

# **HISTORY OF THE GRAND NEST**

**Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International**

**2006 – 2007**



**101<sup>st</sup> GRAND NEST CONVENTION  
WILLIAMSBURG, VA.  
KEITH STROHECKER**

**Prepared by:  
Barry L. Snyder, PMLGG  
Grand Nest Historian**

# GRAND NEST HISTORY

Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia---July 20-23, 2007



The current and past Grand Nest officers started to arrive on Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>; to be on time for their pre-convention meeting that started Thursday morning. The meeting was held in the Allegheny Room. MLGG Strohecker presided, Grand Wielder Maloney called the roll. The following current officers were present. Grand Supervisor Jack Fitch; Grand Custodian JoAnn M. Clark; Grand Guardian William Wasakanes; Grand Keeper Joseph C. Coccia; Grand Wielder Terrance M. Maloney; Judge Advocate Robert Tayloe Ross and Grand Historian Barry L. Snyder. Also, present were the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Jerry Simpson; Rex Clark and Timothy T. Seider.

Other Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders came later to attend the Convention. They were Bruce B. Bolton; Larry Lewer; George Hardwood; Marc Thurber; John Bishop and Gerald F. Hale.

Several of the Ganders from all over the United States and Canada started to arrive early to get familiar with the area. A few came to do some sightseeing in this great historical region. There were 137 Ganders, 80 Spouses and 38 youth in attendance. Grand Nest Conventions are a fun time, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Those Ganders that arrived early enjoyed a great morning playing golf at the Golden Horseshoe – Gold Course on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. The course was across from the hotel. In the afternoon two seminars were held. One was on “Identify Theft”, by Frank Dutton, from Virginia Farm Bureau. The other class was held by Wayne Wudyk, CRDN, the subject was “Effect of New Technology on the Household Claims Services Industry”.

That evening in the Virginia Room was the Welcome Party. Food stations were set up around the room. Children enjoyed themselves trading pins from the different Ponds that were represented. Some of the adults also got into the fun of trading pins; it was a good icebreaker to meet new people. Strolling musicians and storytellers dressed in colonial costume were the entertainment of the evening.

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Saturday's Opening Ceremonies began with the presentation of the flags by the James City County Fire Department Honor Guards. The National Anthems were sung, the Star Spangled Banner; O Canada and Advance Australia Fair.

The invocation was given by PMLG Joseph E. Bishop of the Virginia Pond.

MLG Mattie Worrix of the Virginia Pond welcomed us to the city of Williamsburg, VA. The Honorable Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor of Williamsburg, Executive Director, Jamestown 2007 welcome us to this historical area. The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> State District, Co-Chairman, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation gave us a brief history of Williamsburg's significance in American History, as it was the first English speaking settlement in the New World in 1607.

D. Eugene Atkinson of the Virginia Pond introduced the head table, Honored Guest, PMLGGs and DMLGGs. Welcome letters from the Virginia Attorney General and President of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation were read.

The Memorial Service was given by PMLGG George Harwood and his wife, PMLG Donna of the Florida Pond. The service began with a prayer of remembrance for the April 16<sup>th</sup> shooting victims at Virginia Tech.

The Ponds were called in alphabetical order and as images of a landmark in that city, where the Pond was located, were projected the names of those Ganders that took their last flight.

Eulogies were conducted for two departed PMLGG'S that passed away this past year. Douglass G. Snyder of the Wisconsin Home Nest, MLGG 1981, and Dennis N. Ellergodt of the Alberta Pond, MLGG in 1983.



The National Capital Pond conducted the Model Initiation and provided eight new members with a memorable welcome to the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. Dressed in colonial garb, black robed – white wiggled “judges” mixed Olde English rhetoric with contemporary shuckin’ and a sprinkling of Three Stooges sound effects to create a very entertaining experience. Two of the many highlights of the ceremony were

PMLG Patrick Bergmann entering the room carrying the Goose along with the Golden Goose Egg and Preacher Gene Newman's fire and brimstone rendition of “*The Charge*”.

The initiation team, back row PMLG Patrick Bergmann; SOF James Dorsey; PMLG Michelle Fitzwater; PMLG William Olson; Gander James Lanham, Jr.; and PMLG Gene Newman. Front roll COG George Burgee; MLG Frank Morgan; PMLG Norris Gearhart and GOP Kyle Cordeiro.

