

History of the Grand Nest
Honourable Order of the Blue Goose, International
2020-2021



MLGG Dan Rich

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

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Grand Nest Officers 2020-2021



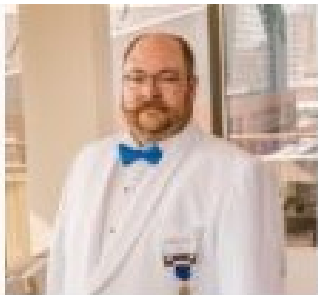
GSOF Linda Meik



MLGG Dan Rich



GCOG Wendy
Knizek



GGON Steve Carson



GKGGE Joe Lothschutz



JA Lorena Kohlruss,
PMLGG



GWGQ
Terry Maloney



John Bishop. GH,
PMLGG

Grand Nest History

Editor's Note

Dear Friends in Blue Goose,

Well we've made it through another difficult and unprecedented year. Our lives continue to be affected by this dreaded pandemic, even though a large percentage of our populations have been vaccinated. The borders between our great countries was closed until shortly before Hartford's Days of Fellowship. Canadian Provinces and American States continue to impose restrictions on their populations. The Hartford Convention traveled many different roads, from postponement in 2020 to the Days of Fellowship in 2021. "Six years of planning resulted in a start, a stop, a second start, a second stop, and eventual re-imagination." said MLGG Dan Rich.

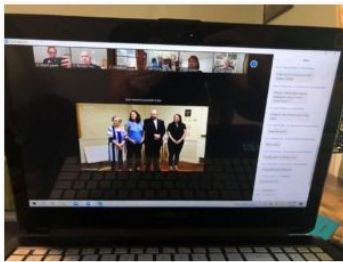
And of course, moving the Hartford Convention to 2021 meant pushing the upcoming conventions out further. Grapevine, Texas, originally scheduled for summer 2021 had to be moved to 2022, Whistler, B.C. had to be moved to 2023. As MLGG Dan Rich said "This required a lot of behind the scenes work, but we got all of our geese in a row and were thrilled to see all of the dominoes successfully fall into place."

For Hartford it meant their whole program had to be rescheduled. Every speaker, every performer, hotel bookings, transportation etc had to be re-examined and altered. Because the pandemic still had a grip, a full fledged convention in 2020 became the 2021 Convention and finally became the Days of Fellowship in 2021.

As MLGG Dan said "None of this would have been possible without the best and hardest working Convention Committee in the 115 years of Blue Goose history. Thanks you, Mark Angiletta, Kevin Brady, Jon Hale, Wendy Hubbard, Lisa Kane, Lori Kovanda, Bill Mullen, Bob Partridge, Paula Pelletier, Sue Rich, and Meeting Planner Extraordinaire Cheryl McShane."

Grand Nest History

The year and a half pandemic through a wrench into the social ability of the Goose with the border being closed right up until the time of the Days of Fellowship. But we forged through and continued to offer programs to our members as difficult as it was. A credit to our member's ingenuity and determination.



Installation of the new
Grand Nest Officers
live streamed



Some of the Days of
Fellowship Committee



Ganders grazing at
lunch



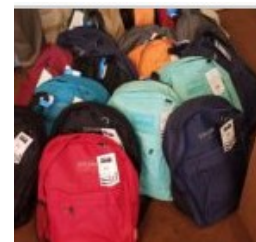
Wendy Knizek and
Dan Rich, members
of the Grand Nest,
chillaxin.



PMLGG Keith
Strohecker



Charity event-Back pack packing
ganders taking part at the
convention



Back Packs Packed!

Grand Nest History



Blue Goose Holds Historic Live and Streamed “Days of Fellowship” in Glastonbury, Connecticut July 25, 2021 to July 27, 2021

There had been 114 prior Conventions in Blue Goose history, but it's safe to say that the 115th Convention's combination of “live” and “virtual” audiences was unlike anything ever attempted by its predecessors.

The convention was renamed “Days of Fellowship” for 2021. Fifty-seven Ganders, spouses and guests were present at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glastonbury, CT, and they were joined by forty-eight Ganders from across the U.S. and Canada that joined the proceedings through a live steamed broadcast.



Saturday, July 24, 2021

For some Ganders and Guests, convention activities started on Saturday evening with an informal dinner at Vito's Pizzeria in Wethersfield, CT. Our party of twenty or so Ganders had the lounge area and front dining room all to ourselves, dining on pizza, pasta, seafood, and especially fellowship.

Sunday July 25, 2021

Our guests enjoyed a plated breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, and hash browns, along with pitchers of orange juice and platters of pastries on the tables. But the real star of Meeting Room A wasn't the food-it was the awesome display of technology that greeted us-an ocean of cables on the floor attached to half a dozen monitors and cameras.



