

**History of the Grand Nest
Honourable Order of the Blue Goose
2019-2020**



Special Pandemic Edition

MLGG Dan Rich

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

Internet Address—<http://www.bluegoose.org>

E-Mail Address: terry@bluegoose.org

What's Inside

Grand Nest Officers	Page 3
Editor's Note	4
Blue Goose Holds Historic Virtual Convention Awards Night	5-14
Grand Nest Marketing Committee Report	15-16
Mid-Year Minutes	17-18
Grand Nest History 1927	19
Charity Pictures from the Ponds	20-22
Grand Nest History Report	23-24
Charity Report	25-29
Grand Nest Officers Greeting	30-31
Hartford Pond Story in Word and Pictures	32-33
Grand Nest Virtual Meeting December 1, 2020	34



Grand Nest Officers 2019-2020



GSOF Linda Meik



MLGG Dan Rich



GCOG Wendy Knizek



GGON Steve Carson



GKGGE Joe Lothschutz



JA Lorena Kohlruss



GWGQ
Terry Maloney



GNH, PMLGG John
Bishop

Grand Nest History

Editor's Note

Dear Friends in Blue Goose:

No doubt that you are aware we are living in unprecedented times. Every facet of our daily lives has been affected. Covid-19 has made us stay distance away from one another, cover our faces to protect those that we come in contact with, leave our offices to spend more time at home, and pray a vaccine will be developed sooner than later so that we can go back to some form of normalcy, whatever the new normalcy looks like.

As you are aware Blue Goose had to suspend the annual meeting due to the pandemic, which meant we were unable to gather on the banks of the Grand Nest to conduct our annual business. Because of this the history has taken on a different look and content.

You will see two things. First the layout is different. Different fonts and font colors for example. That is because the content came to me electrically which meant I was unable to put my own "touch" to it. On the bright side you will see the various contributors' versions of content which makes this version unique in a way. Second the content contains many pictures sent to me from various "zoom" events, and non-zoom events which again makes this unique. I had asked ponds to send me pictures from their events so when I received them I added them to the content. One other interesting fact, and one that escapes my feeble brain, is that I've been able to include more content in the version. Perhaps its because there was lots of copy and pasting but maybe you computer savvy geese's out there can offer a reason. What ever the reason is you will see more pictures and words in this edition.

Pandemic or no pandemic history gets created and it is important to detail the history no matter what look it takes and that is what I've tried to accomplish in this version. I hope you enjoy it and I look forward to seeing your wonderful faces I person soon.

Fraternally yours,

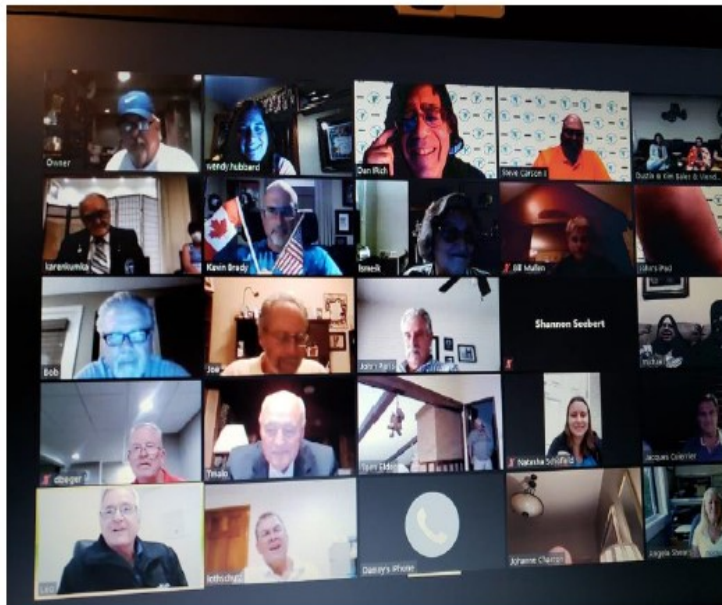
John C. Bishop, PMLGG
Grand Historian

Grand Nest History

Blue Goose Holds Historic Virtual Convention Awards Night

By Dan Rich, MLGG

As so many aspects of our professional, personal, educational, and social lives have changed from the restrictions of COVID-19, Blue Goose saw the opportunity to adapt as we held a Virtual Convention and Awards Night on Tuesday August 25, 2020.



The event was held as a Zoom meeting with members participating from 67 different locations in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Many of those entering the meeting were in a group setting, such as our friends from the Quebec Pond, where PMLGG Marc Thurber, Sylvie St. Amour, Louis Pearson, Vincent Malouin, Eric Demers, and Jacques Cuierrier assembled. So how many Ganders actually watched the proceedings? Our guess is about 80.

As guests logged in for the 7:30 p.m. Central Time start, they were greeted by a welcome screen adorned with colorful balloons, streamers, confetti and the Blue Goose logo.



Grand Nest History

MLGG Dan Rich opened the ceremony by welcoming everyone to “a Blue Goose evening that is unlike any evening in our long 114-year history. First of all, we hope that you and your family are doing well and staying safe and healthy.”

We wanted to get together with all of you, because we miss you, and we were unable to see you all in Hartford just a few weeks ago. We missed your fellowship, we missed seeing your smiles and hearing your laughter, and we missed the feeling we get when we all assemble every summer at a Grand Nest Convention.

Since we weren't able to make new memories in Hartford a few weeks ago, I thought it would be a great way to kick off our meeting by taking a look back at some memories from our last five conventions.”