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The All Industry Luncheon featured an address by Guest Speaker Colonel Robert H. Simpson, the Director of the Joint Staff at the Virginia National Guard's Readiness Center. He spoke on the National Guard's response to "man-made or natural events" and the country's growing demand for better preparedness in the face of disasters such as Katrina.

A service veteran deployed in Korea, Germany, Italy and Bosnia, he spoke of the Guard's "higher profile" after 9/11 and Katrina, and their missions to save lives and mitigate suffering; preserve and restore civil order; maintain and re-establish communication; and insure continuity of government.

In the afternoon from two to four the Ponds had their regional meetings.

Prior to the dinner there were cocktails in the Colony Foyer on the main lever. Ganders and their guests enjoyed the time talking with one another.



We entered the Colony Room for a "Groaning Board Dinner". The colonial feast was named, because the tables would groan from so much food. Huge bibs were tied around us, as an extra precaution against the impending tide of food.

The bill of fare included peanut soup, poached fillet of flounder with rice and creole sauce, fried chicken, roasted pork loin, corn fritters, sweet potato pudding, sautéed zucchini with snap beans and pecans, chef salad, bread, sour cherry trifle (layered of vanilla pudding, cake and cherries). Coffee and pitcher after pitcher of ale were served. Colonial songs and story telling capped

off the stunning evening.

Sunday July 22, Grand Wielder Terry Maloney called the roll of the Pond delegates. MLGG Keith Strohecker gave his report on his year in office. He summarized the October 2006 Grand Nest emergency meeting, which was necessary, because no Southern Region Pond had declared their intent to follow Virginia and host the Convention in 2012. It was decided that Blue Goose would have to change from its traditional five-year regional rotation and the convention would be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 2012.

MLGG Strohecker's other travel destinations included Louisville for the Kentucky Pond's golf outing. The National Capital, John Brenner Annual Charity Luncheon at the Indian Springs Country Club in Maryland and Detroit for the Michigan Pond's gala Christmas Part for 650 plus.

March he travel to Canada for the Bonspiel, a curling tournament with five Canadian Ponds participating and to Orlando for the PLRB Convention that saw Blue Goose take in 600 contacts names from interested parties. He presided over the Mid Year Grand Nest meeting at Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Keith also attended a meeting of the Louisiana Pond and the Southern Region's splash in Atlanta.

Grand Wielder Maloney give his report emphasized the "big year" the Order just had as we transitioned to a new software system. The Order's largest Ponds are Michigan 430 members; Quebec 225; St. Louis 211 and Edmonton 200.

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Grand Nest Historian and PMLGG Barry L. Snyder gave his report detailing that the project to complete the second fifty years of the Order's History (1956 – 2006) Is being formatted and finalized and should be completed for next year.

Judge Advocate Robert Ross spoke about the Grand Nest emergency meeting on regionalization and the role of the Grand Nest, because no Southern Region Pond was equipped to host the 2012 Convention. The role of the Grand Nest will expand to include fund-raising and the role of the Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders will also expand to include greater responsibilities.

Judge Advocate Ross explained this year's proposed constitutional amendment changes. The first would reduce the number of goslings to form a Puddle from 50 to 25 and the second would reduce the size of a potential Pond from 100 to 50. Ross explained that these reductions made sense as they reflected the industry's downsizing and also would encourage growth in more areas of the country.

Grand Keeper Joseph C. Coccia reported on his audit of the Grand Nest's financial condition. His complete report of July 2007 is found in Volume 101 of the 101<sup>st</sup> Grand Nest Convention Issue of the Grand Nest Bulletin.



Grand Wielder Maloney announced that a charter had been given to a new Pond. MLG Jane Rogalinr of the Ohio Pond Accepted the charter and delivered an emotional address.

Grand Wielder Maloney called Bob Partridge of the Hartford Pond, in this role as the Grand Nest Bartender, for his report. Bob said that he had personally inspected the various Hospitality Suites, found them all to be in good working condition and declared that their membership was up.

The afternoon and evening were free. Many of the Ganders and their families explored the many attractions of the Williamsburg, Jamestown and the surrounding areas. Others enjoyed the many restaurants in Colonial Williamsburg.