The Hartford

Grand Nest History

Convention committee and Grand Nest worked closely with L&R Productions, LLC of Glastonbury to devise a plan to live stream the convention to Ganders across North America. The live streaming of Sunday's "Days of Fellowship" was held in a split session, from 11:00-1:00 Eastern Time, and resumed after lunch break from 2:00-4:00 Eastern. Blue Goose history was made as the Days of Fellowship Opening Ceremonies began in front of a live and virtual audience

MLGG Rich remarked that today, "as I look out into this fine audience, both here in Glastonbury and live streaming in, we see that Connecticut has once again welcomed another group of adventuresome visitors who are also deeply committed to a cause they believe in. I want to welcome each and every one of you to our Blue Goose Days of Fellowship."

Next, an image of Lisa Mullen and Jerry Hale was displayed in both the meeting room and live stream. Dan explained that the Days of Fellowship gathering was dedicated to their memory as "two of the Hart-



ford Pond's most beloved members" Bill Mullen and Joanne Hale joined Dan at the podium to "formally open today's ceremonies" by striking the gavel as he said "Ganders and Guests, I hereby declare the 115th Annual Grand Nest Convention of the Honourable Order of the Blue Goose, International, renamed for this year as our Days of Fellowship Celebration, officially opened for your enjoyment"

After the national anthems of both Canada and the United States were shown virtually, Hartford Pond's Chaplain Craig Sikora led the group in the Invocation. The next matter of business was voting on a location for next summer's Grand Nest meeting. Grand Supervisor Linda Meik spoke about the significance of the Yellow Rose. "In Victorian times it was associated with the unfortunate end of a relationship, but today it's meaning symbol-

Grand Nest History

izes freedom and a new beginning. The Southern Region Convention will be held in Grapevine, Texas: July 10th through July 14, 2022. Grapevine is



centrally located between Dallas and Fort Worth with a beautifully preserved Historic Main Street, which is lined with more than 80-locally owned restaurants, boutiques, jewellery stores, winery tasting rooms, Farmer's Market and art galleries, more than 200 restaurants, and 7 winery tasting rooms.

Next up was Grand Wielder Terry Maloney for his report and delegate roll call. Terry reported that Blue Goose was hit hard by Covid, with a drop in membership by around 200 members or 10% of our membership. He encouraged each pond to look at their membership and set a goal to bring in new members equivalent to 10% of their current membership. He noted that it would be "so wonderful if we could build ourselves back up to where we were before the pandemic."



Following the roll call Mary Kay Marchetti of the Virginia Pond motioned to hold the next Grand Nest Convention in Grapevine, Texas. The motion was seconded by Roger Foltz of the Texas Pond, voted on and approved.



Following the nomination speeches, the installation of the four elected officers was next. PMLGG's Strohecker and Wilson presided over the installation ceremony as Linda Meik of the Texas Pond became our Most Loyal Grand Gander,

Wendy Knizek of the British Columbia Pond became our Grand Supervisor, Steve Carson II of the Michigan Pond became our Grand Custodian, and Wendy Hubbard of the Hartford Pond became our Grand Guardian.

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The Convention 's Memorial Service was conducted by Brendan Reilly and Bill Mullen of the Bay State Pond.. A slide show presentation, visible to the live crowd and our remote viewers showed a slide for each pond with an image representing that Pond. We saw Fenway Park for the Bay State Pond, the CN Tower for Toronto, and the Arch for St. Louis.

We enjoyed a group lunch in the hotel's lobby restaurant, where soup, salads, sandwiches, and desserts were available. At 2:00 EST, the afternoon session resumed with a look at Blue Goose's charitable pursuits across North America.



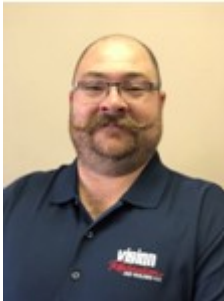
PMLGG Dan then introduced the afternoon's keynote speaker, Kathlene Gerrity, Executive Director of the Connecticut Burns Foundation, a favourite cause of the Hartford Pond. She shared the story of what their incredible organization does to help the child and adult victims of catastrophic burn injuries. The Hartford

Pond members, Corporate Convention Sponsors, and individual Convention Sponsors gathered behind a large ceremonial cheque, the Convention presented Kathlene with a cheque for \$5,000.



Next, Grand Guardian Steve Carson II of the Michigan Pond took to the

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podium as the Grand Nest advisor to the Charity Committee. In 2020 twenty-four Ponds submitted charity reports and in 2021 eighteen Ponds reported. The combined totals for both years were very impressive-\$470,600 in monetary donations, \$109,500 worth of goods collected, 3,659 hours of volunteer service, and \$51,663 in scholarship awards.

