

# **History of the Grand Nest Honourable Order of the Blue Goose**

**2018-2019**



**113 Grand Nest Convention  
Alexander Hotel  
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA  
July 11-13, 2019**

**Kim Bilbrey, MLGG**

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

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**Editor's Note:** Due to space constraints we are not able to include complete reports in this history. If you wish to obtain full copies, I suggest you contact the Grand Wielder. I would also like to give a big shout out to MLGG Dan Rich for the convention report and to various photographers for posting their talents on Facebook, that source , as well as those provided by PMLGG Bilbrey were invaluable in providing pictures for this publication.



## Grand Nest Officers 2018-2019



GSOF Dan Rich



MLGG Kim Bilbrey



GWGQ Terry  
Maloney



JA Lorena Kohlruss



GGON Wendy Knizek



GKGGE Linda Meik



GNH John C. Bishop

# Grand Nest History



## Blue Goose Holds Grand Nest Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana

160 Ganders, spouses, guests, and children from across the US and Canada journeyed to Indianapolis, Indiana to attend the 113th Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention from July 16-19, 2019. The convention was held at the beautiful Alexander Hotel within walking distance to dozens of shops, restaurants, and attractions.

### Tuesday July 16, 2019

The Grand Nest Officers met on Tuesday morning and afternoon. Ganders who registered for the Convention Golf Tournament has a 10:15 start at Southern Dunes Golf.

Dinner was a fabulous experience at Chef JJ's Downtown-a dinner experience unlike anything most of us have ever had. It was a competitive cooking dinner, modeled after the popular television cooking competition shows. What a fun and unique way to kick things off!

### Wednesday July 17, 2019

Prior to the evening's Welcome Party, we had a volunteer Giveback Bingo game for charity, and two special meetings-a mandatory parent's meeting and a get together to welcome our first timers conventioners where MLGG Kim Bilbrey and her fellow Grand Nest Officers answered questions about Blue Goose. They were given distinctive red shirts which entitled them to special privileges at the food and drink lines throughout the balance of the convention. We had a great dinner, Pond pins were traded and it was a wonderful time as we caught up with old friends to start the convention.



New Members

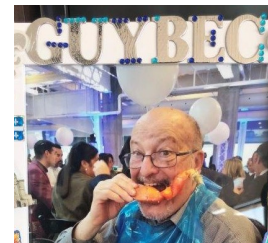
### Thursday July 18, 2019

After a full breakfast, we returned to the Alexander Ballroom as the 113th Grand Nest Meeting was ready to get underway. MLGG Kim Bilbrey welcomed the group and gavelled the meeting to order.

The flags were presented by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Military Honour Guard, which consisted of members from all branches of the US Armed Forces, and then Ashley Martin led us in the singing of O Canada and the Star-Spangled Banner. The invocation was given by Jim Myer of the St. Louis Pond.

Our Keynote Speaker was Becky Edgren, owner of several Puroclean offices across Ohio. She was a gifted motivational speaker and spoke about ethics and honesty, respect, leadership, business development and catastrophe planning. There was a continuation of the light-hearted merriment we experienced at last year's Edmonton Convention concerning the GUY-BEC Pond and beloved PMLGG Guy Charron. Guy was presented with a framed photo of himself taken at the Quebec Pond's Lobster Party.

The Convention's Memorial Service was conducted by Carrie Miler, Wendy Goetz, and Janice Folzenlogen of the Cincinnati Pond. In honour of the Indianapolis 500 race, the Michigan Pond conducted a very entertaining racing themed Model Initia-



PMLGG Guy

# Grand Nest History

The Convention's Memorial Service was conducted by members of the Cincinnati Pond. They spoke poignantly and eloquently of the Order's life Members that had passed away.

In honour of the Indianapolis 500 race, the Michigan Pond conducted a very entertaining racing themed Model Initiation Ceremony, complete with human race cars zipping around a race track that had been recreated on the floor. Seven goslings were marched in and initiated by the team. Congratulations to the Cincinnati Pond for performing the Memorial Service and to the Michigan Pond for the Initiation Service.

The all Industry Luncheon was next with entertainment by comic magician Daniel Lusk. After lunch, the Regional breakout meetings followed and delegates met to discuss the issues facing their respective regions. After the regional meetings, the youth and spouses and guests returned from their outings and we all walked together to Punch Bowl Social for dinner and entertainment. The night winded down with another Hospitality Suite, hosted by the Cincinnati Pond. It should be noted a lot of food was leftover after the Hospitality suite wound down and was taken to the homeless outside nearby, truly a gesture representing one the pillars of our Order.