As the opening bars of Rare Earth's 1971 song “Celebrate” started up, we saw a slide show of over 60 photos, each representing a memory from our last five conventions – Indianapolis 2019, Edmonton 2018, Savannah 2017, St. Louis 2016 and Baltimore 2015.

Dan reported on his year in office and “share(d) with you all of the hospitality and fellowship you extended to Sue and I during the first half of the year.”

He spoke of the highlights - October visits to a Louisiana Pond meeting and to Charlotte for a Blue Goose PLRB reception, December visits to the Michigan Pond's Holiday Party and the National Capital Pond's Night for Charity, and a February visit to Cincinnati for their Monte Carlo Night.



Most Loyal Grand Gander – Dan Rich -Hartford

Grand Nest History

"And then the month after Cincinnati, we all learned a new word – coronavirus, and we also learned how precious our health and how fragile our ways of life are. I watched with a broken heart as Pond events on both sides of the border were cancelled. Those cancellations included my planned visits to Regina and Fargo and Quebec. It also included the cancellation of the Grand Nest Convention in Hartford, which would have been just a few weeks ago."

Dan spoke of where we are now, some five months later, as "our two nations are cautiously reopening, but our health and welfare and public safety are still very much in jeopardy." Ponds were urged to follow State and Provincial guidelines and do everything possible to ensure safety as plans are finalized for 2020-2021, whatever they might be.

The evening transitioned into the segment where we gave recognition to our Ponds through the presentation of awards. Each award was introduced by a Grand Nest Officer with some personal remarks before each award.

Grand Guardian of the Nest, Steve Carson reflected on his first year in office before presenting the Membership Award. His first year on Grand Nest was "interesting and definitely not what I expected". He joked that he would "have an extra year to improve on his first year."

Grand Guardian of the Nest -Steve Carson -Wisconsin



Steve told us that the Membership Award is for the greatest percentage increase in membership and that the 2020 award goes to the Cincinnati Pond with a 43% increase.

Next up was Grand Wielder Terry Maloney to offer some remarks and present the Regional Challenge Award and the Regional Growth Awards.

Grand Nest History

Terry wished everyone good health and reminded all of the Grand Nest's April message to offer financial assistance to any Ganders and their families that were experiencing a financial hardship. Terry thanked the Ponds for their continued communication with the Grand Nest and spoke of the creativity he's seeing as Ponds invent socially distant and virtual events and spread the message that the Honorable Order is still alive and well.

The May mailing to the Ponds went out, and he urged the Ponds to (at a minimum) at least provide the Memorial List and an updated Pond Officer list.

Terry also acknowledged the long service of the Regina Pond's Cas Pielak who was retiring and passing on the Wielder's torch to a successor.

Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill -Terry Maloney, Wisconsin



The Regional Challenge Award is given to the Region with the highest marks in four membership criteria and the overall largest increase in membership. Terry announced that the winner of the 2020 award was the Canadian Region.

The next awards were for the Pond within each region that brings in the largest number of new and reinstated members as well as the highest percentage of new and reinstated members during the year. Here are the Growth Award Winners for the year:

Grand Nest History

Central Region

Most new and reinstated members with 23 new members – Cincinnati Pond

Best percentage increase with a whopping 43% increase – Cincinnati Pond

Southern Region

Most new and reinstated members with 14 new members -Texas Pond

Best percentage increase with a 23% increase – North Carolina Pond

Canadian Region

Most new and reinstated members with 30 new members - Quebec Pond

Best percentage increase with a 16% increase - British Columbia Pond

Eastern Region

Most new and reinstated members- 20 new members - National Capital Pond

Best percentage increase - 15% increase - National Capital Pond

Our next award was developed and presented for the first time in Baltimore in 2000 to honor PMLGG Gordon F. Crowther, one of the great stalwarts of charity in Blue Goose history. The Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award is an international award that goes to that Pond that served so graciously in not only charitable donations, but in the dedication of their time in service to others, as well as other charitable activities such as collections of food, clothing or toys, or the giving of scholarships, etc. In other words, to exemplify our precept of charity.

When this award was established it was also noted that Honorable Mentions could be recognized.

Grand Nest History

The Charity Awards were presented by Grand Supervisor Linda Meik, who first expressed her joy at "how wonderful it was to see everyone's face" and "how attentive everyone was."

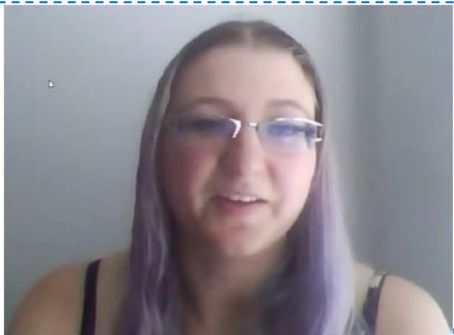
Grand Supervisor Linda Meik – Texas



Linda remarked that despite the effects of the pandemic, we had an outstanding year of charity. Twenty-four Ponds reported cash donations in excess of \$325,000, goods donations in excess of \$77,000, scholarship awards in excess of \$9,000, and over 1,700 volunteer hours. Linda analyzed this year's reports and looked at our active membership across the Order and calculated that each active member donated an average of \$195 this year. She also did a 6-year study and reported that we collectively donated over \$1.5 million to charitable causes across North America.

Linda thanked her Committee from the Edmonton Pond, who were on the committee by virtue of having won the award the previous year. Two of the committee members, Lindsay Schroeder and Rakeesh Bandaru were on the call and announced this year's winners.