(Steve also announced this year's Charity Awards which appear later in the publication.)

In her Address of Acceptance, new MLGG Linda Meik reflected on her time with Blue Goose and some of the themes in the acceptance speeches of her predecessors:



- **Stabilization** of our flight-2001
- Our order is steeped in **tradition**-2005
- Grand Nest goes live on the **internet**-2006
- Social media for **Blue Goose**-2011
- **Acknowledging women** of the organization-2014
- **Rush** for goslings-2015
- **Branding of our organization** through the by-line "character, charity and fellowship since 1906-2016"
- Winds of **change**-2017
- **Mentorship** & younger members-2019

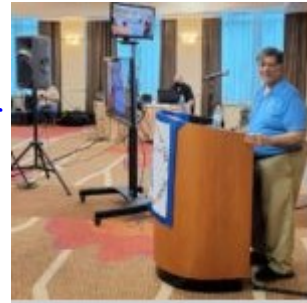
She said. "This past year, as I sat, quarantined like many of you, I reflected on what message I could deliver at this time after a year of unprecedented strangeness and mind-boggling situations."

(**Editor's Note**-Linda's complete speech appears later in the history.)

Next, MLGG Linda called upon PMLGG Dan for a report on his Pandemic affected years in office as Most Loyal Grand Gander. He began by saying "If you've been to conventions before, you know that at some point during the proceedings, the outgoing Most Loyal Grand Gander offers remarks on

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their Year in Office. Well this year, my remarks will cover two years in office. Because for the first time since World War Two, your Most Loyal Grand Gander has served two full consecutive terms.” Dan thanked “the hardest working Convention Committee in the 115 years of Blue Goose history, and meeting Planner Extraordinaire Cheryl McShane”, his colleagues on the Grand Nest, and his wife Sue.



PMLGG receiving a special gift from the ladies of the BC Pond

Dan received is PMLGG pin, a Gander of the Year certificate on behalf of the entire order, a stone drink dispenser (because he was such a “rock” for Blue Goose during the difficult times of the pandemic), and a special gift from Angela Shears and Wendy Knizek and the BC Pond.

Next Dan called up our newest Grand Nest Officer, Wendy Hubbard for her address of Acceptance. (**Editor’s Note**-Wendy’s speech appears later in this publication.)



The afternoon session concluded with Convention co-chairs Kevin Brady and Bob Partridge conducting “our long-awaited six years in the making 50/50 Raffle Drawing (won by Gander Bill Mullen) and some final housekeeping re-

marks.”



John Cusack of the Penn Pond receiving his Life Member Plaque and pin.

After the formal part of the day concluded, we walked over to Maggie McFly’s as a group and settled into a cluster of booths and tables that were set aside for us in the left corner of the dining room. We had a blast at Maggie’s! The food, service and fellowship were excellent. The fellowship

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resumed in the Hospitality Room after dinner, where the BC Pond drew a winner in their Convention Raffle for a basket of cheer and goodies.

Monday July, 26, 2021

Originally planned for the August 2020 convention, the Hartford Pond reached out to the Prudence Crandall Center and agreed that a back to school supply drive would be a convention activity. The Pond initiated an “Adopt A Backpack” program and bought 20 backpacks for each age group, K-2, 3-5, and Middle/High School. Pond members donated \$10 to defray the cost for buying the 60 backpacks, and school supplies. The packs were brought



Back Packs Packed



Ganders getting ready to pack back packs for the needy



Back Pack Crew

to long time Pond friend Carolyn Jasper, Director of Development at Prudence Crandall Center, Inc. The PCC is “dedicated to helping individuals achieve lives free of domestic violence by providing care, advocacy, support, and education.”

There was a block of free time in the middle of the day. In the afternoon the golfers returned and just about everyone changed into their 1960’s and ‘70’s clothing to board the busses at 3:30 to head off to the Priam Vineyards in nearby Colchester, CT. There were plenty of



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headbands, flowers in the hair, tie dye, and leather fringes on the bus!