## Friday July 19, 2019

After breakfast, the convention resumed, and we enjoyed a presentation for the 2020 Convention to be held in Hartford, CT. We saw a video promoting the Hartford attractions and the key features of the convention.

Following the Hartford presentation reports were given by all of the Grand Nest Officers and are available through the Grand Wielder. The morning's program continued with the presentation of the 2019 Grand Nest Awards. To see a complete list of winners I invited you to read the Convention write-up at [bluegoose.org](http://bluegoose.org)

At lunch we were entertained by a talented singer guitarist named Tanya Matz. Spouse and Guests had an afternoon trip to an Axe Throwing range while the business meeting culminated with the installation of the Grand Nest Officers for 2019-2020. Judge Advocate Lorena Kohlruss, Grand Wielder Terry Maloney and Grand Nest Historian John Bishop will continue to serve in their respective roles. Joseph Lothschutz will serve as the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. The Grand Nest's newest elected officer, Steve Carson, shared his thoughts with the convention, and thanked everyone "for this opportunity to be part of the leadership of this most Honourable Order" Steve has been a Blue Goose member since 2001, has served on the Michigan Pond's Board and is their current Most Loyal Gander. He also manages the Michigan Pond's website.



In his Address of Acceptance, new MLGG Dan Rich said some of the faces in Hartford have changed, but what has never changed is "our collective dedication to charity, community service and of course, fellowship."





# Grand Nest History

MLGG Rich acknowledged his mentorship under the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders from Hartford (Gordon Crowther and Jerry Hale). And the critical need to add and retain new and younger members.

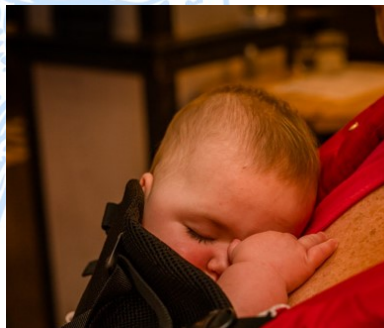
That evening, the Indianapolis Convention culminated with a cocktail reception and Grand Banquet and Ball, where we enjoyed great food, great fellowship, and great entertainment. Music was provided by Three Road Junction and the Endless Summer Band. Everyone was up dancing and all had a great time. Audience participation was also on the agenda as PMLGG Joe Coccia sat in on drums for a few tunes.

The Dayton Pond and Central Region hosted an outstanding convention and we were all impressed by their hospitality and their creativity. We are very grateful to the Convention Committee for their efforts to plan and produce such a thoroughly enjoyable event.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Rich. MLGG.

**(Editor's Note: The full and complete convention report can be found on the Blue Goose website under convention reports)**



Future Gander



The Newest Grand Nest Officer



Karaoke Quartet

# Grand Nest History

## Webcast agenda

1. Review of pre and 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 filings of each pond.
4. Regional Updates (each GN officer should include what Ponds are setting as a RUSH event, any other pertinent pond info for each of the Region ponds 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 system.
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.

## Webcast minutes

November 1, 2018 Teleconference Grand Nest Officers Meeting

1. All GN officers present and PMLGG Joe Coccia
2. GWGQ Maloney went through 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 Nov. 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 their IRS 990 report for good standing with IRS. USA only. GWGQ Maloney will email the forms to 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. Florida golf outing cancelled due to hurricane storm.
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 their charter. Penn State has 2 people running everything, need support. National Capital is flourishing.

# Grand Nest History

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 midyear meeting, active 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 set up 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 setup 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 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 Grand Nest.
17. PMLGG Joe 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 mid-year meeting will be Feb 15-17 on Orlando at the Embassy Suites.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Maloney. GWGQ