The Community Service Award honors a Pond's volunteering of their time and services to a local charity. Lindsay announced the Peace Garden Pond as this year's Community Service Award winner. Their Pond members dedicated 900 volunteer hours to charitable causes in their local communities.



Lindsay Schroeder and Rakeesh Bandaru -

Grand Nest History

The Charity Fund Award is awarded to a Pond that include all of their membership in fund-raising efforts to financially support local charities. Lindsay announced that this year's winner was the Cincinnati Pond.

The Scholarship Award recognizes the Pond that provided one or more scholarships to a deserving individual or individuals. Rakesh announced that this year's Scholarship Award went to the Michigan Pond who awarded four scholarships.

Lastly, we turned to, as Linda called it, "the glorious award" **The Gordon F. Crowther Award** for overall excellence in supporting charity. Together, Lindsay and Rakesh announced that this year's winner of the Gordon Crowther Award was the British Columbia Pond.

The next award looks at the work many of our Ponds have to do to develop or upgrade their website. Our websites tell the story of Blue Goose and promote our mission of 'giving back.'

The **Communications Award** was presented by Grand Custodian of the Ganders Wendy Knizek, who was visiting with Kim and Dustin Bales of the Manitoba Pond.



Grand Custodian Wendy Knizek, - British Columbia Dustin and Kimberly Bales -Manitoba

Wendy told us her committee felt there were multiple ways in which Ponds and/or Puddles communicate with their members. This year's award for the Pond which had an outstanding communication strategy was the Virginia Pond.

Grand Nest History

PLMGG Kim Bilbrey



Our Final Award of the evening was presented by Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Kim Bilbrey, who first offered some personal remarks.

Kim told us that she “misses all of you” and how great it was to at least see everyone virtually. She wished everyone good health and extended a virtual hug to all.

Our final award of the night was Gander of the Year, in recognition that among our 35 Ponds spread across the USA and Canada, we have some outstanding Ganders who continually go above and beyond the call of duty for not only their Pond, but the organization as a whole. This Grand Nest

Special is meant to recognize those of you who have done more than your share to keep our beliefs and traditions alive.

Kim presented the “Gander of the Year” award to 102-year old Past Most Loyal Gander Ralph Wild of the Manitoba Pond, who presumably is the Honorable Order’s oldest Gander. He joined the Manitoba Pond in 1958 and has been a member for 62 years. Ralph was in the meeting and said a few words of greeting as he accepted the award. He was resplendent in a suit coat, tie and Blue Goose pins and medals. What an inspiration he is to us!



Gander of the Year - Ralph Wild, Manitoba

Grand Nest History

MLGG Rich acknowledge our other Grand Nest Officers who have dedicated their time to the welfare and betterment of our organization. Judge Advocate Lorena Kohlruss could not be here tonight, she is busy with a trial, but she gives her regards and reports there are no issues before the Constitution and By Laws/Jurisprudence Committee.

Grand Nest Historian and PMLGG John Bishop thanked all the Ponds who contribute to their own Pond's history and reminded us that "we create history every day including today". He wondered how many people out there have lived through two Coronavirus pandemics, as our Gander of the Year has? He is looking forward to receiving words and images from our Ponds to document their ongoing histories.



S.



GNH and PMLGG John Bishop, Nova Scotia

GKGGE Joe Lothschutz, Michigan

Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Joe Lothschutz thanked everyone for joining us and congratulated all of the evening's winners. He urged us all to keep up the good work and hoped we can all see each other again next summer.

PMLGG Rich closed the meeting by asking us to remember what it feels like to be together as a group, and remember the "fun, smiles, camaraderie and fellowship" we share when we get together. He urged us to make sure this feeling doesn't disappear because of COVID-19. "We have to keep Blue Goose going in 2020 and 2021" and "we don't want to give people the idea that Blue Goose is doing nothing" or stagnating. We need to hold events in any way we can and make sure we promote those events.



Grand Nest History



PMLGG Bill Olson, National Capital

That concluded the scheduled events, and an Open Forum discussion followed, kicked off by PMLGG Bill Olson who led us through a prayer calling for peace and better times for all.

We also had three other PMLGGs in attendance - Joe Coccia, John Paris, and Guy Charron. All three thanked the Grand Nest for tonight's presentation and their consistent communication and sharing of news during the hard times of the pandemic.

Grand Supervisor Linda Meik expressed our gratitude to Manitoba Gander Keith Phillips for sharing Ralph Wild's story with us and helping him be a part of tonight's historic event.

We chatted with PMLGG Paris about the Utah Pond and with Angela Shears of the BC Pond about the Whistler Convention



ABOVE L to R -PMLGGs John Paris (Utah), Joe Coccia (Michigan) and Guy Charron (Quebec)



-Angela Shears (British Columbia) and Leo Fluitsma (Australia Gander At Large)

The evening ended with an entertaining conversation with Australian Gander at Large Leo Fluitsma who was initiated at the Milwaukee Convention in 2006 and presented an Australian flag to Terry Maloney. It was an unexpected pleasure to see him and chat with him, and was a perfect ending to the meeting.

Grand Nest History

GRAND NEST MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT 2019 – 2020

This year the marketing committee worked at implementing some of the recommendations from the previous year's report at the Grand Nest level.

Halie Wispinski-Buac of the Edmonton Pond has updated the tri-fold brochure, as attached, a PDF copy can be found on the grand nest website under "logos & materials". Please feel free to use this marketing material at your discretion.