Tuesday July 27, 2021

The final Days of Fellowship event was breakfast in Dan and Sue Rich's suite. Dozens of Ganders dropped by to grab something to eat before driving or flying home and to say goodbye to their friends, until next year in Grapevine, Texas. Congratulations to the Hartford Convention Committee, Hartford Pond, and Eastern Region for putting together such a successful and enjoyable program under the adverse pandemic related conditions of 2020 and 2021. **(Editor's Note-PMLGG Dan's full report can be found on the Grand Nest Website.)**



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Mid-Year Gathering Virtual Meeting May 18,2021

1. Roll Call-All GN Officers + PMLGG's Coccia, Strohecker, Robertson
2. Discussion on researching newer software for our membership system. Steve and Linda were going to look into this.
3. Our Insurance Policies are up to date with stable pricing.
4. Dan asked each officer to make strong push to collect dues in this covid year. We may lose needed revenue if we have to carry dues over.
5. Financials and the IRS are OK.
6. Hartford Gathering-\$181,000+ Revenue. Expenses \$75,000-\$90,000 Approx. Est. Attendance 35-100. Surplus goes to Hartford 2025.
7. South-\$150,000 budget. Currently only \$79,000 cash. Virtually decisions will be made the last minute.
8. BC Revenue \$60,000 CND now. Budget is \$231,000 in revenue and \$225,000 in expenses.
9. Michigan current revenue is \$20,000
10. East Region-several ponds on the brink. Natl. Capital, Hartford and NYC the best.
11. South-Alabama and Florida sluggish. North Carolina is done. Quarterly virtual meetings have gone well.
12. Canada-Ontario is a key issue in re-establishing itself. Critical. Other ponds have been quiet due to Covid.
13. Central-Ohio is trying to re-establish their identity. Dayton is done. Michigan and Cincinnati are active.
14. MLGG Rich asked us to "rekindle the spirit" after this pandemic.
15. MLGG Rich adjourned the meeting.

The Next GN Meeting is June 15th, 6 PM Central.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Maloney, GWGQ



Grand Wielder great
concentration

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Blue Goose History Report-2021

2021-06-17

Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Ganders,

In March I asked our Grand Wielder to send a note to the ponds asking for information on what they have done in relation to their history this past year. I'm sure you will agree that with the pandemic, it has been a trying year to say the least. I heard back from eight ponds out of 32 or put another way 25% of our ponds. Hopefully those who did not respond are still keeping their histories up-to-date.

Those who did respond provided interesting commentary on what they have done this past year in terms of activities for their members. I hope when you read them it will provide you with suggestions to take back to your ponds as ideas on what you can do.

Our Grand Leader, MLGG Dan, provided insight not only for the Hartford Pond but also for the Eastern Region. The ***Eastern Region*** had a virtual meeting in February and initiated 23 new members in the Region. The ***Hartford Pond*** supported their long-time charity, the Prudence Crandell Centre. They also had a drive-by ugly sweater contest and collected gift cards and cash for a local food bank. Besides that, Hartford had 2 zoom meetings where verbal reports were given and because their convention was postponed, they had snacks and household hamper baskets to give away.

The ***Peace Garden Pond*** reported that they had held in person and zoom meetings. At one of their gatherings they invited a member of the Sheriff's Department who gave a very touching talk on how hard their days were. They had a charity project for both individuals and as a pond. They also planned a golf outing. They will also be hosting a poor man's dinner in September.

Our GSOF Linda sent details on what the ***Texas Pond*** was up to. They went

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from in person meetings to zoom meetings as well as held virtual charity activities.. They set short and long goals for the pond. They also worked on Marketing and Communication projects, built service goals such as Social Charity Scholarships, golf and membership. They continued preparing for their 2022 Grand Nest Convention, held a golf tournament, awarded scholarships and supported 4 of their charities

Tom Elder from the ***Kentucky Pond*** sent me a wonderful submission detailing their activities. They held a combined zoom and in person meetings, participated in the Southern Region zoom meeting and virtual initiation where 6 new Ganders were brought into the flock. They began charity activities in 2021 with a March madness for toys for tots. They also had a Dare to Care event collecting 210 pounds (95.25 kg for our Canadian friends) of food fund raiser for Down Syndrome of Louisville. They also held a golf tournament fundraiser in May for the Denny Crum Scholarship Fund. Tom also submitted copies of photos of their events and copies of the flyers that they used. The interesting thing about his submission was that the postmark showed a mailed date of April 30th. I received it on June 15th, a full month and a half after mailing. That's why, dear friends, it's called snail mail!

I heard from the ***National Capital Pond***, thanks to their MLG Andrea Dawes. She actually reported two years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. In 19/20 they hosted several different types of events including business meetings, a day of service, award presentation events, a farewell party for PMLGG Bill Olson, who was relocating, and of course, an initiation night where 14 new members were installed. Staples like the annual holiday charity event were reconstructed. All events from March through to May and the June golf outing were postponed or cancelled due to covid.

20/21-Due to covid the Pond Executive struggled with the pond programs but managed to offer golf outings, a day of service, virtual 50/50 and prize raffle for various charities, a zoom event in January, a bracket challenge for

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charity, and a rush party for new members. Besides the many dollars raised for charity, they increased their membership with 36 ganders, 28 new members and 8 reinstated. Congrats NCP.

