and our host for the 2004 Los Angeles Convention.



PMLGG and Grand Nest
Historian John C. Bishop

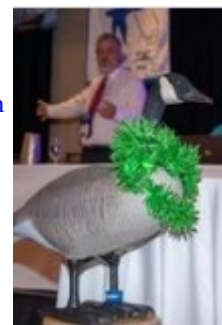
Gran Wielder Terry Maloney's role call of delegates was next. He remarked that we were observing the 25th anniversary of the 1993 Edmonton Convention. Commemorative key fobs were created in 1993 to honour that year's Convention Committee, and Terry presented three of the key fobs to Mark Robertson, Neil Miller and Andrew Happer.



PMLGG Richard
(Dick) Philippsen

An alarm was noted when Gordie Goose went missing and a ransom note was discovered. The note demanded a ransom payment of \$25 in unmarked loonies for his safe return. As instructed, the ransom was placed in an envelope and left with a bagman, better known as Grand Wielder Terry Maloney. Gordie was eventually sighted and returned after some difficult and trying hours in captivity.

Terry Maloney recognized two important groups at the convention. He asked our new members and Life Members to stand and be recognized. Grand Supervisor Kim Bilbrey called upon MLGG Robertson for his report on his year in office. He opened by saying that in his five years in office, he met so many terrific ganders that became close friends. He stressed that we need to address our financial condition and spoke of the need for fi-



Gordie Goose

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Grand Nest History

(Continued from page 6)

nancial accountability. Grand Supervisor Kim Bilbrey presented Mark with gifts from the current and past Grand Nest officers.

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney's report on the past year started with a reference to an increasing phenomenon—the many requests he gets from Ganders to “unsubscribe” from Grand Nest email communications. Terry explained that Grand Nest messages are necessary to maintain our contact with the membership. Terry encouraged the Ponds to make a phone call to those with delinquent dues and to try and spend “**as much attention on membership retention as on attracting new members.**” Terry closed by telling all that Pond pins will undergo a price increase on September 1st, and he asked the Ponds to be sure to send their website links to Grand Nest.



Grand Wielder
Terry Maloney

Grand Nest Historian John C. Bishop reported on a request for information sent out in January. Only twelve of the fifty Ponds responded. The intent was to see how many Ponds had created a pond history and he offered tips on what to collect and how to go about it. Thanks to PMLGG Linda Meik he offered CD's with a recording of a 1949 speech by PMLGG Lloyd Wallace, one of our founding fathers, on Blue Goose history and the origin of our Order.

PMLGG Lorena Kohlruss reported that no issues were referred to the Jurisprudence Committee during the year. She thanked Mark Robertson for his leadership throughout the year.

Grand Keeper Archie Gillis delivered his Audit report for the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. Some of the key budget issues were legal fees, insurance and bonding, Canadian relief, Grand Nest Convention cost, and savings on travel and marketing. He asked the Ponds to follow fiscal management and “**keep a critical eye open**” on their finances and have a minimum of three or more signing officers with duals needed for cheque writing.



Grand Keeper
Archie Gillis

The Grand Nest Committee reports on Membership, Charity and Communication/Marketing followed. PMLGG Linda Meik delivered Grand Supervisor Kim Bilbrey's Membership report, which looked at our Rush for Goslings campaign for new member recruitment, and our Member Retention campaign. Whatever decision happens to our “Rush for Ganders” campaign should not minimize the importance and need for us to replenish and reinvigorate our Order.



Judge Advocate
Lorena
Kohlruss



Grand Custodian
Dan Rich

The Retention report asked us to examine many questions about our members. Are we expressing the value of membership to our current members? Do our Constitution and By-Laws accurately reflect our industry's demographics in 2018? Should we consider expanding our membership criteria to other related groups whose dividing lines have blurred, such as financial services”

Grand Custodian Dan Rich's Charity Committee report stated that this year 26 of our Ponds had filed the charity report. The year saw reported monetary donations of



PMLGG Linda Meik

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Grand Nest History

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\$238,528, reported volunteer hours of 2,329 hours, reported donations of collected goods of \$69,650. and reported scholarship awards of \$10,425.