The committee has also put out a request to all members for Blue Goose "Stories" to be used on our website and social media platforms. These Stories can consist of events, donations, fundraising activities and/or highlighting a Gander in your Pond. Our goal is to post stories throughout the year and which we hope members will "Like, Comment & Share" to promote Blue Goose throughout the industry to those who may not be familiar with Blue Goose.

It has also been recommended that Ponds engage more with their LinkedIn profiles as this is where insurance colleagues would find information as to what is happening in the industry. As members of Blue Goose, please do not hesitate to join other Ponds pages and again, "Like, comment & share" their posts to help boost their profile.

It is helpful to assist each other in marketing our Ponds and the organization.

Submitted by Wendy Knizek
Grand Custodian of the Ganders
On behalf of the Marketing Committee 2019-2020

Grand Nest History



www.bluegoose.org

GET IN THE FLOCK.
CONNECT WITH OTHER
INSURANCE INDUSTRY
PROFESSIONALS
ACROSS CANADA AND
THE USA.

HONORABLE ORDER OF THE
BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL

CHARITY
CHARACTER
FELLOWSHIP

HONORABLE ORDER OF THE
BLUE
GOOSE
INTERNATIONAL



\$260K
DONATIONS MADE OVER
THE 2018-2019 TERM

2700
HOURS SPENT
VOLUNTEERING OVER
THE 2018-2019 TERM

LIVE OUR VALUES

CHARITY
Every member of our organization is actively involved in contributing back to their individual communities. A big part of the H.O. of B.G. is how we come together and create a better tomorrow for those in need. The work we do with local non-profit groups showcases that commitment, and over the past year, our organization has raised over \$200,000 that has been donated to different charities all across Canada and the USA.

CHARACTER
It is important for our industry that as colleagues we demonstrate respect and integrity in our work. Our organization encourages our members to build a strong character and lead by example.

FELLOWSHIP
Enjoy cultivating new relationships with colleagues and build a network that spans over two countries. Our networking events are always fun and will give you the perfect opportunity to foster connections.



WE WANT YOUR

BLUE GOOSE STORIES!

LET'S CELEBRATE WHAT WE DO

CHARITY

An amazing donation or volunteer experience

CHARACTER

A Gander that deserves to be recognized

FELLOWSHIP

An incredible industry event

WHAT ELSE?

Like, Comment and Share our Social Media Posts!

We want to hear all about it, big or small!!

Send your stories & a few pictures to

BLUEGOOSESTORY@GMAIL.COM

These will be highlighted on our website

and shared to our social media.

WWW.BLUEGOOSE.ORG



WE WANT YOUR

BLUE GOOSE STORIES!

LET'S CELEBRATE WHAT WE DO

CHARITY

An amazing donation or volunteer experience

CHARACTER

A Gander that deserves to be recognized

FELLOWSHIP

An incredible industry event

WHAT ELSE?

Like, Comment and Share our Social Media Posts!

We want to hear all about it, big or small!!

Send your stories & a few pictures to

BLUEGOOSESTORY@GMAIL.COM

These will be highlighted on our website

and shared to our social media.

WWW.BLUEGOOSE.ORG



Grand Nest History

2020 GRAND NEST MID-YEAR MEETING

EMBASSY SUITES – GRAPEVINE , TEXAS

FEBRUARY 15, 2020

- 1- MLGG Rich called meeting to Order.
- 2- GSOF Meik welcomed all to Texas
- 3- GWGQ Maloney took roll. GN officers Rich, Meik, Knizek, Carson, Lothschutz attended. PMLGGs Wilson and Strohecker attended.
- 4- Dues report was reviewed and Ponds were identified for contact
- 5- Indy convention reviewed by the oversight committee and discussed the results of the budget expenses. Approved. Recommendations – PEC needs to provide convention expenses to GN committee as well as convention leaders. The pre-convention budget report needs to be a "living document shared with the oversight committee, GNest and the site leaders.
- 6- State of the Regions. CENTRAL- Dayton and Columbus need help. NE Ohio is disbanding. SOUTH- Florida needs help. Alabama is steady. Arizona Kentucky , Louisiana and Tennessee need lots of support. CANADA- Ontario needs to communicate. Saskatchewan is in transition. Vancouver Island puddle is growing slow. Manitoba has issues. EAST- Bay needs to get more active. Penn struggling the most. Hartford has 134 members. National Capital is terrific. NYC has Nardulli needs others. Westchester has Kane needs others.
- 7- HARTFORD CONVENTION- 175 people, \$150,000 in revenue. Excellent position for success.
- 8- SOUTH CONVENTION, TEXAS- \$27,000 in income now, \$50,000 registration expected, cost \$150,000 estimate.
- 9- B C CONVENTION- \$43,000 in income now, \$75,000 from registration, \$150,000 in expense estimate
- 10- CENTRAL CONVENTION- \$11,400 in income so far.
- 11- First timers need to be given special attention at all conventions.
- 12- FUTURE CONVENTIONS- EAST still in search of candidate. SOUTH 2025 possibly Tom Elder of Kentucky. CANADA AND CENTRAL next still open.
- 13- Discussion on what is the new REGIONAL Convention concept. Work will take place on a guide for recruiting this concept.
- 14- GN officers voted to amend the request for dues increase from \$6 to \$8. Unanimous vote. JA Kohlruss will produce the new amendment revision.
- 15- MLGG Rich will send out the website questionnaire survey to the Ponds for pursuing a website change.
- 16- The Crowther Charity submission form and the Gander of the Year form will be sent in May but separate from the May mailing.
- 17- MLGG Rich reported all Archive material is out of PMLGG Hale's home.
- 18- GGOP Carson on Membership committee suggested there needs to be tools for Ponds to improve their records.
- 19- GCOG Knizek said that last years ideas are being implemented this year. Wendy is taking over the Lindkin page.