The **Edmonton Pond** reported that most events had to be put on hold due to the pandemic but they did have an annual general meeting via zoom in June. They participated in a donation drive in October, literally a drive threw and drop off clothing and household goods for the less fortunate. They held a virtual initiation in November. They held a virtual whiskey tasting event through zoom, a bingo night that way as well, with proceeds going to charities. They held their annual general meeting in June and are looking forward to the Hartford Days of Fellowship in July.

Quebec advised their two big events, the lobster and oyster parties, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. They, however, created a committee for volunteering that prepared and distributed hundreds of meals and recovered surplus food that they distributed to food banks.

As the Grand Nest Advisor, MLGG Dan Rich, along with his committee, is working on a Grand Nest Marketing Report, which will be available soon. Besides what I have given you in these report, their report will shed more light on what other Pond's activities have been. Hopefully between the two of them you will get some ideas for your pond. My request set out to do two things-to set a fire under you to record your pond histories and keep them up to date, and to provide you with ideas that your pond might want to implement. Hopefully I have succeeded.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Bishop
GNH/PMLGG



Grand Nest History

Grand Nest Marketing Committee-2021

Blue Goose and the Corona Virus Pandemic-March 2020 through May 2021

Recognizing the historical significance of documenting our activity during this unprecedented time period, this years Marketing Committee focused on one thing-how did Blue Goose respond to the Corona virus pandemic of 2020-2021?

The committee produced a rather extensive report (67 pages long) and included in their mission statement was “What were some of the creative marketing campaigns and strategies our Ponds adapted to maintain interest and membership when live meetings were not possible?” The committee’s mission statement goes on to say “How did we exchange information and maintain communication about so many Covid related cancellations? How did we adjust and reinvent long standing traditional events? And how did we creatively invent new virtual events?”

In the report you will see how we “improved our industry footprint and promoted the Blue Goose brand and reinvigorated our use of social media platforms, and how we grew our organization in an unprecedented time of pandemic lockdown, social distancing, societal shutdown, and closed borders across our two nations.”

The committee comprised of Patrick DaSilva, Laura Kraus, Phillip Morris, Stephanie Petluck, Jason Znoy and Grand Nest Advisor, MLGG Dan Rich deserve a great deal of credit and appreciation for a job well done. The complete report can be found on the Grand Nest website.
(www.bluegoose.org)

Grand Nest History

Report of Jurisprudence Committee June 13th, 2021

Grand Nest,

The Jurisprudence Committee was asked to evaluate the procedure to be followed relative to the closing of North Carolina Pond. The Jurisprudence Committee's investigation included looking into the background of the events that occurred, interviewing witnesses, considering relevant procedures/guidelines and reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws. The Jurisprudence Committee also considered the protocols and procedures other Ponds/Puddles have been using with respect to their banking and financial activities.

The Jurisprudence Committee determined that all Ponds/Puddles need to comply with the financial dissolution procedures as set out in the Pond/Puddle Financial Guide, dated June 1, 2019.

Upon dissolution of a Pond, the remaining members should assemble the books and records of the Pond for completion of a closing audit. This audit should be completed by the last remaining officers or former officers still active in the Pond. Should the Pond require, it may petition the Grand Nest for assistance in completing the final audit.

- Final yearly accounting must be done to end the current fiscal year through the date the Pond/Puddle is closing. A final tax return will need to be filed. Copy to be sent to the Regional Grand Nest Officer.
- All bank accounts will need to close and any funds remaining must be sent to either the Grand Nest if it is a Pond closure or the Pond if it is a Puddle closure. A confirmation should be sent to Regional Grand Nest Officer.
- The Pond and/or Grand Nest will maintain these funds in a separate account and not include them in the unrestricted general fund for a time mutually agreed to between the Pond/Puddle and the Grand Nest,

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but in no case should this period exceed five years. Absent such an agreement, the funds will become immediately available to the unrestricted general funds of the Pond or Grand Nest.

- Documentation for all charity donations in the final year should be sent to the appropriate Pond or Regional Grand Nest Officer.
- The existing ganders should be notified of option to transfer membership to other Ponds or Grand Nest. (This can be coordinated by the Regional Grand Nest Officer)
- Pond Charter and Flag should be mailed to the Regional Grand Nest Officer once decision has been made to close.

In addition, it was determined that although Ponds/Puddles transactions of funds have been in accordance with signatory authorities listed on their bank account, they are not in compliance with the financial guideline requirements that all banking activities specifically cheque writing, must have two signatures.