Monday July 23, all Ganders and guests assemble in the Colony room for the presentation for next year's Convention by the Ontario Pond to be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The Convention will be at the Sheraton Falls Ontario, located 300 yards away from the breathtaking Canadian side of the Falls. The hotel has achieved a Four Diamond rating for fifteen consecutive years.

After the roll call of delegates, nominating speeches for the 2007-2008 slate of officers were given and PMLGG John Bishop installed the new officers.

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Art LeMaistre



The Grand Nest's newest officer is Art LeMaistre of the Alberta Pond, a 27 year Blue Gooser with forty years of service to the insurance industry. The other officers of the GN is the Grand Guardian, Joseph Coccia of the Michigan Pond; Grand Custodian, William Wasekanes of the Penn Pond ; Grand Supervisor, JoAnn Clark of the Seattle Pond; and the Most Loyal Grand Gander is Jack Fitch of the Ontario Pond.



## Acceptance Speech Jack Fitch on election as Most Loyal Grand Gander

Thank you Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Keith Strohecker.

Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Ganders this is completely unexpected. Personally I thought the other candidate ran a much better and more deserving campaign.

More seriously, I don't want this to sound like an Oscar acceptance speech but there are some people who I specifically want to thank. Let me start by thanking all of you for your dedication to our order and for the privilege that you have bestowed on me by allowing me the opportunity to lead our flock for the coming year.

I particularly want to thank Keith who has set a spectacular example as Most Loyal Grand Gander. We normally think of accountants as unemotional individuals. Keith has certainly put the lie to that notion. There is no calculating his passion and commitment to our Order. It has been an honor to serve on Grand Nest with Keith and I look forward to long association with him through our Order in the future.

I would also like to thank all of the Officers of Grand Nest that I have served with. Each of them has shown tremendous dedication to our Honorable Order and all of them have become more than colleagues, each of them is now a friend.

I particularly want to thank Barry Snyder. The first Grand Nest Convention I attended was the one presided over by Barry and Pat in Baltimore. Barry has been a role model for me ever since. Barry has also served our Order as Grand Nest Historian and is in the process of completing the history of our order for its second half century from 1956 to 2006. I have asked Barry to continue as Grand Nest Historian for the coming year and he has graciously agreed to do so. Thank you again Barry.

Speaking of Baltimore I have to thank Bob Jackson and Jack Bremner. In 2000 I was Most Loyal Gander of the Ontario Pond. Bob and Jack, both life members, accompanied me to Baltimore and encouraged me to put Ontario Pond's name forward in the Canadian Regional meeting as potential host of the 2008 Grand Nest Convention. According to tradition, Ontario Pond would have sponsored the 2013 Convention having last hosted the Convention in 1988 but Bob and Jack pointed out to me that Ontario Pond would be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 and besides, according to them, none of the other Canadian Ponds were ready to take on a convention. Reluctantly, with their encouragement, I agreed to put the idea forward.

After the regional meeting where my suggestion was met with general support, Bob and Jack, as we were walking away, told me that having made the proposal I was obliged to stand for nomination to Grand Nest to carry, what they now characterized as my suggestion, into fruition. Personally I hold them responsible.

Let me also thank Robert Ross. I have asked Robert to continue to serve as our Judge Advocate and he has

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agreed to do so. Robert brings tremendous skill and experience to this task. His thoughtful consideration of the vexing problems that have troubled Grand Nest during my tenor as an officer as been greatly appreciated by all of us who have served with him and benefited from his guidance.

I, of course, also want to thank the members of Ontario Pond who have enthusiastically supported the idea that I put forward so casually in 2000 and who have worked so hard already to prepare for the 2008 Grand Nest Convention. Some of our Pond's most ardent supporters and hardest workers, Chris Giffen, Harry Grewal, Chris Adelhardt, Todd Stewart, Zina Tofano and Miriam Weerasooriya, are here with me and I greatly appreciate their continued support and enthusiasm as we move into the final phase of our preparations for the Grand Nest Convention to be held in Niagara Falls next year.