Grand Nest History

- 20- MLGG Rich reported he has sent out 2 quarterly letters to our Ganders. He has traveled to a number of Ponds and will continue.
- 21- Shared funding of the Hospitality rooms at conventions was discussed.
- 22- Make sure May mailing has a summary page and a DUE DATE.
- 23- GN needs all committee reports before July 1, 2020 for the GN convention.
- 24- An education piece is needed for the DMLGG position needs to be developed.
- 25- MLGG Rich discussed expanding membership eligibility. One area would be financial services.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ



Grand Nest History



The 21st Cackle – Dallas

Grand Nest Meeting 1927

There was discussion regarding extending the Blue Goose membership to include casualty men. This was voted down and it was noted that membership at this time is only for fire insurance men. In addition, it was discussed at this convention about adding life insurance for all members, but it was noted that there would be a premium per member dis-respective of their age. Therefore, after discussion this was sent back to the Group Life Insurance Committee.

On another recommendation of His Highness relating to the Ritual, the (membership) committee recommended (and their entire report was adopted) "that all ritualistic work be by word of mouth, and we believe that those accepting office should obligate themselves to memorize the Ritual."

Grand Wielder Rudd reported a net increase in membership of 62 with membership October 22, 1927, of 6,549 for the 44 Ponds.

The spirit of true Southern hospitality prevailed throughout the entire meeting.

Grand Nest History

Charity Pictures from the Ponds 2020



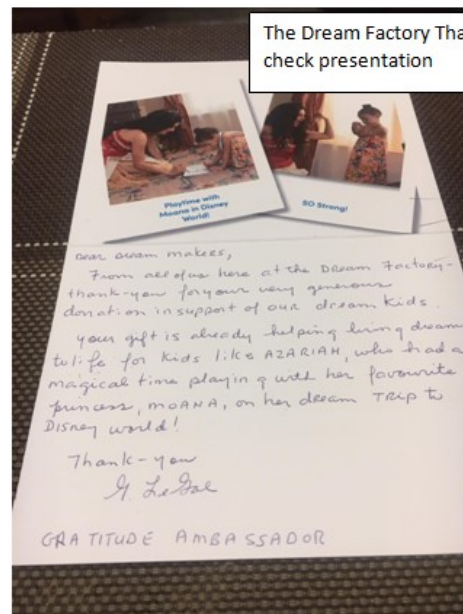
Month of Caring



Manitoba



Bordeaux Long Term Care Christmas Party – giving of gifts & toiletries



The Dream Factory Thank You note and check presentation



Tennessee



Grand Nest History



Virginia

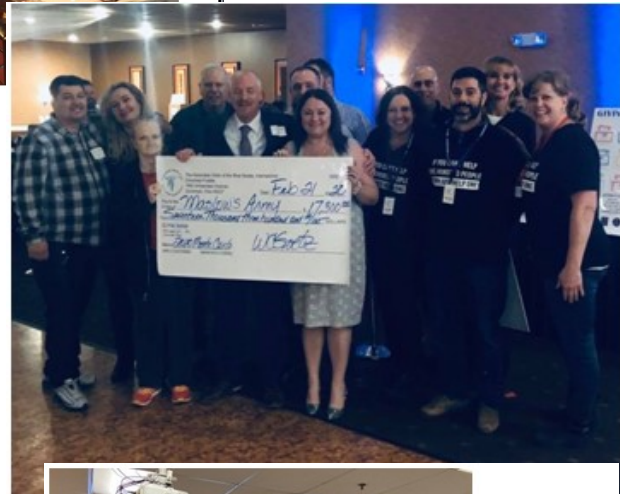
Golf Outing to raise funds for local charities; summer social at Isley Brewing and the annual Shuckin' & Jivin' event.



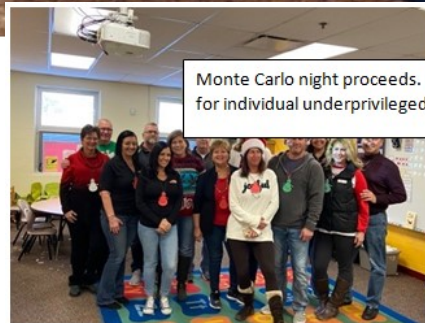
NCP



Cincinnati



Monte Carlo night proceeds. Holiday Toy Drive for individual underprivileged children



Texas

Grand Nest History

TEXAS POND CHARITY 2019-2020

SOUTH
HOSPITALITY
served

Not only is Southern Hospitality served in Texas, but the Blue Goose members open their Big Hearts in their charity endeavors.