# Grand Nest History

## Grand Nest Mid-Year Meeting Embassy Suites, Orlando, Florida February 16,2019

1. MLGG Bilbrey called meeting to order.
2. GSOF Rich welcomed all and went thru the logistics.
3. GWGQ Maloney did roll call. GN Officers Bilbrey, Rich, Knizek, Meik and Maloney were in attendance. PMLGG Strohecker and Wilson along with Ganders Partridge, Mullen and Brady were in attendance.
4. GWGQ Maloney went thru the outstanding dues report. After checks were given to me the dues were less than \$10,000. Excellent support from the GN officers.
5. MLGG Bilbrey informed us that GN officer Smith has resigned. MLGG Bilbrey asked Linda Meik and Keith Strohecker to oversee the South. MLGG Bilbrey and JA Kohlruss have decided that there will be a Southern Region convention organized by GWGQ Maloney and Cheryl McShane as our Planner. Cheryl will research which is the best, affordable and attractive location for our membership. Dan Rich, Linda and Keith will do a search to fill the GN officer position from the best candidate the South has to offer for election to the remaining term.
6. PMLGG Robertson's report on the Edmonton convention was presented. \$64,000 surplus. 140 attendance. Almost \$12,000 returned to GN. \$10,000 plus to Children's Hospital. \$5,000 to Food program. \$5,000 to their Charity Gala. \$20,000 donation to the BC Convention fund. \$3,000 misc. to convention expenses. \$8,400 to Edmonton Pond for operations.
7. Linda Meik obtained and presented a \$10,000 donation for the Indy convention.
8. GWGQ Maloney stated the insurance is stable and the web site is undergoing a new look with timing before Indy.
9. GWGQ is on a positive note for this in part to Edmonton's return of funds.
10. Eastern Region. Bay State needs to get more engaged. Garden State turned in their Charter. Natl. Capital, Hartford and NYC are stable. Penn needs new officers, they are declining.
11. Canadian Region. BC, Edmonton and Alberta are solid. Laurel is the WGQ of Ontario, hopefully better communication.
12. Southern Region. Linda Meik reported. Alabama has 28 members now, success. Charlotte has 39. Tennessee needs new officers or there will be issues. Texas & Virginia are fine. Arizona is over.
13. Central Region. Cincinnati, Dayton & Indy are regrouping. NE Ohio has had no activity. Columbus is doing great. Peace Garden has issues.
14. MLGG Bilbrey reported on her term in office so far. She has and will continue to travel to various Ponds. Discussion was regarding if any Ponds are having a 100 year celebration? Kim expressed her "passion" for her role and will work as hard as she can for the rest of the year.
15. MLGG Bilbrey asked Wendy Knizek to head up the Charity & Education and get a report ready for the Convention.
16. JA Kohlruss said there were no issues for the Jurisprudence and Constitutional committees.
17. GNH Bishop histories are up to date. Dan Rich continues to regionalize the Archive presentations at the conventions.
18. Kevin Brady and Bob Partridge are the Hartford Co-Chairs. Convention funds are overseen by Mullen and by Hale.
19. July 19-21 is the Hartford convention at the Marriott Downtown Hartford.
20. Linda Meik will take over the Membership committee. MMLGG Wilson will send us the St. Louis

# Grand Nest History

Pond's PDF for the membership Chairman's job description. St. Louis uses this position to insure a good Pond officer comes from this Chair.

21. Dan Rich is asking the Marketing committee what are we doing to promote BG? Is there a way to standardize these concepts? The Communication report will be presented in Indy.
22. Linda Meik presented an update financial guide draft. Hopefully finalized in Indy. There should be a Canadian version. Discussion on setting up a procedure for oversight of the Ponds will continue to be discussed.
23. GN did their oversight of all the convention budgets. All looked well.
24. PMLGG Coccia asked the GN officers to discuss how the name and Charter of the Ohio Pond was changed to the Columbus Pond. If the Pond wants a name change he suggested a formal request at the next convention be made for an official name change

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Maloney, GWGQ

**(Editor's note: The mid-year meeting was sponsored by the Hartford Pond Convention, and held in Orlando, Florida. It was felt that this would be a more economical and easier location for the Executive to attend. Kim Bilbrey lead the Grand Nest Officers in the business of Grand Nest and appointed MLGG Linda Meik to fill the role of COG and picked PMLGG Keith Strohecker to assist her in covering the GKGGE's duties.)**



The Model Initiation "Crew"



Member enjoying themselves at the opening ceremony. On the screen at back are slides from previous conventions



Convention Newbie's!



Caricatures' were done at the Welcome Party

# Grand Nest History

## Grand Nest Officers' Pre-Convention Agenda Tuesday, July 16, 2019 9:00 am-Noon Alexander Hotel, Indianapolis, In

1. Welcome to the 113th Grand nest Convention-MLGG Bilbrey 9:00-9:20
2. Roll call of current officers 9:20-9:22
3. Roll call of past officers ad guests 9:22-9:25
4. Budget reports on pending convention sites 9:25-10:00. Financial progress reports including comparisons of previous reports is expected for this discussion. Budgets need to be mailed to MLGG Bilbrey and GKGGE Meik by June 15th.
5. Archives-John Bishop/Dan Rich give a status update 10:00-10:10
6. Audit committee report by GKGGE Meik/PMLGG Strohecker 10:10-10:20
7. Education-PLRB & Other Conference promotions 10:20-10:45