There are two other Ganders who deserve my sincere thanks. Max Brugger is the Wielder of the Ontario Pond and co-chair with Chris Adelhardt of the 2008 Grand Nest Convention Committee. Max is the heart and sole of the Ontario Pond. Without his dedication and commitment to the Pond and its undertakings it is doubtful that we could continue let alone achieve the significant goals, which the Pond has already achieved. Max got me involved in the executive of the Pond and has continued to provide leadership and encouragement to all of our Ganders. It is not a coincidence that the other Gander who deserves my sincere thanks is Grand Wielder Terry Maloney. Ever since first attending a Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore Terry's knowledge of the history of our Order, his dedication to its cardinal principles and his support of its work has been an inspiration to me. Terry is largely responsible for the success of Grand Nest and our Conventions. Wielders, as I see it, play a very important role in our Order. Without their commitment to maintaining the records of our ponds and communicating with our Ganders our ponds would likely fail.

There are, of course, others who have supported my involvement in Blue Goose, my partners at Hughes Amys LLP, and the delegates from year to year from across the Canadian Region, the Grand Nest Officers and others. I appreciate the contribution that each has made to enable me to have this opportunity.

It is an honor and a privilege to be elected Most Loyal Grand Gander of our Honorable Order. I will attempt to fulfill, to the best of my ability, the responsibilities that your trust has thrust upon me. This is an exciting time in the history of our Order. At this convention we have granted a pond charter to the Ohio Pond and have acknowledged the creation of the Tidewater Puddle of the Virginia Pond. Over the past year membership in our Order in the Canadian Region has increased. These are positive signs that our Order remains as relevant and viable today as it was when it was founded over a hundred years ago. We have a great "product" to offer people in our industry and owe it to those of them who have not joined the Order to promote it to them. I encourage you to go back to your Ponds and carry our message of character, charity and fellowship with you. Share your enthusiasm for our Order with your associates in the insurance industry and actively seek out suitable members to join your Pond or work toward the creation of Ponds and Puddles in areas where our Order is not currently represented.

Lastly, I encourage all of you to join me and the Ontario Pond in Niagara Falls, Ontario from July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 for the 102<sup>nd</sup> Grand Nest Convention and the celebration of Ontario Pond's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I hope we will have delegates from all of our Ponds at this event. I look forward to seeing all of you and your fellow Ganders in Niagara Falls next year.

Because Niagara Falls is the honeymoon capital of the world, Ontario Pond is offering a special incentive to recently married couples. Any Gander who gets married between now and the 2008 Grand Nest Convention and who registers for the convention before June 15, 2008, will be eligible to win a one-night stay at the Sheraton Falls View Hotel including dinner for two. Further information concerning this special promotion will be posted

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on the Ontario Pond website, [www.bluegooseontario.org](http://www.bluegooseontario.org), so please take word back to your ponds and encourage your eligible Ganders to register with us. The winning Gander will be advised shortly after June 15, 2008, so that suitable arrangements can be made for them with the hotel and an announcement will be made at the opening ceremonies.

Seattle Pond is holding the 2009 Grand Nest Convention in Reno, Nevada, the divorce capital of the world, so the Seattle Pond may be able to make special divorce arrangements for any Ganders who rush to the alter just to be eligible for our promotion.

Jack Fitch, MLGG.

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Next, PMLGG George Harwood presented a plaque and pin to our newest PMLGG Keith Strohecker.

The Family Luncheon followed, featuring a kid-friendly box lunch and door prizes. Entertainment was provided by a comedian juggler.

## Grand Ball and Banquet



Grand Ball Cocktail Hour Virginia Foyer

That evening the Grand Banquet and Ball was held in the Virginia Room. The banquet featured a smokin' hot band (Flashback) with a five piece horn section. They tore through crowd-pleasing sets of rock, pop, soul and even some disco. Flashback encouraged audience participation. Jim Dorsey and Bill Olson went on stage to deliver hot versions of *Mustang Sally* and *Blue Suede Shoes* respectively. Grand Guardian Joe Goccia sat in on drums and bevy of "Blue Goose Beauties", led by Fiona Strohecker, danced and harmoniously delivered background vocals on center stage.



Jim Dorsey of the NCP

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### IN MEMORIUM Dennis N. Ellergodt



Dennis Norby Ellergodt was born July 12, 1931. He started his insurance career with Hutchinson and Son General Insurance Agency. In 1961 Dennis joined Canadian Home Assurance Company and later retired as the Western Vice President.

Dennis joined Blue Goose on December 6, 1954. He was MLG 1969 to 1970 and achieved MLGG 1982 to 1993. As a member for over fifty years, he was of course a Life Member.