JA Lorena Kohlruss

Grand Guardian Michael Smith's Communication and Marketing Report outlined a detailed proposal for Blue Goose to use a uniform website template. The RFP (Request for Proposal) to draw up requirements for that bid was placed under consideration, but not acted upon, for budget concerns.



Grand Guardian Michael Smith

Judge Advocate Lorena Kohlruss reported that no constitutional amendments were presented this year.



Ganders completing their charitable task

The morning meetings were followed by the Family Luncheon. We were entertained by street performers and a mime before more funding raising for the Stollery Children's Hospital of Edmonton. Outside the diner hall was a long row of tables filed with all sorts of colourful little plastic toys in what appeared to be an assembly line. After lunch it was our job to fill the brown paper bags left at out table with the toys outside. The bags were to go to the children's hospital for distribution.

The afternoon session started off with a motion to hold next year's convention in Indianapolis, which was unanimously approved. After a delegate roll call, the slate of Grand Nest Officer for 2018-2019 was presented. Judge Advocate Lorena Kohlruss will continue to serve in her role, Grand Nest Historian John Bishop will continue to serve, PMLGG Linda Meik will assume the duties of the Grand Keeper. The elected officers will be MLGG Kim Bilbrey, Grand Supervisor Dan Rich, Grand Custodian Michael Smith and the Grand Guardian will be filled by the newest member of the Executive, Wendy Knizek of the British Columbia Pond. Wendy then offered her thoughts on Blue Goose and her involvement, and the big picture of Blue Goose from a Grand Nest perspective.



The newest member of Grand Nest Wendy Knizek

Brief remarks were then given by Dan Rich, Michael Smith and newly installed MLGG Kim Bilbrey.



Grand Wielder Terry Maloney being presented his 30 year old bottle of scotch

That evening, the Edmonton Convention culminated with a cocktail reception and Grand Banquet and Ball, where we enjoyed great food, great fellowship, and great entertainment. Audience participation was also on the agenda as Aria Kohlruss sang a lovely Blue Goose song, PMLGG Joe Coccia sat in on drums, cowbell completion, music trivia and an Elvis Presley dance-off. Grand Wielder Terry Maloney was presented with a 30 year old bottle of Scotch, commemorating his 30th year at that position.

Grand Nest History

awards



First Time Attendees
receiving their certificates
from PMLGG/GNH John
Bishop



The Eastern Region receiv-
ing their Regional Challenge
Award from JA Lorena
Kohlruess



Members of the BC Pond
receiving their Regional
Best Percentage Increase



Grand Wielder Maloney presenting the Regional
Awards for Most New & Re-Instated and Best Percent-
age Increase



Members of the Quebec
Pond receiving their Re-
gional Most
New and
Re-instated Award.



Members of
the
BC Pond re-
ceiving their
Community
Service Award
from Grand
Custodian
Dan Rich

The Hartford
Pond was the
winner of the
International
Scholarship
Award



Grand Nest History

awards



The International Gordon Crowther Charity Award was won by the Michigan Pond



The International Communication Award was won by both the Edmonton Pond and Texas Pond. Shown are members of the Edmonton Pond.



PMLG Brennen Mills of the Saskatchewan Pond receiving the International Charity Fund Award on behalf of the Pond



Central Region
Dick Chenard

Ganders of the Year



Eastern Region
Lisa Kane (Wendy Hubbard accepting on her behalf)



Southern Region
Mary Kay Marchetti



Canadian Region
Jacque Cuierrier

Grand Nest History

Minutes of the Grand Nest Mid-Year Meeting June 4, 2018 Zoom Teleconferencing

In Attendance

Kim Bilbrey
Lorena Kohlruss
Keith Strohecker

John Bishop
Linda Meik
Randy Wilson

Joe Coccia
Dan Rich

Archie Gillis
Mark Robertson

General Discussion on Dues

Ontario just paid in full, Canadian Region will be OK. In the Central region, Mid-Missouri has an outstanding balance of \$2,342. They have made a settlement with Terry and have sent in a cheque. Eastern region has some credits, but still owes \$580 mostly from Penn (\$1,215) and NYC (\$377). Archie reminded us that dues are payable to GN on Sept. 30, and said that when all of the various Pond credits are factored in, there is still a \$2,100 outstanding balance today for 2017-2018. It was suggested that a document outlining time frames for dues payments might be helpful to the Ponds. Mark will talk to membership by region-Central 30.86%, Southern 15.24%, Canadian 36.4% and Eastern 17.5%