It is apparent that some Ponds/Puddles have implemented and have adhered to the Pond/Puddle Financial Guidelines, but not others. This instance, with North Carolina Pond, emphasises the reason for the need for strict compliance and the Jurisprudence Committee is highly recommending that the Grand Nest educate the Ponds/Puddles on these requirements and verify that they have been implemented. The following language, or substantially similar language, should be used to communicate and confirm compliance with all Ponds/Puddles:

“I hereby agree, warrant and attest that the Pond/Puddle Financial Guidelines, dated June 2019 will be implemented and I will hereby agree to follow the guidelines including but not limited to two signatories on every cheque.” {to be acknowledged by all Pond/Puddle Officers including any Gander who is not an officer but remains an authorized signatory on Pond/Puddle bank accounts.}

The Jurisprudence Committee further recommends that a letter be sent

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annually to the Ponds/Puddles stating and reminding them of the requirements with the guidelines and a new attestation to be signed as set out above, along with a copy of the guidelines.

The Jurisprudence Committee recognizes that some Ponds/Puddles may have struggled over the last two years with the pandemic and encourages Grand Nest to monitor the viability of the Ponds/Puddles, educate and assist them where it is needed.

Respectfully,
Jurisprudence Committee



Grand Nest Officers
for 2021-2022



A very enthusiastic
Techie set and ready to
deliver.



Enjoying a delicious meal.



Caption what's going on in
the background



Getting the back packs
ready for delivery



Yum Yum

Grand Nest History



Scholarship Award-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 2020-2021 Scholarship Award goes to the ***Alberta Pond***.

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. The Charity Committee of 2020-2021 recognizes the ***Virginia Pond*** for this award.

Community Service Award-awarded to the Pond that volunteers their time and services to a local charity. The Charity Committee of 2020-2021 recognizes the ***Hartford Pond*** for their outstanding volunteer work.

Gordon Crowther Charity Award-awarded to a Pond for outstanding charity activities, as judged by the previous recipient Pond, which was the British Columbia 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 ***Quebec Pond***.

The “***Gander of the Year***” awards went the Canadian Region’s ***Robert Barlow*** of the Regina Pond, the Central Region’s ***Ken Zetocha*** of the Peace Garden Pond, the Eastern Region’s ***Kevin Brady*** of the Hartford Pond, and the Southern Region’s ***Shannon Seebert*** of the Kentucky Pond.

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Meet the Newest Grand Nest Officer

Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Nest Officers, Delegates, Ganders and family (live and virtual),

A big thank you to my fellow Ganders and the Eastern Region, for trusting me with the roll of Grand Guardian of the Nest.

We have a strong region who has leaned on each other for support, encouragement, and energy over the years. You are amazing! And a very special thank you to my most, my favourite Gander husband Mike, for supporting me throughout these past 20 years as I have participated in so many Pond events. It looks like we have few more to attend to Hun!

The Honourable Order of the Blue Goose, International immediately became a favourite organization of mine. There is an instantaneous feeling of belonging here with people of like mindset and values. We all come from various walks of life, and we bond with our commitment to Character, Charity and Fellowship. I truly feel like I am surrounded by the most motivated, compassionate, and caring family. My children are not here this year, but they would tell you that some of our most favourite family vacations have been right here with all of you visiting places throughout the US and Canada, meeting Ganders and their families-forging our bonds even stronger as we keep this Order alive!

I know that we all have faced some form of pandemic fatigue this past year and a half, and many of us have made a pandemic-driven evaluation of our priorities. We are taking a bit of an inventory of our lives. Most of us have decided to focus on what is important after seeing that we may have been spreading ourselves too thin. And maybe, for some, we have been focusing our time and energy to things that no longer matter to us. The pandemic lifestyle has changed us all; and have us taking a look at

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what to keep and what to toss out. There are physical items we are cleaning out our homes and businesses, also so much on our to-do list is getting evaluated.

The timing of me being offered this Grand Nest position was ideal. It came at a time that I was looking at all the roles I fill, a chaotic schedule, and allowed me to re-affirm my commitment to this Order. I do promise to all of you that I will serve you and the Order to the best of my abilities. I will be a listening ear, and I will be excited to try out new ideas to strengthen our membership numbers and the quality of the membership experience.

I am committed to focusing on the long-term survival of the Order with you through:

- Fiscal responsibility while keeping our Ponds healthy.
- The preservation of our Order's history.
- Encouraging abundant generosity in our communities.

I am honoured to be joining the Grand Nest leadership with the support of my fellow Officers, and to be following in the very big footsteps of those that have filled this roll before me. I will lean on you, I will challenge you, and I will listen to all my fellow Ganders in the time that I will serve.

I look forward to making an impact on the future of the Blue Goose with all of you.

Tote Fare!

(Wendy works for Expert Alliance at Envista Forensics, Springfield, Massachusetts as the director of the Expert Alliance Division globally. She possess a demonstrated history of working in the insurance and legal services industry. Her skills include failure analysis, team management, and catastrophic response. She is a strong business development professional with a B.S. focused in Civil Engineering from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.)