### Break 10:45-11:00

8. Future Web Hosting for Ponds 10:45-11:30

### Break for Lunch-Off Site Meeting to resume at 2:00-4:00

9. Reports by GWGW on membership, dues and related business for the past fiscal year. Terry Maloney to lead discussion 2:00-2:20
  - a. Membership Summary
  - b. Top 10 Ponds and Membership
  - c. Review past dues list
  - d. Delegates Not Reported
  - e. Ponds Reports-No Reports Received
  - f. Award Presentation List
  - g. Grand nest Officer's Expense Reporting
  - h. Blue Goose Database (users)
10. Established Grand Nest Committee Report presentations 2:20-3:00
  - a. Charity-Wendy Knizek
  - b. Constitution and By-Laws & Jurisprudence-Lorena Kohlruss
  - c. Communication and Marketing-Dan Rich
  - d. Convention and Budget Oversight-Linda Meik/Keith Strohecker
  - e. Financial Guide-Linda Meik
  - f. Membership ad Retention-Linda Meik
11. Report by current officers of regional concerns. Provide a Pond by Pond status update 3:00-3:45
  - a. Central-Kim Bilbrey
  - b. Eastern-Dan Rich
  - c. Canadian-Wendy Knizek
  - d. Southern-Linda Meik

# Grand Nest History

GNO Invited Bourbon/Wine /Cigar Testing 5:00-6:30  
Grand nest Officer's & Member Dinner-Chef JJ's 7:00-10:00  
Hospitality sponsored by St. Louis 10:30-12:00

Wednesday, July 17, 2019  
9:00am-11:00 am  
Alexander Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

The 1st 3 items should be covered and finalized in 10-15 minutes, 9:00-9:15

1. Presentation of awards to winning Ponds by:
  - a. Membership Cup (Best % Increase) -GGN Meik
  - b. Most First Timers (Peace Garden)-GNH John Bishop
  - c. Communication Award-GSOF Rich
  - d. Regional Challenge Cup-JA Lorena Kohlruess
  - e. Regional Growth Awards-GWGQ Maloney
    1. Most New and Reinstated Members
    2. Best % Increase
  - f. Charity/Education Awards-GCOG Knizek
    1. Community Service Award
    2. Charity Fund Award
    3. Scholarship Award
    4. Gordon Crowther Award-Charity Committee Chair
  - g. Gander of the Year Award-MLGG Bilbrey.
2. Officer nominations-Nominator, Seconder, Closer (remind seconder and closer to limit their time)  
**Most Loyal Grand Gander:** Nominator/Seconder/Closer  
**Grand Supervisor:** Nominator/Seconder/Closer  
**Grand Custodian:** Nominator/Seconder/Closer  
**Grand Guardian:** Nominator/Seconder/Closer
3. Newly elected officers to be installed by ???
  - a. Officers' Pinette and Ribbon Presentation-?
  - b. MLGG Ribbon Presentation-?
  - c. PMLGG Pinette Presentation
  - d. PMLGG Plaque Presentation
4. New Business-9:15-10:45
5. Wrap-up 10:45-11:00
6. Adjourn at 11:00

**optional Tour to Indy Motor Speedway 11:00-3:00**



# Grand Nest History

## Grand Nest Pre-Convention Minutes Tuesday, July 16th, 2019 Alexander Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

1. MLGG Bilbrey welcomed all!
2. All current GN officers were in attendance plus PMLGGs Strohecker, Coccia, Paris, Charron, Olson and Zeldam.
3. GKGGE Meik passed out the general budgets for the 4 regions. Committee members Meik, Olson, Wilson and Strohecker had reviewed all 4 budgets. Various discussions and suggestions made. Fund raising and sharing those sponsors were discussed in length. Consideration was discussed for an August convention format once again. Getting the best candidate for GN from each Region needs to be paramount for the Order. The convention site can be anywhere and the Convention site committee headed by JA Kohlruss will guide the Regions.
4. GSF Rich has done a great job in separating the traveling Archives by Region. He and GNH Bishop will keep track of who has the Archives and of what the inventory consists. GNH Bishop is developing a Guide for Ponds to gather historical information and develop a link for our history on the web.
5. GKGGE Meik and PMLGG Strohecker will provide an audit report to the members.
6. The Education committee noted that PMLGG Wilson will be on the PLRB Board the next 3 years. GKGGE Meik is working with the PLRB to support BG and BG would reciprocate. GKGGE Meik will be in attendance at the next PLRB meeting in Charlotte, NC.
7. GWGQ Maloney and SOF Garrett Maloney provided an initial concept of a new web design which will enhance our recruitment and Google popularity. Further discussion needs to take place. There will be an attempt to setup a conference call with the 3rd party developer in late August.
8. GWGQ Maloney provided reports on our membership. Small decrease in total membership this past year.
9. GWGQ Maloney stated the Canadian Exchange will continue at the 1.25% maximum for this next year.
10. GSF Rich led discussion on his concern over what will take place to BG over the next 10 years.
11. GOP Knizek produced the Charity report which will be provided to the membership. PMLGG Olson stated that he will do a Charity article for BG to hopefully be published by a Natl. insurance magazine for spotlighting our Organization.
12. JA Kohlruss stated there were no issues for the Constitution and By-Laws committee. Columbus was changed back to their charter name of Ohio Pond.
13. GSF Rich is leading a teleconference call for the new web site in August. Questions will be needed in advance. Discussed possibility of starting a "Young Ganders" group. There will be a follow up in August.
14. Linda Meik, Chair of the Convention Oversight committee indicated all budgets were in for this meeting. Terry indicated that the budget for next year may be off due to a possible cost for the GN hotel rooms in Indy. When a bill for the current officers is received, he will notify the GN Officers.
15. GKGGE Meik presented a new financial guide for the Ponds. The guide provides solid financial management techniques to hopefully avoid concerns of the funds obtained by the Ponds.
16. GKGGE Meik provided a membership handout for future use by the Ponds.
17. Central region concerns:

# Grand Nest History

- Ohio may see Jane Rogaliner step out of the picture. New leadership needs to be found.  
NE OHIO has had no activity in 2 years and 1 leader. There is concern about them being obsolete.  
Colorado is in a reset stage.  
Dayton needs to revamp per Kim Bilbrey.  
Indianapolis is small and is struggling.
18. Eastern Region concerns:  
88 drops between NYC and NATL. Capital. Penn is small but had 40 at a cocktail party.  
Bay State has no officer turnover. Needs more involvement.  
NYC is held together by Nardulli only for the most part.  
Westchester is held together by Lisa Kane only.
19. Canada concerns:  
Ontario really needs to get back in touch with GN.
20. South Concerns:  
Virginia has Puddle trouble.
21. Canadian exchange rate is still set for 2019-2020 at the maximum.
22. The financial guide to be sent to the Ponds with the Regional officers explaining to the Ponds the need for vigilance and documentation of their operations.
23. MLGG Bilbrey asked GWGQ Maloney of his continued service. While there is no plans at this point , all necessary support issues are in place in case of an emergency. However they have been in place for some time with supported at the GN office.
24. Confirmed there is NO cyber insurance in place at this time. The numerous web sites by the Ponds don't allow acceptable underwriting conditions.
25. Awards, presentations and nominators were confirmed for the convention this week.
26. Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
GWGQ Maloney



Blue Goose First Family



Dustin took the races a bit too serious, an almost empty glass in hand

# Grand Nest History

## Grand Nest Officers' Post-Convention Meeting Saturday July 20, 2019 Alexander Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

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 2019-2020
8. Set mid-year Executive meeting date and place-Grapevine
9. Annual Budget meeting, 2019 Final Convention budget-in 45 days-on or before September 1st
10. Obtain GCG 4x5 glossy black 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 Officers' duties
  - Linda-Charity
  - Wendy-Marketing and Communication
  - Steve-Membership
13. Committee and deputy appointments
14. Mileage rate for 2019-2020 is .58 per mile (U.S.\$)
15. Canadian exchange relief is .75 for 2019-2020
16. What Pond winners did not receive certificates?
17. Follow up on webmaster call
18. New and unfinished business

## Grand Nest Post-Convention Minutes Saturday July 20, 2019 Alexander Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

1. All current officers were in attendance as well as PMLGG Strohecker and Wilson
2. MLGG Rich confirmed appointments of GWGQ, JA, GNH and GKGGE
3. GWGQ contract was executed and signed by GN officers
4. MLGG Rich will execute bank cards and bank resolution next month
5. GN officers approved expense for this convention for current 2019-2020 GN officers excluding GGOP Steve Carson and GKGGE Lothschutz.
6. The annual budget was approved unanimously
7. The mid-year meeting is set for February 14-16 in Grapevine, TX.
8. MLGG Rich asked that the 2019 final convention expense budget be completed by September 1, 2019
9. GGOP Carson was asked to provide us with a 4x5 glossy black and white professional photo of himself along with his black ink signature for our plaques.
10. GN officers were reminded to get the minutes and roll calls of the Regions to GWGQ Maloney
11. GN assignments were made. Linda will do Charity. Wendy will do Marketing and Communications.

# Grand Nest History

Steve will do membership. Steve will send a thank you to the new members attending this year's Indy convention.