Edmonton Convention

Currently at approximately 130, including 12 youth. Youth registration is \$50 early and \$75 late. Mark is expecting more from Western Canada, Ontario will send two delegates. Edmonton is well funded and one of the highlights of the convention will be a Ukrainian dinner. Mark will send the Master Agenda Script to the officers.

There was some discussion about the breakout meetings as a panel discussion, either on a regional or general session basis. Possible topics include Future Conventions which historically has been a big draw. This is a way for our current Grand Nest Officers to mentor interested Ponds. We should push that conventions can be hosted by smaller Ponds as long as they have an early start and are organized early. Another possible topic is Pond financial procedures where we should stress the need for accurate bank records, multiple signers, and timely dues payments. One more possible topic was new membership strategies. These meetings may be in addition to the "Regional breakout meetings.

A question was raised about the feasibility of all GN Officers giving Addresses of Acceptance. Mark will be seeking GN Convention Fund Reimbursement per the Edmonton Budget. Canadian Relief will be paid per the Edmonton Budget. Future Mid-Year Meetings will have to decide on their format, virtual or face to face options.

Kim Bilbrey 2019 Indianapolis

Has convention assets of \$79K. First convention with truncated fund raising period due to regional realignment. There have been some problems with PEC and their contract. New PEC personnel are unfamiliar with our program and this has caused some frustration with PEC. Next year's Mid-Year will be in Orlando at the Embassy Suites on February 15th and 16th.

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Grand Nest History

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Dan Rich 2020 Hartford

Has convention assets of \$77K. Regional accounts receivable pledges total \$9,500. The Pond has also pledged \$5K for 2018, 2019, and 2020. Corporate Sponsors are next big push.

Michael Smith 2021 Tampa

Michael's committee has just selected Tampa as their convention site, no specific venue decided.

Committee Reports

Keeper's Report-Archie is meeting with Terry next week.

Membership Report-Linda reported for Kim. Ponds are not responding to "Rush for Ganders" initiative. No one is really doing it and are saying that recruitment is done throughout the year with few formal Rush events. Retention is a problem and it is hard to promote a culture with so much turnover. She found the book "**Retention Wars**" by Mark Levin to be very insightful.

Communication & Marketing-Michael's Committee has proposed standardizing our website under the auspices of a central webmaster host. The websites would then be customizable by the Ponds. The committee is requesting authorization to draft a Request for Proposal that we can then send out into the marketplace. Some of our Ponds have been active in social media (Facebook and Linked In) but we are not sure how effective that has been. Linda asked if we should have this website discussion before the entire general session in Edmonton. There are pros and cons to the idea, because although some Ponds still have no website, others have terrific and well maintained websites they are proud of. Perhaps we should allow Ponds to opt in or out?

Charity-Dan's Committee is last year's Gordon Crowther Award winner-the Cincinnati Pond. None of the committee members will be present in Edmonton. They will select winners of the same four awards as last year.

1. **Community Service Award**, for the Pond that volunteers their services to a local charity.
2. **Charity Fund Award**, awarded to the Pond that has raised funds for local charities by including all of their membership in their fund-raising efforts.
3. **Scholarship Award**, awarded to the Pond that provided one or more scholarships to deserving individuals and the effort displayed in raising these funds.
4. The **Gordon Crowther Charity Award**, for the overall outstanding Pond.

Seventeen applications have been received as of today.