Collecting school supplies for the kiddos of Community Partners clientel



Assembling Easter Baskets for the kiddos of Community Partners



Collection of household items for The Family Place of Dallas



Grand Nest History

Honourable Order of the Blue Goose, International
Grand Nest Historian Mid-Year Report
February 15-17, 2020
Embassy Suites, Grapevine, Texas

MLGG Dan, Fellow Grand Nest Officers,

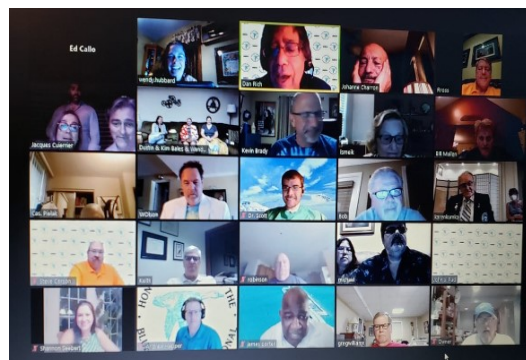
I'm sorry that I'm unable to be with you in person but winter commitments to my Alma Mater, and this year, to the national university hockey community, requires me to remain in Halifax. Although it is still too early to know, playoffs are scheduled for the weekend you are in Texas, which may or may not impact my availability for the conference call. Of course, when you read this all of that will be known.

As you are aware, the latest editions of the Grand Nest History and Grand Nest Bulletin have been uploaded to the Grand Nest website. Even though I had begun the drafting process earlier than previous editions, the history took me longer to finish. This was due, in part, to concerns MLGG Dan and I had with regards to content; content to be shared and content to be contained in both documents. In other words what items should be contained in the bulletin and what items should be contained in the history? This has been a continuing problem for as long as I have been the Grand Nest Historian. I will take the advice of the Executive always, but offer the following as a possible remedy.

The Grand Nest Bulletin, in my opinion, should be a "current" document, detailing what happened during the previous year. Such things as the Convention Report, Award Winners, Convention Pictures, Incoming MLGG and GNG acceptance speeches, Committee listings, Operating Statement, Regional Listing, PMLGG list.

The History, as the name implies, should contain historical information such as agenda and minutes, history report and any other reports (Charity, Membership, GKGGE, and JA etc reports), a few pictures. This may or may not require more available space for the history, depending on what the Executive decides. This by know means suggests that other items from year to year would need to be included for either publication.

One other item, could someone provide me with an update to the history brochure that I left with Terry in Indianapolis. I thought it was to be put on the website.



Grand Nest History

In the spring I will be sending Grand Wielder Terry a request for information from our ponds, to bring us up-to-date as to their efforts pertaining to their histories. I will report on those findings in Hartford this summer.

All the best for a great mid-year meeting! I know PMLGG Linda will make it a Texas special one for you.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Bishop, PMLGG
Grand Nest Historian



Character, Charity and Fellowship since 1906



Grand Nest History

CHARITY REPORT FOR 2019-2020

NO CONVENTION DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC OF 2020

CHARITY COMMITTEE

Edmonton Pond

Madelaine Amundson

Jennifer Marsh

Halie Wispinski

Ivy Spero

Rakesh Bandaru

Lindsey Schroeder

Linda Meik, PMLGG – Grand Nest Advisor



Grand Nest History

Introduction

The 2019-2020 Blue Goose year found each Pond of The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International in an unprecedented time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Grand Nest Officers concluded that the scheduled Grand Nest Convention in Hartford, CT would not take place in July 2020 and would be rescheduled to July 2021. In addition, the other conventions would all move forward one-year. Grand Nest would keep their 2019-2020 officers in their same roles for the upcoming 2020-2021 year. Many of the Ponds had to cancel prestigious events scheduled for the Spring and early Summer. But even with the cancelling of events The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International Ponds made a significant impact on our charity precept.

Defining Charity Award Criteria

Ponds are requested to complete the GN Charity form that was sent out with the May Mailing to each of the Ponds. Ponds are requested to submit this form by June 1st. Receipts for the Pond's donations should only be sent when requested.

The Gordon Crowther Award is the overall prestigious award. Once a Pond is awarded this award, they are not eligible to receive this award for another 5 years, making it so that more Ponds can be recognized and not be discouraged with lesser resources.

There is no eligibility period for the other three awards.

Contributions are important, but the overall largest amount is not the end-all criteria for being awarded any of the awards. It is more in how the Pond's entire membership has supported the charity activities of the year.

GRAND NEST CHARITY AWARDS

1. **GORDON CROWTHER CHARITY AWARD:** Awarded to a Pond for outstanding charity activities, as judged by the previous recipient Pond. The previous recipient Pond is not eligible for the award.
2. **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:** Awarded to the Pond that volunteers their time and services to a local charity.
3. **CHARITY FUND AWARD:** Awarded to the Pond that has raised funds for local charities. This award is not necessarily on the greatest amount of funds, but what has the Pond done to include all their membership in the fund-raising effort.
4. **SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:** Awarded to the Pond that provided one or more scholarships to deserving individual or individuals. This award is not based on the greatest amount of scholarship dollars but on the effort displayed in raising these funds.