12. Mileage rate for 2019-2020 will be .58 cents
13. Canadian exchange will remain max at .75 for 2019-2020
14. A follow up tele-conference call for the web site will be held in August.
15. JA Kohlruss will coordinate the REF for sites for the 2023 convention and report back to the GN
16. CGOP Carson will be sent password information for the membership software access
17. MLGG Rich indicated Nardulli wanted to host a convention on a cruise. Due to the extreme cost compared to other convention sites this needs to be reviewed for the best interest of the Order. Further search for not only other Eastern sites but candidates as well needs to be done in earnest quickly.
18. GNH Bishop felt there was no "official" notification to the Ponds of Linda Meik replacing Michael Smith for the next election of GN officers in Indianapolis. John apparently was not aware so he felt there may be concern of other members. In response there was the same thought process that possibly there should be minimal publicity of this situation for the best interest of the Order. Individuals with concerns could be addressed by anyone of the GN officers. This type of issue had not taken place in over 50 years if at all, so this was new "territory" to enter and PMLGG Bilbrey used her best judgment and led the officers with the process that took place. Fortunate to have Linda step forward in an extremely difficult time.
19. JA Kohlruss and GCOG Meik have access to HOBGI Google drive meeting access for future use.
20. Discussion was had on the need for a dues increase for 2020-2021. A constitutional amendment will be proposed at the Hartford convention requesting a \$6.00 dues increase. JA Kohlruss will coordinate the Amendment to be sent to the Ponds and the Constitution & By-Laws committee. MLGG Rich made the motion. Seconded by GCOG Knizek.
21. Approval by the GN officers was given that the financial records would transfer HOA Pond retired fund code 450 and add those funds to operating reserve code 490.

Respectfully submitted,  
GWGQ Maloney



Blue Goose family members



Desert samplings



# Grand Nest History

## 2019 Grand Nest History Report



MLGG, Fellow Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Ganders,

I have a story to tell you about a local historian from Halifax but first let me tell you about what some of the ponds are doing as it relates to their history. I wish that I could tell you that all ponds responded to my request for information but that was not to be.

I received a wonderful submission from Tom Elder of the Kentucky Pond detailing their history up to date to 2018. It begins with a list of the initial pond officers followed by the names of their charter members and goes on to describe various events over the years and a list of MLGG's including the first ever father and son duo with Browne Bolton in 1971 and Bruce Bolton in 1991. He ends with a list of Kentucky Pond PMLG's, life members and members, and finally their charitable report showing pond donations.

The Michigan Pond keeps 2 copies of their quarterly newsletter in their archives. All of their history items are stored at a separate location and catalogued.

The Edmonton Pond needs to do some up to date work but have located some old lists of members from by gone days. PMLG and Grand Nest Photographer, Neil Miller, has recognized some names that he didn't know we Blue Goose members. It will give him the opportunity to rekindle some interest hopefully to bring them back into the fold.

Quebec has a lot of data to choose from but needs to buckle down and put it together. It's still on the front burner and I am pleased to report that PMLGG Guy Charron has accepted the appointment of pond historian.

Thanks to the efforts of PMLGG Linda Meik, the Texas Pond has drafted a Pond History document giving the "hatching" date of the pond along with their first pond officers and a wonderful trip through time right up to the Texas pond today.

Cas of the Saskatchewan pond tells me they are keeping records and other assorted items.

Dear friends I mention these examples because they detail what and how the pond historian should be coordinating the information. Search out the right people to do the work, correlate the collected information, separate the data to various locations and it may be an opportunity for you to reinstate and recognize past members. Shortly there will be a brochure (OR LINK) giving you valuable advice on how to go about the process on the Blue Goose website.

Some recent Blue Goose history for you now. Recently we heard from JoAnn Clark who and her husband will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary while we are here in Indianapolis. You may wonder how that relates to Blue Goose. Nothing really, but if I add the fact that Rex had been our MLGG in 1999 and JoAnn in 2009, then it makes a lot of sense. They were to become the first husband and wife MLGG's in Blue Goose history. And JoAnn was the order's first female MLGG. Blue Goose clearly lay deep in their hearts and will have an important place in our history.

Last May, Halifax, where I live, lost a local historian at the age of 89. Janet Kitz was an author who rekindled public interest in the deep changes the Halifax explosion wrought on a devastated city. She is remembered for

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# Grand Nest History

her comprehensive research into the 1917 blast that resulted after 2 ships, the Norwegian relief vessel, the SS Imo, and the French ammunition ship laden with explosives, the SS Mont Blanc, collided in Halifax Harbour. Her books include “Shattered City” and “Survivor’s Children of the Halifax Explosion.” She stored her notes and recordings at the provincial archives for future researchers.

Many of the stories she collected came from the working class residents of the city’s north end, and without her work the tales might otherwise have been lost due to the advancing age of witnesses and their relatives. Janet spent many hours poring over “mortuary” boxes of personnel effects of those killed in the explosion that had been stored in the basement of the legislature for decades during an era when the public preferred to forget the disaster. She carefully recorded the information and visited schools to ensure the explosion was included in the history syllabus. 2000 folks lost their lives and 25,000 were left homeless as a result of the explosion.