History-John Bishop has sent out a letter to the Ponds asking them what they are doing about their history. There have been some good responses but not enough. Dan has picked up another large amount of archives (two shipping crates and 2 bankers boxes from Joanne Hale, and she still has more in her house. We have started to regionalize the archives as some went to Savannah last year and some was shipped to Dustin Bales this years. Dan is trying to reconcile what he has against the master spreadsheet and is arranging things into regional groupings.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Rich, Grand Custodian on behalf of Grand Wielder Terry Maloney

Grand Nest History

Grand Nest Officer's Pre-Convention Agenda Tuesday, July 10, 2018 The Weston Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta

1. Welcome to the 112th Grand Nest Convention-MLGG Mark Robertson
2. Roll Call of Current Officers
3. Roll Call of Past Officers and Guests
4. Overview of Edmonton Convention-MLGG Mark Robertson
5. Budget reports pending convention sites,
Financial progress report **including comparison** of previous reports is expected for this Discussion. Budgets need to be emailed to MLGG Robertson and GKGGE Gillis by June 15th. If you need an extension please email MLGG. Please also forward to PMLGG's Wilson, Olson and Meik who are on the committee. We need an opportunity to Review each of them prior to the convention.
6. Archives-John Bishop/Dan Rich give a status update.
7. Audit Committee report by GKGGE Archie Gillis.
8. Reports by GWGQ on membership, dues and related business for the past fiscal year. Terry Maloney to lead discussion.
 - a- Membership Summary
 - b-Top 10 Ponds and Membership
 - c-Review past dues list
 - d-Delegates Not Reported
 - e-Pond Reports-No Reports Received
 - f-Award Presentation List
 - g-Grand Nest Officers Expense Reporting
 - h-Blue Goose Database (users)
9. Established Grand Nest Committee Report presentations:
 - a. Charity-Dan Rich
 - b. Constitution and By-Laws & Jurisprudence-Lorena Kohlruss
 - c. Communication and Marketing-Michael Smith
 - d. Convention and Budget Oversight-Archie Gillis
 - e. Financial Guide-Archie Gillis
 - f. Membership and Retention-Kim Bilbrey
10. Report by current officers of regional concerns. Provide a Pond by Pond status update
 - a. Central-Kim Bilbrey
 - b. Eastern-Dan Rich
 - c. Canadian-Mark Robertson
 - d. Southern-Michael Smith
11. Presentation of awards to winning Ponds
12. Officer nomination-Nominator, Seconder, Closer, Remind Seconder and Closer to limit their time.
13. Newly elected officer to be installed by
14. New Business

Grand Nest History

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting Tuesday July 10th, 2018 The Weston Edmonton, Edmonton Alberta

1. MLGG Mark Robertson welcomed all to Edmonton
2. All current GN Officers were in attendance except GSF Bilbrey. PMLGG's Coccia, Wilson, Charon, Meik, and Paris also attended.
3. MLGG Robertson stated 150 attendees, 28 first timers and up to 50 guests at selected events.
4. All 4 GN officers presented their on-going convention budgets. They were discussed and based on their progress, each budget was acceptable. Edmonton has a \$150,000 budget. GKGGE Archie Gillis filed a financial comparison of previous conventions.
5. GNH Bishop and GCG Dan Rich gave an update on the archives. In the future, GHN Bishop will coordinate a regional presentation of our archives at conventions to minimize costs, less chance of loss and offer a nice rotation of materials.
6. GKGGE Gillis filed his audit report to be switched to code 430. Unanimous vote.
7. GWGQ Maloney presented a slight decrease in membership despite approximately 400 new members. Request was made to have the Regional GN Officers contact each Regional Pond at least 3 times each year and check the log user system to verify Ponds being active. Change will be made for the Crowther Award and Gander of the Year. These two requests for nominations will be sent around February 1st to all GN Regional Officers to solicit all Ponds involvement.
8. All committee reports were presented and discussed. They will be published.
9. **Central Regional Concerns:** Cincinnati may shut down. Current Officers are burnt out. Mid-Missouri remains with only 4 members active. Colorado is alive but not connected to International. Ohio Pond is back with Jane returning as active. **Eastern Region Concerns:** Bay State has 63 members but not connected very well to International. Garden State turned in charter. Penn has 4 solid members and needs help. Westchester only has Lisa Kane. **Canadian Region Concerns:** Ontario functioning but no communication. **Southern Region Concerns:** Georgia needs leaders to become a Pond. Charlotte has a new WGQ will help a lot. Alabama has 12 new members. Arizona is withering. Tennessee needs a full slate of officers not all left to Kathy.
10. Award presentations were determined.
11. Nominators were confirmed.
12. Installation of the 2018-2019 GN Officers were assigned.
13. PMLGG Wilson discussed whether GN wanted to pursue and "ethics violation" in the matter of the Chicago Pond. JA Kohlruess expressed concern in doing this. GN Officers were unanimous to not pursue this course of action.
14. Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ



Members taking part in the convention Memorial Service for deceased Ganders

Grand Nest History

Grand Nest Officers' Post Convention Agenda July 14, 2018

The Westin Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta

1. Roll call of active officers
2. Roll call of past officers and guests in attendance
3. Appointments confirmed by MLGG for GWGQ, JA, GNH, GKGGE
4. Grand Wielder contract executed and signed by the GN Officers
5. Bank cards and resolution executed and signed by MLGG
6. Approval of Grand Nest Officers' expenses to this convention, excluded is incoming GCG
7. Discussion and approval of the budget for 2018-2019
8. Set mid-year Executive Meeting date and place
9. Annual Budget Review
10. Obtain GCG 4x5 glossy and white photo for bulletin and black ink signature for Erffmeyer plaques.
11. GN Officers Committee & Regional Meetings and give roll calls to GWGQ
12. Assignment of Grand Nest Officer's duties.
13. Committee and deputy appointments
14. Mileage rate for 2018-2019 is 54.5 cents per mile (U.S.\$)
15. Canadian exchange relief is .75 cents for 2018-2019
16. New and unfinished business



Model Initiation Team from the BC Pond

Grand Nest History

**Grand Nest Officers
Post Convention Minutes
Saturday, July 14, 2018
The Westin Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta**

1. All the Current GN Officers were in attendance.
 2. GN expenses for Edmonton convention. GCG Smith made motion to approve, GSF Rich second. Unanimous.
 3. GSF Rich indicated the mid-year meeting will be in Orlando, February 15th-17th at Embassy Suite. \$139/night.
 4. GGN Knizek was reminded to send us a 5X7 colour photo for the bulletin.
 5. MLGG Bilbrey confirmed appointments of GWGQ, JA, GNH and GKGGE. Only change is PMLGG Linda Meik will be the new GKGGE.
 6. GWGQ contract was executed.
 7. Bank resolution executed and signed by MLGG Bilbrey.
 8. Discussion for the budget for 2018-2019 with unanimous approval.
 9. Minutes and roll calls for the Regional meetings are to be submitted to GWGQ.
 10. GN Officers duties:
 - a. GGN Knizek-Charity along with Michigan Pond
 - b. GCG Smith-Membership
 - c. GSF Rich-Communication and Marketing
 - d. JA Kohlruss-Constitution and By-Laws/Jurisprudence
 - e. GKGGE Meik, PMLGG's Wilson, Robertson and Olson for Budget and Convention Oversight.
 11. Mileage rate for 2018-2019 is 54.5 cents per USA mile.
 12. Canadian exchange rate for 2018-2019 is .75
 13. MLGG Bilbrey said her goal for this year is "Positivity". Help everyone be not judgemental. We all need to make an effort to respond within 3-4 days of any request.
 14. First Skype call will be in October 2018
 15. Motion to adjourn.
- Fraternally Submitted
Terry Maloney, GWGQ



Ganders from the Michigan Pond enjoying the entertainment at lunch

Grand Nest History

GN Web Meeting, November 1, 2018

Agenda

1. Review of Pre & Post Convention Minutes
2. Report on membership, Dues, & software (outstanding dues to date & user report status). How are we going to get the delinquent Pond's dues current???
3. State of government fillings of each Pond
4. Regional Updates (each GN officer should include what Ponds are sending us a Rush event, any other pertinent Pond info for each of the Region pond's and the strength of each Pond. Do they have their financial status properly accounted for ?)
5. What possible membership recruitment ideas does everyone have?
6. Update on central mailbox process?
7. Quick update on upcoming conventions
8. Update in person mid-year Orlando.
9. Discussion on PEC and the future of the PEC business.
10. Any misc.
11. Tote Fare.