Years Past Winners of Gordon Crowther Charity Award

2013 – Edmonton	2018- Michigan
2014 – Hartford	2019- Edmonton
2015 – Dayton	2020 –
2016 – Texas	2021 -
2017 – Cincinnati	

Grand Nest History

2019-2020 National Charity Endeavor Results

Pond	Members A/L/D	Donation Amts.- Funds	Service Hours	Scholarships	Other Donations
Cincinnati	78	\$26,900.00	141		\$12,000.00
Dayton	13	\$885.00			
Michigan	249	\$19,115.00	60	\$4,000.00	\$1,346.00
Peace Garden	46	\$14,005.00	907		\$11,730.00
St. Louis	151	\$3,570.00	40		
Utah	73	\$500		\$1,100.00	
		\$64,975.00	1,148	\$5,100.00	\$25,076.00
Alabama	22	\$290.00			\$635.00
Florida	37	\$3,225.00			
Kentucky	56	\$2,525.00	46		\$2,350.00
Louisiana	51				\$22,046.06
No. Carolina	40	\$5,128.65	6		\$1,800.00
Tennessee	29	\$876.84	5		\$250.00
Texas	94	\$27,705.00		\$3,000.00	\$6886.74
Virginia	43	\$26,168.00			\$150.00
		\$65,918.49	57	\$3,000.00	\$34,117.74
Alberta	113	\$2,950.26	8	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
B.C.	152	\$1,750.00	171	\$500.00	\$4,100.00
Edmonton	118	\$12,806.00			
Manitoba	91	\$23,738.28	6		\$4,000.00
Nova Scotia	126	\$3,750.00		\$500.00	
Quebec	218	\$100,000	76.5		
Saskatchewan	123	\$38,800.00	132		\$200.00
		\$183,794.54	393.5	\$1,500.00	\$9,300.00
Hartford	134	\$900.00	78		\$8,050.00
Nat. Capital	122	\$6,000.00	85		\$1,000.00
New York City	91	\$4,000.00			
Westchester	33	\$615.13	24		
		\$11,115.13	187		\$9,050.00
Totals		\$325,803.16	1,785.5	\$9,600.00	\$77,543.74

Six-Year Lookback at Ponds reporting

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
# Ponds Reporting	28	25	21	23	26	24
\$\$\$ Raised	\$309,714.00	\$242,279.00	\$166,539.23	\$222,626.00	\$260,182.63	\$325,803.16
Goods Collections	\$39,662.00	\$78,401.00	\$38,149.00	\$66,690.00	\$100,132.71	\$77,543.74
Volunteer Hours	2174	2180	710	1992	2766.5	1785.5
Scholarships	-----	\$11,300.00	\$9,900.00	\$10,250.00	\$14,400.00	\$9,600.00

The results above bring our charity endeavor story over the last six years to \$1,527,164.02 in donations to various charities, 11,600 volunteer hours, \$400,598.45 in goods collections and awarded \$55,450.00 in scholarships. For the

Grand Nest History

2019-2020 Blue Goose year this equates to \$195.51 per Active member, and to \$934.45 per Active member in donations & goods over the last six years.

Awards

The committee reviewed all applications and noted the great variance in themes that the Ponds undertook in their Charity endeavors. They thank those that utilized the Charity form to categorize their work and then provided back-up documentation.

The highlights and pictures they provided for a couple events were inspiring and displayed the great heart of the Blue Goose Pond.

The committee noted in their review that it is not just dollar amount, but how the Pond incorporated multiple avenues of charity, creating a well-rounded charity program focusing on monetary donations, collection of goods, volunteer hours and scholarship for their Pond choice for the award. How they impacted multiple lives or areas thorough the charity efforts made.

With the pandemic, it was noted that it is good to spread out and have some smaller activities over the year keeping the membership continually engaged in this area, while the Pond continues to focus on their large events.. Doing smaller events continually, allows the Pond to continue their commitment to their communities little by little.

Scholarship Award is awarded to the Pond that provided one or more scholarships to deserving individual or individuals. The award is not based on the greatest amount of scholarship dollars, but on the effort displayed in raising these funds. The 2019-2020 Scholarship Award goes to *Michigan Pond* – they touched the lives of 4 individuals by awarding them with each a \$1,000.

Charity Fund Award is awarded to the Pond that has raised funds for local charities. This award is not necessarily on the greatest amount of funds, but what has the Pond done to include all their membership in the fund-raising effort. The Charity Committee of 2019-2020 recognizes the *Cincinnati Pond* for this award.

Community Service Award is awarded to the Pond that volunteers their time and services to a local charity. "Hands Down" this 2019-2020 award goes to *Peace Garden Pond* for their outstanding volunteer work.

GORDON CROWTHER CHARITY AWARD is awarded to a Pond for outstanding charity activities, as judged by the previous recipient Pond, which was Edmonton Pond. The Pond to receive this award had a well-rounded charity program touching all categories of charity. We are proud to award this prestigious award to the *British Columbia Pond*.

Improvement Opportunities for 2020-2021

The Charity Committee wants everyone to know, that is not necessarily about who gave the greatest amount in donations or goods or scholarships, but how did they involve all their members to achieve their outcomes.

Each year the organization strives to make improvements in their programs. These are some suggestions for improvement for the Charity Precept:

1. Encourage every Pond to submit a Charity report. The Pond should not strive to try and do the largest dollar amount but strive to make a difference in their communities in small or large ways.
2. Encourage Ponds to submit their reports timely – compliance to the timeline is important in assembling proper review, creation of award certificates and report for the Grand Nest Convention.
3. Encourage every Pond to utilize the Charity form and to split out their charity endeavors accordingly.
4. Encourage the Ponds to take pictures at every charity event/activity and create a small write-up on the

Grand Nest History

5. Encourage Ponds to include documentation for their volunteer hours and folks involved.

Conclusion

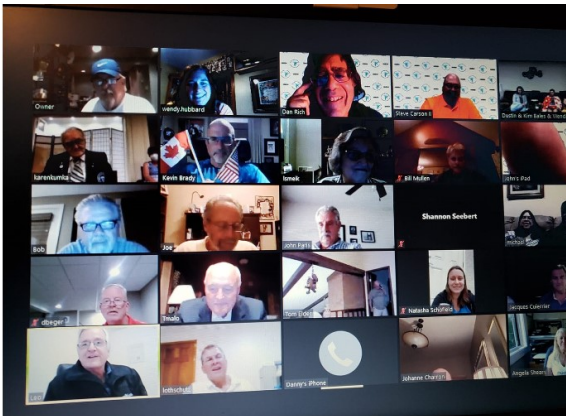
What a year this has been! Even with all the unprecedented activity that surrounds us in 2019-2020 the Blue Goose heart clearly showed thorough. As our ritual says "The Blue Goose flies high and sure. The care of its fellow Ganders is world renowned and unquestioned."