Many more died as the result of a snow storm that began shortly after the explosion. The key here is how she went about detailing it and how and where it was stored. I hope she will inspire you to record your history before it is lost.

Respectfully submitted,

John C, Bishop  
PMLGG/GNH



# Grand Nest History

## GNH Acceptance Speech



Fellow Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Ganders;

It is indeed my honour to accept MLGG Dan Rich's request to continue as your Grand Nest Historian. I consider this position an important part of our honourable order, and to remember our past as we move forward in history.

Since I have been your Grand Nest Historian we have succeeded in bringing our own Grand Nest history up to date and available on the Grand Nest website. Thanks to the efforts of MLGG Dan we have gathered all the historical information that PMLGG Gerry Hale had in his hand, and separated most of it into the regions of Grand Nest, in order to have regional historic information available at future Grand Nest conventions.

I have "preached" the need for keeping pond history up to date for fear that it might be lost forever. With this in mind we have created a brochure to help guide you through the process and either a link or the brochure will be available at [bluegoose.org](http://bluegoose.org). Also I believe Grand Wielder Terry will be emailing it out to all the ponds.

So a lot has been accomplished but there is always more to do. My wish is that your ponds jump on board the history train, ultimately leading to a great story.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Bishop  
GNH/PMLGG



A future BG prospect



# Grand Nest History

## Grand Nest Communications and Marketing Committee Report 2019

### Introduction

What are some of the key issues a Communication and Marketing Committee should look at?. There are so many crucial areas to study and evaluate, it really needs to be a full-time priority for every Pond in the Honourable order. This is how potential members will find and learn about us. On the communication side, we must take a critical and honest look at not only our Pond websites, but the Grand Nest Website as well. Are we using our website effectively and managing our costs efficiently?

For the most part, we are not website experts, so should the Ponds be expected to establish websites by themselves? Should we retain a third party to do so for all our Ponds? What should such a cost be? How do we improve, manage, and maintain our website content to be fresh and dynamic, so as not to look old or dated? Are we allowing payment for Pond events through our websites, via PayPal or other services? For the Ponds that don't have websites-how can we help them? Can we write a "Beginner's Guide for Pond Websites" to look at what it takes to get started?

On the marketing side, what are some creative marketing campaigns and strategies that our Ponds can adopt to increase interest and membership? What can we do to improve our industry footprint, promote the Blue Goose brand, reinvigorate our use of social media platforms, and both grow our organization and make it younger? What kind of job are we doing for the promotion and publicizing the Blue Goose brand? We have to make it easy for people (especially young people) to find us, and if they find us, to be interested enough in what we have to offer, to join us?

Does your Pond publish a newsletter? If so, how are they distributed? Is your Pond active on Linked In, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.? Does your Pond send out press releases? What are we doing for publicity in Canada and the US? Should the Order target three industry publications for ads in both countries? Remember the old "Blue Goose Today" trifold? Can we reboot that?

If we are to shoot a video about why Blue Goose has value to prospective members, what would you say? Do we need some YouTube videos explaining our vision and publicizing our charity events? How can we portray a fresh and exciting organization?

These are some of the challenges this committee was faced with. What follows are our thoughts on how to face those challenges.

The big reason for moving to a consolidated website, is protection against cyber-attacks and the benefit of having responsive cyber insurance coverage available under a Grand Nest cyber policy. "If we have a single main website with everyone having a template to fill customize it for their Pond or Puddle, we think we could get cyber coverage for everyone"

Not only is our current digital look inconsistent, but there would be currently no coverage for cyber claims under the big umbrella of Blue Goose. With so many Ponds using PayPal or a similar service, there is a big risk there.

The sub-committee also felt that the Grand Nest website tends to get stale. Our Home Page should be updated to look vibrant and exciting!



# Grand Nest History



I am humbled and very grateful for the faith you all have shown in me and gladly accept your nomination to be the next Most Loyal Grand Gander.

When Kim Bilbrey visited the Hartford Pond a few months ago to attend our All Industry Night of Charity, I told her that I was so glad that she had the chance to see the Hartford Pond in action. I often find myself thinking back to that night in 1992 when I was initiated into the Hartford Pond. I was introduced to a wonderful group of people, many of whom have become my very best friends. Had it not been for Blue Goose, I never would have met Bob Partridge, or Kevin Brady, or Paula Pelletier, or Wendy Hubbard, or Bill and Lisa Mullen, or Jerry Hale. Thank you all for your friendship, and for everything you've done for our Pond over the decades. Over time, some of the faces in Hartford have changed, but what has never changed is our collective dedication to charity, community service and of course, fellowship. That night in 1992 when I was initiated into this Order, well it changed my life.