Minutes of the "Sky" Call

1. All GN Officers present and PMLGG Coccia.
2. GWGQ Maloney went thru the pre and post minutes of Edmonton convention. After reviewing Dan Rich made a motion to approve and Linda Meik seconded. Unanimous
3. MLGG Bilbrey asked each officer to contact each pond about their dues by November 15th and report to us. GWGQ Maloney asked each GN Officer to review each pond's log for activity in the membership program.
4. Linda Meik asked each GN Officer to check with their ponds to see if they have filed the IRS 990 report for good standing with the IRS. USA only. GWGQ Maloney will email the forms each GN Officer for that purpose.
5. Wendy Knizek said Canada region is stable. New Puddle for BC-VIP Puddle (Vancouver Island). She will review log and ledger of each pond.
6. Mike Smith reached out to the Southern Ponds for financial help for the convention. Florida had a rush for members. The Florida golf outing cancelled due to hurricane.
7. Dan Rich said Bay State has periodic events but no one has taken ownership. Hartford had 23 at first meeting and made \$5,000 at their golf outing. Westchester is on life support with Lisa Kane being the glue. NYC has regular events with Nardulli in charge. Garden State has turned in charter. Penn has 2 people running everything need support. National Capital is flourishing.
8. In the Central region St. Louis is solid. Wisconsin has 4 or 5 events and has had a rush. Michigan is terrific. Cincinnati has a tired board and needs others to step up. Ohio has Jane Rogaliner back and will be helpful to the Indy Convention. West Virginia puddle will host the central mid-year meeting. Active

(Continued on page 18)

Grand Nest History

(Continued from page 17)

- on Facebook and has had 3 golf outings. Indy is having an officer change.
9. MLGG Bilbrey has visited St. Louis, Virginia and plans to visit Nashville, Louisville, Florida, Fargo, Quebec and Michigan.
 10. JA Kohlruss setup a Google drive. She will setup a template with historical convention material. Linda Meik will assist and will accept future material.
 11. Indy convention registration went live today along with the hotel.
 12. Dan Rich introduced his convention Logo. Committee is functioning and they have \$88,000 so far.
 13. Mike Smith said Linda Meik is his finance chair. JA Kohlruss will set up a budget for the south. The South fund is \$15,676. The region promised \$35,000. Registration should provide \$40,000. Question is this a Florida or Southern Convention? Plan is to raise \$35,000 in corporate sponsorship.\
 14. BC is just starting the process.
 15. The Convention Planner, PEC, is meeting with GWGQ Maloney in regard to reviewing the new planner/owner's contract before moving forward after Hartford.
 16. GWGQ Maloney noted that the Edmonton Convention committee donated \$12,000 CND to the GN Nest.
 17. PMLGG Coccia the bulletin just released and the new GN Officers need to be updated on the web. Also encouraged MLGG Bilbrey to travel to the ponds as she had stated.
 18. The Hartford midyear meeting will be Feb15-17, 2019 in Orlando at the Embassy Suites.

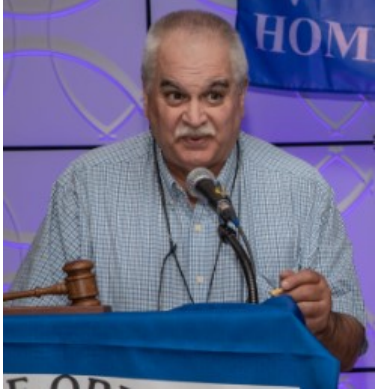
Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ



We were guests of the Ukrainian Community dressed in beautiful costume and carrying jell-o shooters that were delish!

Grand Nest History



Fellow Grand Nest Officers and Ganders,

It is indeed an honour to continue my duties as Grand Historian. I thank MLGG Kim for this opportunity and I assure all that I will carry out my duties with greatest respect for where this organization has come from.