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MLGG 2021 Acceptance Message

PMLGG Dan Rich, fellow Grand Nest Officers, past PMLGG's, delegates, fellow ganders, and guests, here in person and those of you out in Zoom Land, it is a great privilege and honour for me, that I accept this nomination to serve in the office as Most Loyal Grand Gander.

This past year as I sat quarantined like many of you, I reflected on what message I could deliver at this time after a year of unprecedented strangeness and mind-boggling situations. I also did some in-depth reflection time on my life and Blue Goose as a whole. One thing I did during this reflection time, is go back and read several of the previous MLGG acceptance speeches since the first convention that I attended, in 1999. Over the years there were several themes put forward. Here are some of them:

STABILIZATION OF OUR FLIGHT-2001

OUR ORDER IS STEEPED IN TRADITION-2005

GRAND NEST GOES LIVE ON THE INTERNET-2006

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BLUE GOOSE-2011

ACKNOWLEDGING WOMEN OF THE ORGANIZATION-2014

RUSH FOR GOSLINGS-2015

BRANDING OF OUR ORGANIZATION THROUGH THE BYLINE

“CHARACTER, CHARITY AND FELLOWSHIP SINCE 1906-2016

WINDS OF CHANGE-2017

MENTORSHIP & YOUNGER MEMBERS-2019

All great themes-don't you think? So, what theme should we focus on for 2021-2022?

We have many folks who offer great ideas but do little to move the idea to reality, expecting others to do the heavy lifting to get the idea implemented. In JoAnn Clark's MLGG speech in 2008, she noted from an unknown source the following statement, **“Ideas are a dime a dozen-people who put them into action are priceless.”** Let me repeat that...**“Ideas are**

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a dime a dozen-people who put them into action are priceless..”

She also stated the following “**Complacency can invade your group because we like things the way they are.**” “**Not wanting to change, is not the answer for the future. If you are not adding members, you will be facing a big problem. Transfers, age, and illness will take their toll; you need to increase your membership, to stay viable and interesting.**” And as a result of the past 12-18 months; we have seen some of these items come to fruition. Today, we can add two new words to the impact on membership: **global pandemic** and **Zoom fatigue**.

Our nine to five workplaces became staying at home and sitting in front of the computer all day attending one Zoom meeting after another, robbing us all of the very thing that formed this organization more than a “100” years ago: “fraternity”-face-to-face interaction. This situation blurred our professional life with our home/family life. **Our purpose became staying safe and healthy.** Through it all, everyone kept working hard and diligently, and in turn working hard during this time became even more stressful. Zoom was not something we loved, but was a necessity, making it hard to have any shared purpose or passion. Many of our Ponds saw a decrease in membership as a result of no in-person interaction, leaving our organization hanging on tightly to our fragile existence.

In thinking about this situation, and looking to transform words into action, I propose that the theme for this next Blue Goose year be the beginning of the 3 R’s program. You ask, what is this program....???

REORGANIZE

REFOCUS

RENEW

Each Pond has to take stock of itself and its membership, transform ideas into action. Analyze who are the leaders and in fact are they willing to accept the responsibility to truly lead. Are these the leaders that can analyze the Pond’s status, get the Pond reorganized; refocus and put into motion a plan of defining and obtaining new goals, renewing, and regaining mem-

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bership momentum and breath new vitality into the Pond and our honourable order.

To obtain momentum, Grand Nest will need to rise to the occasion and be a springboard towards the future, be a helping hand to access all resources, avenues of change, collector of ideas and serve as the example for the 3 R's Program.

So, to initiate this momentum I am going to ask each Grand Nest Officer to identify goals for the coming year and present them to me no later than the end of August, at which time we will share these with everyone, and I trust that each of you will help them succeed in achieving their goals. I find that when I set goals, I find my passion in getting things accomplished and I find that I can deliver to those around me by building off the faith & trust they have in me to succeed.

If our membership knows the goals of Grand Nest and embraces them, then the Ponds can establish their goals to help support the direction of this next year with the 3 R's program. Make your goals official-write them down and share with every member of your Pond/Puddle, passionately pursue them, and then at the convention in 2022 let us hear the results from everyone-share our stories, our successes and set the course for another year in the time-tested history of this order.

Working as a team to achieve meaningful goals is the significant and a rewarding way one can spend their time and energy. We only get out of the organization what we put into it. And the only way the organization maintains continual success is through this **REORGANIZATION-REFOCUSING-RENEWAL PROCESS.**

Remember at the beginning of this day, it is all about possibilities. At the end of the day, it is all about results.

Thank you for this opportunity to be your guide for 2021-2022.