Four years later, Sue and I took our family to our first convention-it was in 1996 in Omaha, Nebraska. Matty was ten and Andy was five. I remember the four of us walking through the lobby of the Red Lion Hotel in Omaha not knowing a soul, and we were greeted by a gentleman name Sam Luke. You see, Sam was a delegate from, believe it or not, the Hawaii Pond. He must have picked us out as Blue Goose newbie's, and he welcomed us as though we were long lost brothers. I never forgot Sam's kindness to us. And that was just a small sample of what I was about to learn about Blue Goose.

I remember walking into the big room for the Opening Ceremonies the next day, and when I saw all those banners up on the wall, that's when it really hit me. That's when I realized that the blue Hartford Pond banner I was so used to seeing was just a small piece of the larger Blue Goose world. It was then when I realized the depth of this organization. It was a wonderful feeling to realize and understand that. It was a wonderful feeling to know that I belonged to something much larger.

I've had the honour to be mentored by not one, but by two Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders who called the Hartford Pond home. Gordon Crowther and Jerry Hale shared some very common traits and they both influenced me greatly.. They were personable, they were charismatic, they were great wonderful story-tellers, and they both loved Blue Goose very much, I am honoured to be following in their footsteps. In every one of your Ponds, you have your own special members who are as important to you as Gordon and Jerry were to Hartford. I've met a lot of them over the years, and as an organization, we are very grateful for their experience and guidance and advice.

But as wonderful as these friends are, and as strong as the bonds of friendship are that we've forged...is that enough to keep the Honourable Order strong and growing? I know in my heart, that the answer to that question is "no it isn't". Wouldn't it be a shame if we were unable to pass on our Blue Goose experience to the next generation? Go ahead look around, and you tell me.

It is critical that we add new and younger members. We have to transform and re-image our Pond events into things that might appeal to them. I believe the days of the traditional model for Blue Goose meetings might be over. Young people really don't want a sit-down dinner and a guest speaker on case law or mould or subrogation. Lets make a commitment to have our meetings become fun event-think get together at breweries or and escape room or an axe throwing range or a comedy improve, or a mini golf tournament. Have one or two business meetings a year, but make the rest of the schedule fun and appealing. I am looking at a

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# Grand Nest History

lot of smart and creative people out there. I know you can figure this out. We need your help, so please help us.

In Connecticut, we have two agency associations, the Professional Insurance Agents of CT and the Independent Insurance Agents of CT. Both organizations have a smaller sub-group dedicated to young people. They are called the YIPS (Young Ins Professionals) and the CT Young Agents. Would we benefit from an advisory committee of Young Ganders? Can they give us a boost with things like Twitter and Instagram and YouTube? I am asking for any young Ganders out there to send me a note and let me know of your interest in such a project. I'll get you together with other like-minded members and ask you to brainstorm and submit your ideas to the Membership Committee.

I know that all of you sitting out there love Blue Goose, because you wouldn't be here if you didn't. We need help from all of you to make sure this organization grows and prospers.

Thank you all for your faith in and dedication to the Honourable Order. And that includes my wife Sue, who is a Gander herself, she was initiated at the Philadelphia convention in 2010. She has stood by me for all these years, has been to so many conventions and Pond functions, and regional meetings. She is doing a wonderful job on the 2020 Convention Planning Committee.

One of my favourite musicians is Neil Young, and I will close these remarks with some lyrics he wrote in 1976:

*We've been through  
Some things together  
With trunks of memories  
Still to come  
We found things to do  
In stormy weather  
Long may you run.*

Long may our Blue Goose Banners wave across our Ponds. Tote Fair. See you in Hartford next year.



# Grand Nest History



L to R  
 Front Row  
 GGON Wendy Knizek  
 PMLGG Linda Meik  
 JA Lorena Kohlruess  
 Back Row  
 G. Keeper Joe Lothschutz  
 G Historian John  
 Bishop  
 G Keeper Terry Maloney  
 MLGG Dan Rich  
 Newest Grand Nest officer  
 Steve Carson II



Grand Nest Officers and spouse  
 Front Row left to right-Lois Lothschultz, Wend Knizek, PMLGG Kim Bilbrey, JA Lorena Kohlruess, Sue Rich, Lynn Maloney, PMLGG Linda Meik  
 Back Row left to right-GKGGE Joe Lothschutz, Grand Historian John Bishop, Tim Bilbrey, Gary Kohlruess, MLGG Dan Rich, GWGQ Terry Maloney, GGON Steve Carson II