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I had the pleasure of serving on Grand Nest with Dennis in the year 1982-1983. My wife and I met Dennis and Joan in 1970 at Toledo, Ohio. We then renewed our friendship in Louisville, Kentucky in 1972.

I visited Dennis in Calgary in 1987 and 1992 and again in 2003. During the last two visits we noticed his Dementia was developing.

In 2005 he was diagnosed with Dementia and finally relocated into a Care Centre. He is survived by his wife Joan, daughter Laurie and two sons.

Dennis is remembered for his sense of equality toward his fellow man. He had infectious warmth about him. He never passed up a chance to acknowledge everyone around him at every opportunity, with the same level of cheerfulness that was his trademark throughout his life.

## **Hail friend and farewell.**

*Prepared for presentation during the Memorial Service at the 101<sup>st</sup> Grand Nest Convention, P. J. "Jerry" Simpson, PMLGG, Florida Pond. Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia July 21, 2007.*



## IN MEMORIUM Douglass G. Snyder

Douglass was born November 16, 1922. He was married to Mary Ann for around fifty years who he lovingly cared for while her Parkinson's disease progressed in her later years. He was the MLGG from the Wisconsin Home Nest in 1981. He was initiated in Wisconsin on June 17, 1952. He passed away on March 27, 2007. He supported both the Wisconsin Home Nest as well as the International in many ways not just financial. He lived the ideals of our Order of Character, Charity and Fellowship throughout his life. **Hail friend and farewell.**

*Prepared for presentation during the Memorial Service at the 101<sup>st</sup> Grand Nest Convention, Grand Wielder Terrence M. Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest. Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia, July 21, 2007*

## GRAND NEST OFFICER'S PRE-CONVENTION MINUTES JULY 19, 2007 WILLIAMSBURG INN, WILLIAMSBURG, VA

1. All current GN Officers in attendance, along with PMLGGs Clark, Simpson and Seider
2. MLGG Strohecker indicated 255 would be at this convention with 43% using the on-line registration. The room commitment will be fulfilled but use of off-site rooms is a problem. Higher alternative registration fees may need to be implemented.
  - GCG J. Clark indicated the budget for the Reno site is on track with \$42,000 raised. February 15-16, 2008 is set for the mid-year meeting.
  - GKGGE Coccia indicated 2 locations are being considered, Grand Rapids vs. Detroit. They have raised \$50,000.

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- GOP Wasekanes stated a contract is signed and budget is being set-up
  - GSF Fitch said Ontario is set with \$100,000 raised to date.
3. Future sites are the Alberta Pond representing the South in 2012. Quebec will represent Canada in 2013. Utah Pond is giving it consideration for 2014 in the West and National Capital Pond may host 2015.
  4. GWGQ Maloney provided the GN Officers with all the membership reports from our “new software” system. Canada actually had a positive growth in membership with 45 increases. Only a few Ponds are past due in dues, with Quebec being of concern. Virginia Pond has a new Puddle (Tidewater). Ohio Puddle has applied properly for a Pond Charter at this convention.
  5. The overall concern was membership development. Our small Ponds are struggling. A few Ponds are making a come back such as Heart of America.
  6. Presentation of Awards were established as well as presented.
  7. GN Officer nominations with nominators established.
  8. PMLGG Bishop will install the New GN Officers.
  9. GWGQ Maloney confirmed that insurance has been verified.
  10. GKGGE Coccia presented his audit report on his attendance in July 2007 at Elm Grove, WI.
  11. Appropriate committee reports were filed.
  12. MLGG Strohecker will provide convention survey for the attendees. GCG J. Clark will compile the results.
  13. GWGQ Maloney reported the National PLRB in Orlando was initially very successful with 700 contacts being sent letters. However, he noted that the regional officers along with key people must follow up with contacting these 700 in order to make this initial effort successful.
  14. First time attendees will be recognized at this convention.
  15. Canadian relief will be set at 1.06 this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ

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**GRAND NEST OFFICER'S  
POST-CONVENTION MINUTES  
JULY 23, 2007  
WILLIAMSBURG INN, WILLIAMSBURG, VA**

16. All current officers led by MLGG Fitch were in attendance. Also PMLGG's R. Clark, T. Seider, J. Bishop, L. Lewer, M. Thurber, and G. Harwood were present.
17. MLGG Fitch reappointed GWGQ Maloney, JA Ross, and GNH Snyder.
18. The GWGQ contract was executed and signed by all parties.
19. MLGG Fitch and GWGQ Maloney executed and signed the bank resolution cards.