A lot has been achieved with regards to our history but there is still much to do. First and foremost I want to thank Grand Supervisor Dan Rich for his unwavering assistance in collecting and correlating archival items. Dan has found and collected most of the items and information handed down over time, and he has separated it into regions, making it easier to feature item from the hosting region at convention.

PMLGG John Bishop

We will continue to collect annual information in order to keep the Grand Nest history current. But more has to be done in terms of the Ponds and their histories. I want to encourage all the Ponds to make a history of your own Pond if not started already. One of my projects this year will be to develop some help for you in the form of a brochure that will be found on the Blue Goose website that you will be able to use as a reference. Remember the history of the Pond will be lost if not recorded for the future.

Again I say it is an honour to serve Grand Nest in this capacity and I assure you all that I will do my best in carrying out my duties.

Fraternally,

John C. Bishop
PMLGG/Grand Historian



2018-2019 Grand Nest Executive

Back row-Grand Historian John Bishop, Grand Custodian Michael Smith, Tim Bilbrey (Husband of MLGG Kim Bilbrey), Grand Supervisor Dan Rich (wife Sue), Grand Wielder Terry Maloney

Front row-Judge Advocate Lorena Kohlruss, Grand Guardian Wendy Knizek, MLGG Kim Bilbrey, Lynn Maloney (wife of Terry), Grand Keeper PMLGG Linda Meik

Grand Nest History

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders



PMLGG Guy Charron (2013) and wife Johanne



PMLGG Randy Wilson (2016) and wife Libby



PMLGG Mark Robertson (2018) and wife Peggy



PMLGG Marc Thurber (1998)

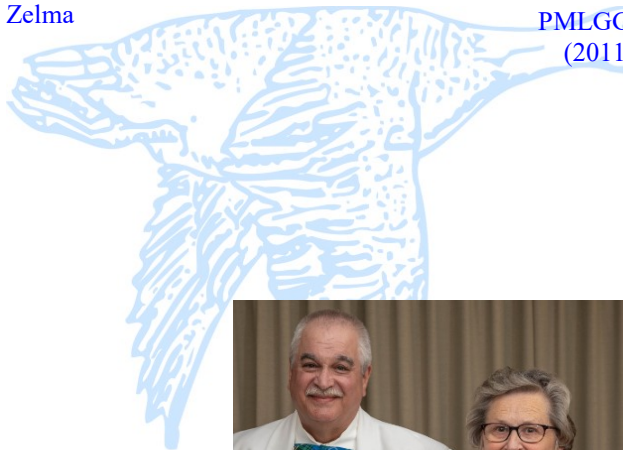
Grand Nest History



PMLGG John Paris (2014) and wife
Zelma



PMLGG Drummer Joe Coccia
(2011) and wife Courtney



PMLGG John Bishop (2003) and
PMLGG Linda Meik (2017)

Grand Nest History



Dancing the night away



Ganders on stage at Grand Ball



Extraordinary
Entertainer



Beating the night away

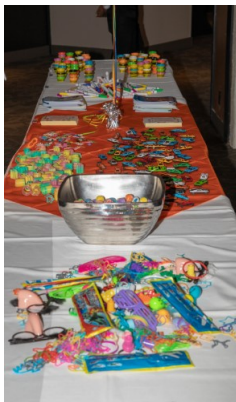


Canadian Geese

Grand Nest History



Filling bags with goodies
for the Children's Hospital



Goodies to go in the bags for
the Children's Hospital



Grand Wielder Maloney presenting a gift
to now PMLGG Robertson



From left to right:
Grand Wielder Terry Maloney, PMLGG Mark Robertson,
PMLG and Grand Nest Photographer Neil Miller, and PMLG
and Convention Chair Andrew Happer



It's Magic!



And
Again

Grand Nest History



PMLGG Joe Coccia swearing in the new Grand Nest Executive



Delegates and wives enjoying the pre-Grand Ball libations



PMLG Donna Harwood



They told PMLGG Guy Charron that it was supposed to rain...inside!



Grand Ball Entertainment



Fun times at the Ball