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Post convention Minutes via Zoom August 10,2021

1. All Grand Nest Officers present + PMLGG Rich & Strohecker
2. MLGG Meik appointed JA Kohlruss, GKKE Lothschutz, GNH Rich & GNH Emeritus Bishop.
3. GWGQ Maloney's Contract was executed.
4. W. Hubbard photo is in
5. Bank Resolution signed by Meik & Maloney
6. Approval expenses for GN Officers attending Days of Fellowship-motion by Carlson, 2nd Knizek, unanimous
7. PMLGG Rich reviewed the fellowship gathering. 100 in attendance. Stream was great with all Ponds having delegates, a first in the history of BG. Dan thought the event went off as best as it could be expected. Nice to consider using zoom for future conventions. He felt there were may new members watching this event due to streaming then ever before.
8. We asked PMLGG Rich for his narrative on the Days of Fellowship in word format.
9. GGN Hubbard has Linda's GN Officer Guide. A book of all Guides was assembled and given to each Regional Officer at the Days of Fellowship in Hartford. This book should be passed on by each Regional Officer to the next incoming GN Officer & the regional should educate the new officer on the documents, especially the GN Officer Guide.
10. Budget discussion. With the decrease in membership this past year as a result of Covid, GWGQ challenged each Pond to increase members by 10%. Membership has a big impact on the GN finances. Further detailed discussion postponed for the end of August budget zoom meeting.
11. Knizek is considering a Las Vegas midyear for 2021-2022. (Possible dates 2/11-2/13/22).
12. Meik sent draft of the 2021-2022 meeting schedule.

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13. Theme this year is communications with Ponds and DMLGG's
14. DMLGG's and their continued role was a big topic. We need better clarity on what we ask of them to do and an increased consistency on their role region to region. Possible GN Officer source. Meik wants to align a DMLGG for each region for history, membership, financial matters etc.
15. PMLGG Bishop volunteered to start drafting a DMLGG Guide.
16. Meik is moving travelling archives off to each region and the region can host at the regional convention. She has asked Rich to really clear out the archives he has in boxes and get them distributed to the regions accordingly.
17. Knizek and Carson chair-Communication & Marketing
18. Hubbard charity (with Quebec Pond selecting the next winner) & Membership.
19. Kohlruss and Lothschutz head finance committee
20. Maloney on Date base.
21. Rich & Bishop on history & Archives
22. Mileage is 56 cents USA
23. Canadian relief at \$1.25
24. New-Rich suggested that membership eligibility be expanded to Financial services.
25. Next meeting September 1, 2021-Wednesday 6PM central
26. Carson motion to adjourn, Meik seconded. Unanimous

Submitted,
Terry Maloney GWGQ



Dee lish dishes



DMLGG Sabar soon to enjoy the fruits of the vineyard.

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Grand Nest Officer's Budget Meeting Minutes September 1, 2021

1. All GN officers were present except JA Kohlruss & PMLGG Rich, PMLGG Strohecker joined.
2. MLGG Meik led discussion by first asking about the Ontario Pond status. A suggestion was to have JA Kohlruss send a letter to the Pond Officers advising of their non-compliance. If she needs to recues herself then ask another member of the Jurisprudence committee to issue the letter. A phone call supporting that would be an added help. There needs to be a protocol to follow in the future for these situations.
3. GKGGE Lothschutz recommended that code 503 prior dues be adjusted to \$3,500 from \$10,500 as this is a better reflection of what is outstanding in prior dues. Refer to GKGGE financial report.
4. Code 609 insurance was discussed. Costs were negotiated down by our GWGQ. That explains why the budget item was reduced from previous year.
5. GWGQ has submitted 2 budgets for review. The 2021-2022 budget reflects no dues increase. The 2022-2023 reflects an \$8 dues increase. An increase is necessary to sustain a positive cash flow.
6. MLGG Meik stated that she believes we need to do a detailed explanation/narrative explaining to our Ponds how Covid has affected our organization. She will send her message to her fellow GN Officers for editing the narrative and establishing a consensus on our message.
7. MLGG Meik and JA Kohlruss will provide a dues payment message soon.
8. Finally there was an opportunity for all in attendance to voice their opinion on how much of a dues increase is necessary. The consensus was that at least a \$12 dues increase was needed. MLGG Meik will get JA Kohlruss to draft up dues increase proposal, have all the GNO's review and then send it to the Jurisprudence Committee for review before submitting to the Ponds. MLGG Meik would like this completed in December.

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9. GKGGE Lothschutz and GWGQ Maloney will adjust the 2 year budget statement which will be provided to the GN Officers and then published.
10. Motion to adjourn made by GGN Hubbard and 2nd by GCG Carson.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ