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20. No honorariums needed.
21. GKGGE LeMaistre made a motion approving GN expenses for this convention. GC Wasekanes seconded. Unanimously passed.
22. 2007-2008 budget was presented and accepted unanimously. GGN Coccia made a motion. GC Wasekanes second.
23. The mid-year Executive meeting is set for February 15 & 16, 2008 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, NV.
24. The annual budget meeting in Elm Grove, WI will be in June 2008 with GKGGE Art LeMaistre and GWGQ Maloney attending.
25. GKGGE LeMaistre will furnish a photo and signature for GN use.
26. All regional minutes and roll calls will be given to GWGQ Maloney.
27. Assignment of GN duties and committee and deputy appointments were discussed.
28. US mileage rate was set at 48.0 cents per mile.
29. MLGG Fitch wants to compose some expectations and work on some guidelines to help communication.
30. DMLGG's should be selected as potential GN Candidates and those selected should be guided to work at this position. MLGG Fitch wanted all GN officers to confirm these appointments ASAP.
31. The funding of the Florida PLRB meeting as well as the PLRB next year was discussed. MLGG Fitch will contact PMLGG Hale for his input. Issues were GN reimbursing the last PLRB and future ones. MLGG Fitch feels the next PLRB in Boston is crucial for us to attend. He is asking for positive suggestions on how we can fund and attend. MLGG Fitch indicated that membership needs to be our #1 PRIORITY!

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ

# GRAND NEST HISTORY

## MOST GRAND NEST CONVENTIONS ATTENDED TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS (THROUGH 2007)

40 Phillip J. Simpson, PMLGG	31 Walter Bennett, PMLG
36 Bruce B. Bolton, PMLGG (24 Gander, 12 youth)	31 Nancy J. Bennett (17 Gander, 14 spouse)
35 John B. Gravensine, PMWGQ (34 Gander, 1 youth)	27 King G. Luck, PMLGG
33 Ivar H. Awes, PMLGG	27 Don Grott, PMLGG
33 Rex W. Clark, PMLGG	26 Clifford C. Needham, PMLGG
33 JoAnn M. Clark, Grand Supervisor (13 Gander, 20 spouse)	26 Jason Smith, PMLGG
32 William J. Wasekanes, Grand Custodian	25 George Hardwood, PMLGG

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## Historical Highlights

1906 – 1907

“Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the  
Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose  
Held at Green Lake, Wisconsin, June, 1906

The Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose was organized at Green Lake, Wisconsin on the above date and the following officers were elected:

Most Loyal Gander.....	Walter E. Atwater
His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock.....	W. E. Golden
Grand Custodian of the Goslings.....	W. W. Conkin
Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.....	George E. Heller, Jr.
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.....	George A. Roberts

Respectfully Submitted  
George Heller, Jr. G.W.G.Q.

No one thought that more than a pleasant memory of that night would survive, but the founders had built better than they knew, for soon after the officers returned to Milwaukee, an application for a Charter to permit the formation of Minnesota State Nest was received by Most Loyal Grand Grander Walter E. Atwater, who after a hurried conference with other Grand Nest Officers, advised them to remit the sum of \$10.00 for full authority to proceed with the organization of their State Nest.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander John F. Stafford (than a field man in Minnesota) told Paul E. Rudd, Past Grand Nest Historian more than once how dimes and quarters were collected from the field men at that annual meeting at Lake Osakis, Minnesota and how he was the only one present with a checkbook, so the \$10.00 in change was turned over to him, and his check for that amount sent down to Walter E. Atwater for the first “Nest” Charter. However, it was too early for the regular form of Charter to be issued, so our first Most Loyal Grand Gander made response as follow: Remittance of \$10.00 is received, being payment for Charter for the purpose of organizing Minnesota State Nest of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. In the absence of a regular printed form of Charter, you may take this letter as full authority to proceed with the work.”

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It was Frank H. Barney and George A. Roberts who carried the word from Green Lake meeting to their field associates in Minnesota.