I want to express my thanks to the charity committee. They were grateful for the opportunity to look at this particularly important core precept of the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, International. They encourage every Pond to take time to submit their reports timely along with pictures and write-ups.

Please take care of your families and your fellow Ganders and we hope to see everyone in Hartford in 2021!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Meik, PMLGG/GSOF



Grand Nest History



Dear Fellow Ganders:

Fraternal greetings from your Grand Nest Officers.

First and foremost, we hope you and your families are doing well.

Clearly, we are in uncharted waters, and it's safe to say that none of us have ever experienced what we've been going through since March.

That may not be totally true, because we'd like to tell you about PMLG Ralph Wild of the Manitoba Pond, who was alive for the Spanish Flu of 1918-1920. You see Ralph is 101 years young and although in diapers at the time, lived through it and is well and on his way to living through another pandemic. Ralph is clearly one of our oldest members; both in age and membership (he joined Blue Goose in 1958). How wonderful is it to know that we have members who have been so loyal and dedicated to the Honorable Order? Think of all the history Ralph has lived through!

With the loss of the 2020 Hartford Convention we want to stress that we can't concede the entire year. Your Ponds still did a lot in 2019-2020, maybe more so in the first half than in the second half.

You held events, you supported charities, you volunteered your personal time, and you created Blue Goose history. We know you have photos to help preserve these events, because who doesn't snap photos on their phones at every opportunity? We need to capture all of your efforts for two big reasons:

- We can use your stories and photos for recruiting*
- We can use your stories and photos to record our history*

Grand Nest History

We will have no convention photos for our Grand Nest publications this year, so we need you all to pick up the slack for us.

We really need your photos too for website and social media content. We have an exciting advertising and recruiting campaign to launch, but we need your photos to show why Blue Goose is an organization that people will want to join.

No story is too big or too small, if each Pond or Puddle can send one thing for the year that would be appreciated. We are thinking of rolling out recognition for a Pond or Puddle once a month and also sharing that story on social media, such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

We want to build a buzz of excitement to spread the word about Blue Goose and encourage people to “like”, comment and share our stories.

Please be sure to include captions with your photos – Pond Name, date, location, details, etc.

Please send your responses to both bluegoosestory@gmail.com AND unclebish@eastlink.ca

*Fraternal Regards,
Your Grand Nest Officers*

Grand Nest History

Hartford Pond Story

Eight Hartford Pond ganders were joined by a mother and daughter team from Glastonbury for apple duty at Foodshare in Hartford On December 7, 2019.

What did we do? Well in our 3-hour shift we repackaged nearly 2,700 pounds of apples into individual bags of 4-5 apples for donation to social service groups to feed their hungry.

Here's how it worked. The many apple orchards around the state donate their surplus harvests to Foodshare. These were not "seconds" or apples starting to go bad - they were perfect.

They were forklifted into our room in a humongous cardboard box. Kevin Brady scooped them into a big plastic bin and dumped them onto a metal work table where the rest of us got to work loading 4 or 5 apples into a mesh bag, tying a knot in the bag, and then placing the bags into another humongous cardboard box. It was a fun time, and our shift seemed to be over in no time.

It was a fun time, filled with great conversation among friends and some cool Spotify music that we played via Bluetooth from Molly Partridge's phone into Foodshare's speakers.



L to R
Linda Brady
Sue Pelletier.
Sue Rich

L to R
Bob Partridge
Molly Partridge
Dan Rich
Danny Strong



Kevin Brady and Bob Partridge are gloving up!

L to R with the signs--
Paula Pelletier and Danny Strong.
L to R back Row-Dan Rich, Bob Partridge, Molly Partridge, Sue Rich, and Kevin Brady. Our unaffiliated community service helpers are on the far right.

Clockwise from left-Paula Pelletier, Linda Brady, a mother and daughter who independently joined us, Bob Partridge, Molly Partridge and Danny Strong.

Grand Nest History

December 1 virtual meeting

Attendance - all GN officers except Joe Lothschutz
PMLGGs Coccia, Strohecker, Robinson

Discussion on Hartford convention hotel contract and possible penalties

Zoom meeting setup for Thursday 12/3 with PEC (Cheryl) , Dan Rich , a few committee members and Terry Maloney

Hartford Pond will do something in July no matter what. May be virtual or????

Discussed how GN officers MUST reach out to the Ponds and have them know we are active and they need to be active to survive as a Pond.

What needs to be done to motivate our Ponds for survival?

Noted was the effort GN Meik and the South has made with a Regional zoom including initiation. Quarterly zooms could be a key element of our plan to motivate our members and Ponds!

Prediction is 75% estimate of budgeted dues may be received. Expenses should be about 75% of budget as well. There may be a small surplus estimated but we need to follow thru with our Ponds personally.

MLGG Dan Rich will continue to send out email blasts to entire membership to motivate Blue Goose thru this Covid times.