Minnesota Nest was organized and chartered July 17, 1906, with officers and guards chosen at Lake Osakis, Minnesota as follows:

Most Loyal Gander.....George C. Main  
Supervisor of the Flock.....Frank H. Barney  
Custodian of the Goslings.....W. O. Chamberlin  
Wielder of the Goose Quill.....F. A. Mannen  
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.....Thomas P. Herbert  
Guard: Charles S. Whittlesey, W. C. Cree, William J. Tippery, L. F. Daniel, W. H. Higley and J. R. Hobbins.

The \$10.00 received by the Grand Nest from Minnesota Nest for its Charter was spent for printing and postage. A call for Annual Dues of \$2.00 per member was sent out and Noble Ganders of Wisconsin and Minnesota responded to a bird and the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg gathered \$134.00 in the "egg basket." With such a sum on hand, the Grand Officers now decided to place an order for 100 solid gold emblems and spent the balance for a supply of stationery and paraphernalia necessary to continue the work of the organization.

On a Sunday morning in September, 1906 three months after the Green Lake gathering, several enthusiastic Wisconsin Ganders met in the office of the Most Loyal Grand Gander Atwater in Milwaukee and decided to issue a call for the first Grand Gathering of the Flock to be held in Chicago at the time and place of the meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest. The original prospectus prepared by these Ganders read as follows:

**Ancient and Honorable Order of the  
Blue Goose  
Grand Nest**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 22, 1906

At the 1906 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Field Men's Club held at Green Lake, Wisconsin, originated a social organization now know as the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, which sprung into instant popularity to such a degree that the originators have been requested to enlarge its group for the entertainment and benefit of co-workers in sister communities.

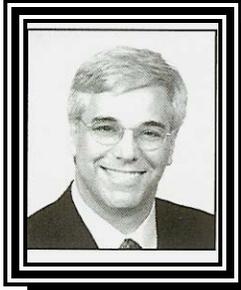
A subordinate 'Nest' has already been organized in the State of Minnesota and it is now the plan to organize in other States. With this end in view, I take pleasure in handing you herewith an application blank and suggest your name as a Charter member of the 'Nest' to be organized for your State during the meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest at Chicago in October.

The object, for the present at least, is purely social, and the membership will be limited to supervising officials and field men engaged in the business of fire insurance. Hoping to have the honor of a favorable response, I beg to remain.

Yours sincerely  
Walter E. Atwater, M.L.G.G.

# GRAND NEST HISTORY

## 2006 – 2007 GRAND NEST OFFICERS



Most Loyal Grand Gander  
Keith Strohecker



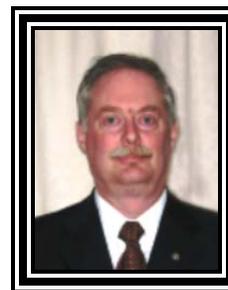
Grand Supervisor  
Jack Fitch



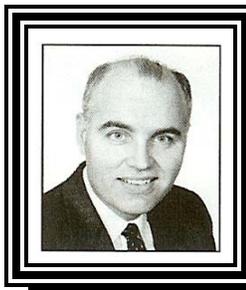
Grand Custodian  
JoAnn M. Clark



Grand Guardian  
Bill Wasekanes



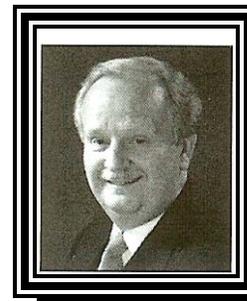
Grand Keeper  
Art LeMaistre



Grand Wielder  
Terrence M. Maloney



Judge Advocate  
Robert Tayloe Ross



Grand Nest Historian  
Barry L. Snyder

# GRAND NEST HISTORY



**GRAND NEST ARCHIVES DISPLAY**

## **WANTED! PLEASE DONATE**

- **Blue Goose Jewelry** (pins, medals, ribbons, badges, etc.)
- Grand Nest **convention gifts items** (ladies and men)
- Old Grand Nest **trophies and awards** (membership, charity, golf, etc.)
- Old Blue Goose **costumes** (ritual teams, fun events, etc.)
- Old **Grand Nest Bulletins**
- Old **Grand Nest Convention programs**

**Please assist us in “rebuilding” our Grand Nest archives.** We are only interested in items that have a general interest to all Blue Goosedom, not just one Pond. **Please provide us with origin and history of each item to be donated.** If you can help us, contact the Grand Historian.