

HISTORY OF THE GRAND NEST

Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International

2009 – 2010



104th GRAND NEST CONVENTION
Sheraton Society Hill
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
JULY 21 – 25, 2010

William J. Wasekanes, Sr., MLGG

November 19, 1927 – November 13, 2009

Prepared by:
John T. Zeldam, PMLGG
Grand Nest Historian

Reflections



On November 8th, 2003, I couldn't have imagined being asked again in the future to serve as Grand Nest Historian. That was the morning I drove away from a motel in Poland, Ohio, near the Pennsylvania border, where I had spent an "overnight" with my dear friend and fellow "Blue Goose junkie", Barry Snyder. The occasion involved the transfer of Grand Historian's files and HOBGI archives.

In late 1999, I'd been appointed by then MLGG Barry to complete the term of PMLGG and Grand Historian Gordon Crowther of the Hartford Pond. Gordon was the consummate gentleman and a legend of sacrificial service throughout Blue Goose. He made his final flight on November 22nd of that year.

In a moment of inspiration in 2000, the "traveling archives" exhibit was hatched. I envisioned such a display as an opportunity to make our collective history and archives more accessible to our membership. Barry was similarly inclined and supportive from the very beginning. Efforts to reconstruct, enlarge, display, and transport our archives began in earnest. Our first display, small in comparison with those of more recent years, was at "Gateway to Fun in 2001" hosted by St. Louis Pond. Selected items from an every growing collection have been exhibited each year since. From 2000-2003, despite the distance between Macomb, MI and Upper Marlboro, MD, Barry and I shared our passion and worked together researching and making visible the history, traditions, and archives of Blue Goose. We became best friends in the process.

On August 13, 2003 in Nova Scotia, I recommended to newly appointed MLGG Dick Phillipsen that he appoint Barry as my successor. He agreed and did so. Over the past 7 years, Barry has taken what we created in 1999 to a whole different level. Our current collection speaks for itself.

It's still hard for me to believe that Barry's gone. And, that I'd be called upon, for the second time, to fill out the unexpired term of a departed Gander-friend. Considering my friendship with Barry, his love for Blue Goose, and fond memories of times shared together, there's no way I could decline MLGG Joe Coccia's request that I "stand in the gap" for our beloved Order.

I hope you enjoy this recorded history of "*Billy Penn in 2010*".

John T. Zeldam, PMLGG, Grand Nest Historian



Ganders Zeldam, Maloney and Snyder sort and organize archives in the sacred bowels of Grand Nest Headquarters in November of 2001



Barry and Pat Snyder and Peggy and John Zeldam at "Carousin in 2000" Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore, MD.

**2010 GRAND NEST OFFICERS
2009-2010**



Most Loyal Grand Gander
William J. Wasekanes



Grand Supervisor
Joseph C. Coccia



Grand Custodian
Lorena Dunlop



Grand Guardian
Guy Charron



Grand Keeper
John C. Paris



Grand Wielder
Terrence M. Maloney



Judge Advocate
Robert Tayloe Ross PMLGG



Grand Nest Historian
Barry L. Snyder

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA----July 21 – 24, 2010

With the support of the entire Eastern Region, Penn Pond opened their arms, hearts, and pocketbooks to 117 Ganders, 63 spouses and guests, and 28 children. For 4 days and nights, Sheraton Society Hill was home to 4 days of fun, fellowship, reunion, and productive business. Located in Philadelphia's historic district, the hotel is located within easy walking distance of Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and an array of historic attractions.



Since being chartered in 1906 and reorganized in 1930, this was the 3rd time Penn Pond hosted our annual Grand Nest Convention. The first and second opportunities were 1940 and 1951.

It was the dream of William J. Wasekanes, Sr., a member of Blue Goose for more than 53 years, to serve as Most Loyal Grand Gander and host a Grand Nest Convention. On November 13, 2009, 3½ months after being accorded our beloved Order's highest honor, Bill took his final flight. Thankfully, a superb Convention Committee comprised of 13 dedicated Eastern Region Ganders successfully completed the 5-year convention planning effort. As MLGG Bill would've wanted, everyone was determined not to allow sadness and regret to overshadow what is designed as a time of celebration and shared friendship.

On **Wednesday** morning, golfers gathered at Wedgewood Country Club. But for most, the festivities really got rolling at the Welcome Party that evening. In keeping with the patriotic theme, the colors of red, white and blue abounded. A wide variety of scrumptious eats found at "Philadelphia" food stations energized conventioners to participate in karaoke and dancing. A Mummers band and an unexpected address from Ben Franklin provided more entertainment pleasure. It was wonderful to observe fond friendships being renewed and "new found friends" being cultivated. As always, both children and adults found the longtime tradition of swapping Pond pins lots of fun.



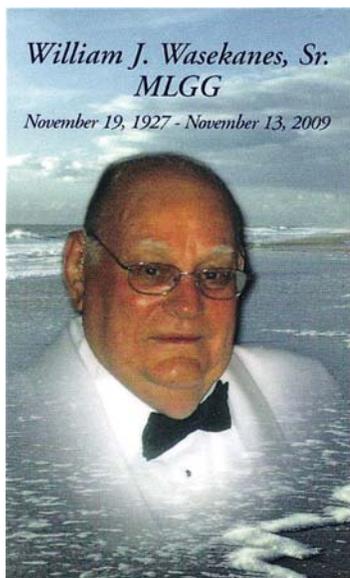
Thursday morning's **Opening Ceremonies** are always special. This year was no exception. U.S. Marines presented the colors, followed by the singing of the national anthems of Australia, Canada, and United States. Then, in honor of his father, Kenneth Wasekanes brought down the gavel, thus bringing the convention to order. Ken then passed the gavel to Grand Supervisor Joe Coccia, who promptly called upon Convention Chairperson Bill Olson to offer the invocation and serve as emcee for the remainder of the program.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Grand Nest Officers and honored guests were introduced, along with PMLGG's, DMLGG's and their spouses. Guest speaker Karen Randall of Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter's office gifted us with a marvelous welcome to the City of Brotherly Love. On behalf of the Penn Pond, Most Loyal Gander Steve Smith welcomed us to "Billy Penn in 2010". DMLGG Dan Rich made reference to 3 proclamations and citations received by the Convention. Grand Nest Historian Barry Snyder accepted a letter from Joel Ario, Pennsylvania's Insurance Commissioner. A letter from Governor Ed Rendell was presented to Convention Chair Bill Olson. And last but certainly not least, Dottie Wasekanes, widow of our departed MLGG, received a very nice letter from Mayor Nutter.

Opening Ceremonies were soon followed up with the Convention **Memorial Service**. National Capital Pond conducted this meaningful service with the utmost solemnity. For that, we thank Ganders Nick Fitzwater, Michele Fitzwater, Barry Snyder, and Pat Snyder. The following special eulogy closed the Memorial Service.

Memorial Tribute to MLGG William J. Wasekanes Offered by his son, Kenneth Wasekanes



Good morning. On behalf of my mom, my brothers and myself, I express our deep appreciation for your sympathy and kindness during our grief. We have been greatly helped by the sharing of your condolences and memories of our dad, known to us as "Pops", "Grand Pop", and "Great Grand Pop". Memorial donations to Spina Bifida Association of Montgomery County have reached \$5,000, most of which came from Blue Goose friends.



A year ago in Reno, Dad was honored to accept the highest leadership position of **Most Loyal Grand Gander**. At that time, it never entered our minds that this vibrant, 81 years young gentlemen wouldn't be here today to share in this wonderful event "**Billy Penn in 2010**". But it was not to be. My pop, William Wasekanes, Sr., passed away peacefully at home on November 13th after a short, yet difficult battle with Mesothelioma, a form of lung cancer.

Our Dad had a gentle heart...always sentimental...a quick wit. He was honorable and genuine...never afraid...a sharp dresser...always optimistic...and as steady as a rock. He was a wonderful mentor for us as children, teaching us everything and leading by example.

Some people succeed because of their place in life, others as a result of their gifts and talents. Dad succeeded because of his determination to overcome any obstacle that got in his way. I often felt sorry for those who experienced his persistence. I'm sure that he is, right now, trying to convince someone in Heaven that they need insurance.

Pops had a simple life goal. It was created while growing up in the depression and watching his parents struggle. All he ever wanted was to be a good, supportive husband and father, own his own house, and provide for his family. Everything in his life revolved around that goal. We were the recipients of his primary purpose...to build a great family life.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

My Dad joined the Marine Corps at age 17. He was very patriotic and loved this country. But that's really not why he signed up. It was simply to get service out of the way...so he could marry his childhood sweetheart, Dorothy...our mom. They grew up together, living across the street from each other. Their love affair was a "once in a lifetime thing", and their 61-year marriage bore that out.

It was pretty cool to hear my Mom call Pops by his nickname "Wiss". He was tagged that by his friends...after close by Wissahickon Valley Park, where my Mom and him went so much. They had much in common when it came to what they wanted out of life, for themselves and our family. They loved each other dearly.

Through fate, my brothers and I were born 7 years apart. Dad referred to us as the "Seven Year Itch". But because of the 7-year separation, each of us experienced different facets of our Dad that came to define each of us.

My oldest brother Bill saw the early, edgier, recent marine fighter dad. Middle son, Tom, the second oldest, came along when economic times were better. He enjoyed teasing Bill by saying he paved the way for me, and the good times to follow. Tom was 9 when we moved from McKinley, where the first house our folks owned was located, to a nicer home with a large yard in Glenside.

I grew up with the more relaxed Dad. By then, he was more "easy going"...and a golfer. I became the "Blue Goose son". Each year Dad took Mom and I to the Grand Nest convention. Over time, by combining the annual convention with vacation and sightseeing, we visited 48 states. We got to do a lot together.

My Dad belonged to Blue Goose for 54 years. He made many friends from across the U.S. and Canada. With the exception of last year's convention in Reno, the mode of travel was always by automobile. Is it any wonder why being involved in the 5-year planning of this convention honoring "Pops" was so special?

In 1972, at age 44, my dad suffered a massive heart attack. We feared that we'd lose him. Knowing and appreciating how blessed we were by his getting a second chance, we never missed an opportunity to get the most out of life with him. My Mom, brothers and I made sure we didn't waste the 37 years that followed. Experiencing so much more as a family was a gift. He lived to see all 3 sons fall in love, get married, have 8 grandchildren, the 2 oldest granddaughters marry, and a great-grandson born.

I'm sure that those of you that either heard or read my father's acceptance speech a year ago were looking forward to this convention. It is here that you would be witnessing and sharing in his excitement about the future of Blue Goose. He would be telling you how great this convention, affectionately titled "**Billy Penn in 2010**", will be. It is a sad irony that he is not here to experience it.

Be assured that my father wouldn't want his passing to diminish the enjoyment and excitement this convention is about to provide us. "**Billy Penn in 2010**" will reflect the best of what Blue Goose is all about. My dad planned ahead to ensure that everyone here today would have a wonderful time. Being **Most Loyal Grand Gander** and hosting our Grand Nest convention was his dream.

This is just a part of my Dad's story. There'll not be a day my Mom and brothers don't think of him. As we express his mannerisms and reenact family traditions, he will live on in and through us. So, as we celebrate the opening of this convention, I ask that you simply raise your glass at one function or another in memory of my Dad. I know he's looking down on us, and making sure our convention planning team is doing everything just as he would want. If you have a story about "Pops" to tell, I'd love to hear it.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

This will be a tough convention for my Mom and I. But, thankfully, because of your outpouring of love and support, we will get through it.

Thanks Pop! You did great. *“Honored, departed Gander, we salute you and greet you in the silent hall of memory. Hail, friend, and farewell.”*

It was then time for our **Model Initiation**, presented by the Hartford Pond. They took us all the way back to our “Wild West” days. The room was transformed into *The Blue Goose Bar and Grille*, featuring an “Open Bar” theme...a reprise of the slogan coined for their 2005 Foxwoods Convention. Team members sported colorful Western garb and cast themselves as cowboys, lawmen, and saloon girls. The saloon gals freely served with gaiety what appeared to be an unlimited supply of cold beer to all in attendance. Seven Goslings were initiated. It was a show not to be soon forgotten.



It's not like spouses, children, and teens had nothing to do following the Memorial Service. Spouses were treated to the *Philadelphia Story*, a 3-hour fully guided tour via deluxe coach transportation through 4 centuries of art, architecture, and history. They toured *Independence Hall*, *Philadelphia Art Museum*, and *Philadelphia Magic Garden*. They lunched at *Moshulu*, the largest 4-masted sailing ship in the world, and now a AAA Four-Diamond award-winning restaurant permanently anchored at Philadelphia's waterfront.

The children and youth were bused to *Sahara Sam's Water Park*, a freestanding indoor entertainment complex with retractable roof and lounging patio, where they enjoyed exhilarating water rides, a “state of the art” arcade, and lunch.

The **All Industry Luncheon** to follow was highlighted by Attorney Philip G. Kircher's entertaining address. He sprinkled his remarks with lots of good humor, much to the delight of his listeners. Before Ganders were dismissed, they were encouraged to participate in afternoon Regional Meetings, which are compulsory for delegates.

Friday morning's **Grand Nest Meeting** began by Grand Wielder Terry Maloney conducting the delegate roll call as only he can. Grand Supervisor Joe Coccia declared the meeting formally opened for business. Those DMLGG's present were asked to stand and be recognized for their faithful service to our Honorable Order.

GSOFCoccia explained that due to the untimely death of Bill Wasekanas, no there would be no MLGG report. Joe informed us of what our Constitution calls for under such unfortunate circumstances. He ensured Ganders that, with the help of elected and appointed officers, all matters that came before the Grand Nest were handled seamlessly and in the best interest of members.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney gave his report covering the past year. He began by letting us know that we are succeeding in making Blue Goose better known throughout the insurance industry. Our presence at the March PLRB Conference in San Antonio, and two very complimentary trade magazine news articles contributed to that success. Such visibility was a major factor in an increasing number of website hits, 600 new Ganders, and net membership growth of 200.

Terry reminded us how, throughout its' 104 year history, Blue Goose has survived difficult, if not devastating, times. He cited the San Francisco earthquake and World War II as prime examples. The current economic crisis is just the latest challenge to overcome. Terry went on to recognize the convention "first timers" and give tribute to Grand Supervisor Joe Coccia for his steady leadership following MLGG Bill Wasekanes' final flight.

As of June 27, 2010 we have a total of 44 Ponds and 4,145 Ganders. 3,263 are Active, 815 are Life, and 67 are Dual Members.

Grand Supervisor Coccia called upon PMLGG and Grand Nest Historian Barry L. Snyder to give his report.

Another year has passed and we'll be adding another page to the history of this Order. We have been around since 1906. We are 104 years old...what an achievement! Not too many organizations can say that.

Last year I asked the Most Loyal Ganders that were present at the Convention to go back to their Ponds and appoint Historians. They would be charged with the task of composing a History of their Pond, and sending it to me. I would make it a part of our Grand Nest History. To my knowledge, there are two Ponds that have started this project, namely Hartford and Regina. I already have a copy of National Capital Pond's compiled History.

In 1954, Grand Historian Paul E. Rudd made this same request. Eighteen Ponds prepared and submitted such Histories. However in the year 2000, when PMLGG and Past Grand Nest Historian John Zeldam and I worked together on the collective history of Blue Goose, we found no such Pond chronicles. This time around, thanks to computerized document saving, they shouldn't become lost or misplaced.

Today, I appeal to those Ponds that have not yet begun this process, to please do so. I quote Past Grand Nest Historian Rudd, who said *"Too often more History is neglected than written...it is not thought of or important enough to be recorded, although it is often the little things that count most in the long run. But if not written down and preserved, they are apt to be lost and not available for accurate reference, especially after those who participated and made the History are no longer with us, as was mostly the case when the writing of this Historical record was commenced."*

As of today, I haven't received from you written special memories of humorous things that occur at Grand Nest Conventions. The only ones I've received are from PMLGG's Rex and JoAnn Clark. We would appreciate if you would take time to share some of your memories with us. We'll add them to the back of Volume II of the Grand Nest History that's on our Blue Goose website. Please e-mail them to me. You'll find my address on the Grand Nest website.

If you have items from past Grand Nest Conventions and wish to donate them to the Grand Nest Archives, we'd love to add them to our growing collection. Cash donations will help us maintain the rich history of our Order.

In grateful service,
Barry L. Snyder, PMLGG/GNH

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Grand Supervisor of the Flock Joe Coccia called upon Robert Tayloe Ross for his report.



Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Nest Officers and Ganders:

During this one hundred and fourth year of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International, your Judge Advocate is pleased to give you this report.

In particular, the Grand Nest has been actively addressing the immediate and future challenges of the Order. The untimely death of our beloved MLGG Bill Wasekanes raised important issues which have been effectively handled by the Grand Nest and able leadership of the Eastern Region. The Grand Nest has been focused on critical issues about the organization as well as annual conventions. Short term and long-term issues have been considered, including the role of the Grand Nest, the Regions as well as the Ponds in putting on annual conventions.

The Grand Nest continues planning for the future, including expansion and growth of the Order. New ideas are welcome and will be considered by the Grand Nest. For example, again this year the Grand Nest supported a booth at the Property Loss and Liability Conference presented by the Property Loss Research Bureau (PLRB) and the Liability Loss Research Bureau (LLRB) in San Antonio, Texas. Thousands of members of the insurance industry attended the Conference. The booth was a great promotion of the Blue Goose, which brought many potential applicants to the table from around the U.S. and potentially Canada.

For over one hundred years, the Constitution and Bylaws have been strong, and have been changed only to meet the times, opportunities and realities facing the Blue Goose. This year the Grand Nest updated and circulated the Constitution and Bylaws. There are no proposed amendments this year. However, there has been one referral to the Jurisprudence Committee regarding eligibility of membership under Section 2(b) of the Constitution and Bylaws.

As we endeavor to pursue our guiding principles of charity, character and fellowship, we must be mindful of the importance of increasing membership, expanding our reach within the insurance community and strengthening our leadership for the continued vitality of our Order.

It has been a great honor and a distinct pleasure for me to serve this past year as the Judge Advocate of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International.

Fraternally,
Robert Tayloe Ross
Judge Advocate, PMLG

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Grand Supervisor Coccia then called on Grand Keeper John Paris. John had the pleasure of providing us with his audit report covering a successful 2009-2010 year. In large part to a gain of 200 new members, we closed the fiscal year with a positive balance of \$4,000.

Grand Guardian Guy Charron followed with his *Charity Committee* report. He commended the Ponds for their personal involvement and financial support of so many worthwhile charitable organizations. More than \$90,000 and hundreds of hours were donated to food and clothing collections, hospice, hospital and veteran causes, scholarships, shelters, and teen services. Copies of Guy's report were made available to members.

Grand Supervisor Coccia then reported for the *Communications Committee*. 28 Ponds responded to the *Grand Nest Communications Survey*. Joe stressed that good communication is essential for a Pond to be successful, and that newsletters and websites are keys to such achievement. His report was made available to members.

Then, Grand Keeper John was called to the podium to give the *Future Conventions* report. Should the delegates approve, the 2011 Convention will be held at the 5-Star Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, MI. Ponds lined up to host Grand Nest Conventions following Michigan are Calgary in 2012, Quebec in 2013, Utah in 2014, and National Capital in 2015. St. Louis Pond has already received the blessing of the Central Region to host in 2016.



Regional Challenge Cup winner was Canada

It was time for presentation of coveted **Grand Nest Awards**. Ohio Pond won the Membership Cup. Quebec Pond was awarded the Fellowship Cup. Kentucky Pond walked away with the No Drop-Out Cup. National Capital Pond garnered the Peace Garden Cup. The Link of the Year winner was Ontario Pond. The Heart of America Pond was the worthy recipient of the Gordon Crowther Charity Award. The Canadian Region won the Regional Challenge Cup.

It is noteworthy that recipients of Regional Charity Awards were double winners. In other words, the same Pond in each of the 5 regions won for both greatest percentage and numerical increase in membership. Seattle Pond in the West, Ohio Pond in the Central, Louisiana in the South, National Capital in the East, and Quebec in Canada were the very deserving winners.

Dayton Puddle became Blue Goosedom's newest Pond. Having initiated more than the required number of Ganders, they petitioned and were granted their Charter. Everyone present, especially the Ohio Pond and entire Central Region who were so supportive, were jubilant.



GRAND NEST HISTORY

Friday afternoon was a family affair. Grouping up at Penn's Landing, all of every age traversed across the Delaware River to Camden, NJ. Having reached their destination, some walking and others via the ferry, they were welcomed aboard the U.S. battleship *New Jersey*. Guided tours and an "all the fixings" lunch made it a delightful shared experience.



Ganders and guests gather at Penn's Landing

Low clearances and steep, narrow stairways made our guided battleship tours challenging and tiring. But informative and entertaining U.S. Navy veteran guides made the experience worthwhile and memorable. And, our tired bodies were nourished by a scrumptious "on board" picnic lunch.



U.S. Battleship New Jersey

The evening was free for all. There was a wide array of sights to see and places to go for ones entertainment pleasure. And yes, you could find "open" hospitality suites to frequent when you arrived back at Sheraton Society Hill and before you retired for the night.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Saturday morning following breakfast, Michigan Pond members promoted “**Michigan Migration 2011**”. The elite Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids is the site of our 105th Grand Nest Convention.



The dates are *Wednesday, July 20 through Saturday, July 23, 2011*. Sporting multi-colored Hawaiian shirts, Michigan Pond Ganders assured the audience that their famously warm and generous hospitality await them upon arrival. This promises to be one of the most affordable Grand Nest Conventions in our long history.



The final **Grand Nest Business Meeting** commenced with Permanent Wielder Terry Maloney calling the delegate roll. He then recognized Michigan Pond delegate Richard Chenard. Gander Chenard offered a formal motion that next year’s Convention be held in Grand Rapids, MI. The motion had support and was accepted by acclamation.

The nominating and election process for election 2010-2011 officers ensued. Elected were Joseph C. Coccia, Most Loyal Grand Gander, Lorena Dunlop, Grand Supervisor, Guy Charron, Grand Custodian, John Paris, Grand Guardian, and William G. Olson, Grand Keeper.

PMLGG and former Grand Nest Historian John Zeldam installed the newly elected officers, after which Grand Wielder Maloney assisted him in the presentation of officer pins and ribbons. John surprised Joe and Courtney Coccia by having their 2 lovely daughters, Alyssa and Christina, attach the pin and ribbon on their dad. John and Joe are longtime friends and fellow Michigan Pond members. Joe served as Convention Chair for the 1991 Grand Nest Convention when John served as MLGG.



Newly elected 2011-2012 Grand Nest Officers



Christina, Joe, Alyssa, and Courtney Coccia

In his first official action as Most Loyal Grand Gander, Joe Coccia appointed Terry Maloney as Grand Wielder, Robert Tayloe Ross as Judge Advocate, and Barry Snyder as Grand Nest Historian.

MLGG Coccia then called upon newly elected officer Bill Olson to share his thoughts and tell us a little bit about himself. Following is a “snapshot” of Bill’s life, career, family, and Blue Goose service.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Introducing Our New Grand Nest Officer



Newly elected Grand Keeper, William G. Olson attended high school at The Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania. That's where he met Liz, who he married 5 years later. He continued his education at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He played varsity lacrosse, and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

In 1981, Bill went to work as a claims adjuster for GAB Business Services, Inc. The experience he gained there took him on a career road that led him to claims management and/or general adjusting positions at Leizure Associates and Harford Mutual Insurance Company, both located in Washington, DC. In 2008, after 27 years in insurance claims, Bill moved to the fire and water restoration side of the business. He currently is Vice-President of SERVPRO's Commercial Property Division in Howard County, MD.

Over the course of his career, Bill has belonged and given his time to the Loss Executives Association (LEA), Property Managers Association (PMA), Society of Registered Professional Adjusters (RPA), National Association of Independent Insurance Adjusters (NAIIA), Washington Claims Association, Delmarva Claims Association, Mariners of the Bay, and last but certainly not least, our beloved Blue Goose (HOBGI). To increase his knowledge, Bill participated in Property Loss Manager's Conferences conducted by Property Loss Research Bureau (PLRB) from 1987 through 2004.

Bill was initiated into the National Capital Pond of Blue Goose on November 20, 1986. He served as Most Loyal Gander in the year 1993-1994. He chaired the Children's program for the 2000 Grand Nest Convention. From 2001 until 2010, Bill performed as a DMLGG in the Eastern Region. He plays the part of MLG on his Pond's Ritual Team.

Bill and Liz have four daughters, Christina, Emily, Samantha, and Katie. His favorite pastimes are golf, fishing, gardening, and coaching lacrosse.

We warmly welcome Gander Bill to the Grand Nest family.

Newly elected MLGG Joe Coccia was called upon to deliver his acceptance speech.

Fellow Grand Nest Officers, members, spouses, friends, and most importantly, my family. I quite frankly never thought I would ever be standing here in front of you like this, although I always wondered what it would be like if I ever had the chance. I watched many good men and one very good woman stand here and accept the nomination of Most Loyal Grand Gander. My first Grand Nest Convention was in 1986 when Lyle Johnson was the MLGG. It was a convention that I will not soon forget. I drove from Michigan to Omaha with Noel Kott and Bernie Kress. I never ever got a word in with those two. And somehow Bernie and I ended up buying most of the meals on the road. I think Noel had a double headed coin!



I have attended every convention since then with the exception of Baltimore in the year 2000. I have had the pleasure of meeting many people during those many years of Grand Nest Conventions, but my Blue Goose experience did not start there. I joined the Detroit Puddle of the Michigan Pond over 29 years ago on June 16,

GRAND NEST HISTORY

1981 after being invited to attend a Puddle Meeting by Mike Matthews, one of my fellow adjusters at Michigan Claim Service. At that first meeting, I was introduced to many enthusiastic members who later became my mentors as I became more involved and accepted the challenge of going through the Puddle chairs and ultimately the Pond chairs. I owe my involvement in Blue Goose to many people who were influential in getting me involved in Blue Goose and were my biggest inspiration. Indulge me for a moment to thank some people.

I am thankful for the friendship and early guidance from fellow Michigan members Jack Allen, Art Schafer, Vic Pruder, Noel "Gus" Kott, John Zeldam, Carl Gaerig, Bob Quartermous and Dave Beger.

As I became more involved with the Central Region and Grand Nest, members like Bill Gates, John Downie, Don Grott, Jane Rogaliner, Harold Faith, Ivar Awes, Trevor Newett, Gordon Crowther, Cliff Needham, Bruce Bolton, George and Donna Harwood, Marc Thurber, Gordon Crutcher, Larry Lewer, Chuck Palmerton, Jerry Simpson, Jerry Hale, Rex and Joanne Clark, Jack Fitch, Tim Seider, John Bishop and Barry Snyder all influenced me and demonstrated a commitment and loyalty that I share with all of you today.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the special relationship and friendship that I have with fellow Convention Chairpersons, Rich Mancuso and Chip Dahle.

I have intentionally left out two very important people who have guided me and helped me stay enthusiastic and focused. They are Grand Wielder, Terry Maloney and our Judge Advocate Robert Ross. Without these two gentlemen, the Blue Goose would no doubt have a very large void and would not be where it is today. They provide tireless advice and support and I owe much of my success and determination to be a good Grand Nest Officer to both Terry and Robert. I am very pleased that they have agreed to serve as my Grand Wielder and Judge Advocate during my term as Most Loyal Grand Gander. Barry Snyder will also continue to serve as our Grand Nest Historian for the coming year.

I cannot forget the influence and friendship that I have received from my 2011 Convention Committee Chairpersons Dick Chenard, Joe Lothschutz, Dave Kosdrosky and Fred Fernandez. They have been extremely supportive of me and for this I am eternally grateful. They share my values and want what is right for Blue Goose. They, like me, are committed to a successful 2011 Convention.

Lastly, I want to thank my family. My two beautiful daughters, Alyssa and Cristina, are here today to support me. They grew up in Blue Goose, and it is only fitting that they be a part of this special time. And too, there's Courtney, my wife, my friend, my protector, my cheerleader, and my lover. She's endured a lot over these many years. She did so with quiet resilience and loyalty. I frankly would not be standing here today if it was not for her support and encouragement. Thank you Courtney, ever so much.

Over the years, we've heard some very eloquent Grand Nest Officers stand here and tell you about how important growing the organization is or how important bringing in younger members is or how very important it is to be charitable and to remain loyal to our cardinal precepts of Character, Charity and Fellowship.

All of these goals remain as important today as they were in the past and they are worth mentioning again. But my message to you today, as your new Most Loyal Grand Gander, is this: To be a successful member in this organization, to be a successful Puddle or Pond, to be a successful Region, or to be a successful Blue Goose organization, we need to use all the tools available to improve our communication. "The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement." I know we can do a better job at communicating within our Puddles, our Ponds, our Regions, and Grand Nest. Our internal surveys have shown that we may be communicating within our local Ponds and Regions, but one Region doesn't know what another Region is doing to grow the

GRAND NEST HISTORY

organization. For example, it is very likely that Ohio and Heart of America Ponds will have no knowledge of the struggles of Westchester Pond. We need to follow the lead of Eastern Region DMLGG Dan Rich and Linda Meik. They both cross Regional borders to share with Ganders what their Pond and Region are doing.

The Grand Nest felt that communication was so important that it established a Grand Nest Communications Committee in 2008. I intend to maintain that committee going forward and have asked incoming Grand Nest Officer Bill Olson to serve as its chairperson.

As your Most Loyal Grand Gander, I would like to see a coordination of our marketing efforts with the communication committee because I feel that our branding is so vitally important and depends on good communication.

As MLGG, I will continue our branding efforts where it makes sense. The Claims Magazine and CPCU Society Newsletter both of which can be found on our Blue Goose website have enhanced our image as a viable and meaningful organization. Our presence at the Property Loss Research Bureau, the PLRB, has helped increase our industry visibility.

We'll make every effort to be fiscally responsible, and continue to review on an annual basis whether or not we can continue to participate as an exhibitor in future PLRB Conventions. Since many of our members attend this conference on an annual basis, we should also consider hosting a hospitality function to promote Blue Goose in lieu of the cost of a hosting a booth.

As your new Most Loyal Grand Gander, I want us all to rededicate ourselves, to remember our cardinal principals and remember why we joined the Blue Goose. John Zeldam, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander from Michigan said it best in his acceptance speech at the 84th Annual Grand Nest Convention in Boston in August of 1990, and I quote, "Therefore, I admonish each of us to reexamine ourselves, to reevaluate our motives, and rededicate ourselves to developing personal character, practicing charity, and fostering meaningful fellowship. These are the qualities which will bring honor and respect to our industry and all past, present and future Ganders."

The driving force that keeps me enthusiastic and willing to put in that extra effort is this, "you only get out of an organization what you are willing to put into it." I promise as your MLGG, that I will continue to dedicate my efforts to make this a successful and viable organization as your Most Loyal Grand Gander. I will listen to you, my fellow members. I'll do what I can to help you be a successful Blue Goose member...one that is proud to say you belong to Blue Goose. I'll do this alongside my fellow Grand Nest Officers and Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders, who have agreed to take on their Grand Nest responsibilities and be accountable. We'll work especially hard to change whenever it makes sense within the framework of our traditions and values. We'll have challenges, but we'll do what is right for our Order, all the while remembering that we represent you.

I am humbled by your acceptance of me as your Most Loyal Grand Gander and I thank you for your vote of confidence. But most importantly, thank you for your friendship.

Joseph C. Coccia
Most Loyal Grand Gander

GRAND NEST HISTORY

PMLGG/GNH Barry Snyder was asked to give his report on Bill Wasekanes' year in office. Immediately following Gander Barry's report, the morning business session was adjourned.

REPORT ON MLGG WILLIAM WASEKANES' YEAR IN OFFICE



At Grand Supervisor Joseph C. Coccia's request, I am writing this report covering Most Loyal Grand Gander William Wasakanes' time in office.

To begin with, Bill was extremely dedicated to Blue Goose. He was a member of the Penn Pond for over 53 years, more than half of our history. He was a Life Member of our Order and proudly wore his 50-Year pin. He attended 34 Grand Nest Conventions and served on several Grand Nest Committees. He'd held all Penn Pond officer positions, was MLG multiple times, and Permanent Wielder for many years. You might say, "He was the glue that kept the Penn Pond together".

The Eastern Region thought it only fitting that Bill should have the opportunity to serve as a Grand Nest Officer. In 2005, with Hartford Pond hosting the Convention, Bill was unanimously elected as the Grand Keeper. Then, on July 21, 2009 in Reno, Bill was elected to the highest office of our Order, Most Loyal Grand Gander. His emotional acceptance speech was filled with gratitude.

Bill discharged his first duty as MLGG, that of appointing a Grand Wielder, Judge Advocate, Grand Historian, and Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders. And, he directed officer committee assignments.

On September 9, 2009, Bill attended the Hartford Pond. The meeting took place at the Hawthorn Inn in Berlin, Connecticut. 52 Ganders and guests were present. Bill presented the host Pond with a 1971 HOBGI Jim Beam whiskey decanter.

The next day, Bill drove to New Jersey and attended Garden State Pond's Golf Outing. He was given the opportunity to promote "*Billy Penn in 2010*", which he was happy to do.

Soon after, Bill wasn't feeling well. I talked with him a couple of times over the phone. Despite how he felt, he still had a positive outlook and looked forward to the Philly Convention. On October 16th, he was diagnosed with Mesothelioma. Less than a month later, on November 13 at age 81, Bill took his long last flight. His son Ken later told me that, fortunately, his dad didn't experience a lot of suffering. Bill served only 114 days as Most Loyal Grand Gander.

For the balance of the year following Bill's death, Grand Supervisor Joseph C. Coccia acted as MLGG. As soon as he assumed his new duties, Joe consulted with others regarding the officer vacancy issue. Valuable input and advice was offered by other Grand Nest Officers, PMLGG Jerry Hale, and Eastern Region DMLGG's.

All Grand Nest matters involving the MLGG were communicated to Joe. Some of these issues addressed our HOBGI website domain name, Grand Nest Convention fundraising protocol, and reviewing the Quebec Convention hotel contract.

With the help of the Grand Wielder, GSOF Joe planned the agenda for the Grand Nest Mid-Year Meeting in Grand Rapids. In addition, he approved the content of "Blue Goose" articles that were written for publication in the *CPCU Newsletter* and *Claims* magazine.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Acting MLGG Coccia sent a congratulatory letter to all new initiates of the Dayton Pond, which received their Charter at this Convention. And, with the assistance of Linda Meik and Ray Wicker of the Texas Pond, he led the effort to solicit member Pond contributions to be earmarked for sponsoring HOBGI booths at future PLRB Conferences.

GSOFC Coccia prepared detailed agendas for the entire 2010 Convention, and the Pre-Convention and Post-Convention Grand Nest Officers Meetings. He also worked with DMLGG (now GKGGE) Bill Olson on proper protocols involved in the Opening Ceremonies and Grand Banquet and Ball.

We are saddened that Bill Waskanes was unable to complete his year as Most Loyal Grand Gander. He'd have been so happy to be hosting this fantastic event in this grand city of Philadelphia, *The City of Brotherly Love*.

And, Grand Supervisor Coccia, we thank you so much for stepping up to the plate and fulfilling the MLGG responsibilities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barry L. Snyder PMLGG/GNH

The **Family Brunch** took place in the Hamilton Room of the hotel, where we experienced an abundance of tasty food and great entertainment. The 20-piece *Woodland String Band* provided fantastic music, and Ganders were seen doing the Mummer Strut.



That evening the Convention closed with a traditional **Grand Nest Cocktail Reception and Ball**. The theme was American Bandstand. Many Ganders and spouses were dressed in 1950's style outfits. B Street Band...a Bruce Springsteen cover band...treated us to terrific music. Lots of folks danced the night away, and Joe Coccia once again played the drums some, much to our delight. As the curtain was close to coming down on another superb Grand Nest Convention, many hugs, handshakes and good byes were shared.



Friends meeting friends



The Beger family affair



Are we having fun yet?

GRAND NEST HISTORY

2010-2011 GRAND NEST OFFICERS AND SPOUSES



Front Row: Lynne Maloney, Courtney Coccia, Laurie Ross, and Zelma Paris.

Back Row: Garry Kohlruss, GWGQ Terry Maloney, GSF Lorena Dunlop, GKGGE William Olson, MLGG Joseph Coccia, J/A Robert Ross, GCG Guy Charron, Johanne Charron, and GGP John Paris. Absent from photo: J/A Barry and Patricia Snyder.

PAST MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDERS AND SPOUSES



Front Row: Peggy Zeldam, Donna Harwood, Dorothy Wasekanes, and Carolyn Lewer.

Back Row: PMLGG John Zeldam, PMLGG Larry Lewer, PMLGG George Harwood, PMLGG Rex Clark, PMLGG JoAnn Clark, PMLGG John Bishop, and PMLGG Marc Thurber. Absent from Photo: PMLGG Gerald Hale and PMLGG Barry and Patricia Snyder.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

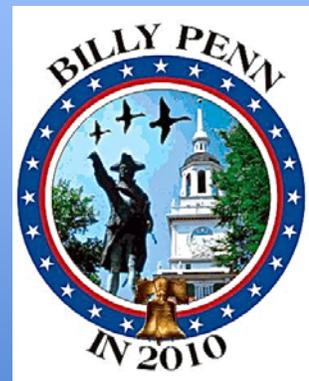
We congratulate the Penn Pond, the Eastern Region, and the 13-member “*Billy Penn in 2010*” Convention Committee for their success. Our beloved Order will forever be grateful for your dedication and efforts.

THANK YOU! **Convention Committee**



Bill Olson, DMLGG
Convention Chair

Robert Asci
Bob Brady
Jerry Hale, PMLGG
Patrick Kennedy
Jim Lanham
Rich Mancuso
Lisa Muller
Mike Nardulli, DMLGG
Dan Rich, DMLGG
Steve Smith
Ken Wasekanes
Arthur Weiss



MOST GRAND NEST CONVENTIONS ATTENDED

25 OR MORE YEARS (LIVING GANDERS - THROUGH 2010)

- 40 Phillip J. Simpson, PMLGG
- 36 Rex W. Clark, PMLGG
- 36 JoAnn M. Clark, PMLGG (16 Gander, 19 Spouse)
- 35 John B. Gravenstine, PGWGQ (34 Gander, 1 youth)
- 33 Ivar H. Awes. PMLGG
- 31 Walter Bennett, PMLG
- 31 Nancy J. Bennett, (17 Gander, 14 Spouse)
- 29 Don Grott, PMLG
- 28 George R. Harwood, PMLGG
- 26 Terrence M. Maloney, GWGQ
- 25 Donna Harwood, PMLG (17 Gander, 8 Spouse)
- 25 Clifford C. Needham, PMLGG
- 25 Patricia A. Snyder, PMLG (21 Gander, 4 Spouse)

GRAND NEST HISTORY

PRE- CONVENTION MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2010 SHERATON SOCIETY HILL, PHILADELPHIA, PA

1. Attendance: All current Officers except for JA Robert Ross in attendance. PMLGG's John Bishop, JoAnn Clark, Rex Clark, George Harwood and Larry Lewer attended.
2. Financial progress of future Conventions:
 - a. Michigan has increased their revenue to the level where they're considering reducing Gander registration to \$250 or lower.
 - b. Calgary room rate is \$189. Dates are July 25-27, 2012. They've raised \$66,000 in revenue thus far.
 - c. Quebec has \$87,000, with plans to raise about \$200,000. Room rate is \$239. They'll be using a meeting planner. Quebec City may establish a Puddle.
 - d. Utah has \$30,000 in revenue. \$109 room rate. No contract to be signed until planner is selected.
 - e. Future sites: National Capital 2015, St. Louis, 2016, Southern Region open for 2017, Edmonton 2018, West Region open 2019, Eastern Region considering a cruise ship venue in 2020. Ohio is waiting on the sideline to step in if needed.
3. GWGQ Report: Positive growth of 200 members. Dues and accounts receivable are in good shape. G.N. officers urged to use our computer software, and encourage their Regional Ponds to do the same. Check "User Report" in the system to monitor usage. Quebec is within 3 of passing up Michigan as the #1 Pond in numerical membership (see**below). All Ponds should be thanked for financially supporting Blue Goose representation at PLRB. Such exposure has been a marketing success. We need to offer ideas as to how to improve the appearance of our website. Grand Custodian Guy Charron expressed a desire to expand industry-wide visibility in the Canadian Region. They need to tie into national groups similar to PLRB in the USA. MLGG Joe Coccia concurred that "we need to seek out such opportunities". Finally, GWGQ Maloney commended GSF Joe Coccia for his unselfish dedication and service since the passing of MLGG Bill Wasekanes.
4. Presenters of Pond awards were finalized.
5. Nominators, seconders, and closers for the scheduled election of GN Officers were confirmed. PMLGG John Zeldam will install the elected officers.
6. GKGGE Paris presented his Audit Report. It will be published in the *Grand Nest Bulletin*.
7. GSF Coccia provided information on the Communications Committee. According to GCG Dunlop, the Marketing Committee has had no activity. There was some discussion on merging the The Communications and Marketing Committees. Smaller amount of local members may be the answer. GGN Charron provided a Charity Report. No issues arose during the year that required the involvement of the Jurisprudence and Constitution and By-Laws Committees.
8. DMLGG Bill Olson will send out a survey to all Convention attendees via e-mail.
9. For 4 years now, PLRB participation has been funded by Ponds donations. While very successful, continuation of such an appeal may be difficult. Alternatives funding plans will be considered,

GRAND NEST HISTORY

including a “welcome party”, coffee breaks, etc. And, we should have our Marketing Committee explore raising financial support via advertising and “branding” activities.

10. No Canadian exchange rate relief in order this year.
11. We discussed the need to create more interest in attending our conventions. GGN Charron suggested we modify our convention events and decide which protocols should be eliminated or preserved. PMLGG JoAnn Clark will Chair a “Conceptual Committee”, with GGN Charron being the GN liaison. GWGQ Maloney suggested we compile a list of Ponds to target for promoting Convention attendance in Michigan next year. The selected Ponds would be those who haven’t sent delegates for some years. This would be an attempt to broaden our base, and at the same time send those members back to their Ponds with a different perspective of Blue Goose.
12. We discussed creating an Excel “Advertising” library. This would be done on both an international and regional basis. Information should include who, what, where, how much, etc. Cost to be determined as the as the program develops. Lisa Mullen’s computer skills will be called upon to help us.
13. More discussion on improving the website took place. We’ll approach our HOBGI Information Technologies man for ideas. We encourage our GN officers and others to provide ideas. John Paris will Chair the Website Committee.
14. PMLGG’s John Bishop and Mark Thurber will head up the project of converting our English language documents to French.
15. JA Ross expressed the need for our Constitution to contain “succession” language that would apply to situations where an MLGG has either died, resigned, or is no longer capable of serving out his term. He will begin the process by drafting a proposal for our consideration.
16. It was noted that, by utilizing the services of a meeting planner, a \$20,000 cost savings was realized by Penn Pond. The hotel contract was re-negotiated by the meeting planner. This serves to reinforce the position of Grand Nest with regard to the hiring of meeting planners. MLGG Coccia and GWGQ Maloney emphasized that all future Ponds hosting future Grand Nest Conventions must employ a meeting planner. This was voted on by Grand Nest more than 3 years ago. It was stressed that the services of a meeting planner may be limited to just specific activities.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Maloney, GWGQ

**** Historian’s Note:** Michigan Pond wrestled #1 Pond honors from Quebec Pond in 1991, 480-389, and in 2010 held that special status for a remarkable 20 years.

GRAND NEST HISTORY

POST-CONVENTION MINUTES SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2010 SHERATON SOCIETY HILL, PHILADELPHIA PA

1. Attendance: All GN officers except GNH Barry Snyder attended. Also PMLGG's John Bishop, Rex Clark, JoAnn Clark, Jerry Hale, George Harwood, Larry Lewer, Mark Thurber, and John Zeldam.
2. MLGG Coccia confirmed the 2010-2011 appointments of JA Robert Ross and GNH Barry Snyder.
3. GWGQ Terry Maloney's contract was approved and signed by the GN officers.
4. MLGG Coccia and GWGQ Maloney signed bank authorized signature cards and resolution form.
5. GSG Charron motioned, seconded by GSF Dunlop, to approve GN officer expenses for this convention. The motion was unanimously approved.
6. GGN Paris made a motion to accept the proposed 2010-2011 budget. GCG Charron seconded. The budget will be published in the upcoming *Grand Nest Bulletin*.
7. GSF Dunlop tentatively set the Mid-Year Meeting for mid-April, 2011.
8. GKGGE Olson will attend the annual Audit Meeting in Milwaukee, WI. It's tentatively scheduled for June 15, 2011.
9. Newly elected GKGGE Olson sent his photo and signature to GWGQ Maloney.
10. MLGG Coccia reminded GN Officers to give GWGQ Maloney all Regional Meeting minutes and sign-in sheets.
11. MLGG Coccia made the following advisory role assignments:
 - a. Committee on Communication and Marketing – GKGGE Olson
 - b. Jurisprudence and Constitution & By-Laws Committees – JA Ross
 - c. Charity Committee – GCG Charron
 - d. Officers will firm up their DMLGG appointments in the very near future.

Closing Comments: The Communication and Marketing Committee is charged with improving upon and/or creating such things as sharing of information, "branding", and development of a Blue Goose web-blog. MLGG Coccia suggested that 1 committee member come from each of the 5 Regions.

Communication and Marketing Committee is charged with improving upon and/or creating such things as the ways we share information, "branding", and a Blue Goose web-blog. This coming year, all Charity Committee members should come the Heart of America Pond. The committee should report 2 times yearly, and obtain accurate listings of supported charities and dollar amounts given from all Ponds.

Bonding of Convention funds needs to be addressed with our meeting planners and whoever else has access to such funds.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Maloney, GWGQ

GRAND NEST HISTORY

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 enhancing our Grand Nest archives. We're only interested in items that are of 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, or if you have questions, contact the Grand Historian.

Historical Highlights

Editor's Note: The 104th Grand Nest Convention in 2010 being the 3rd such event hosted by the Penn Pond, it was considered only appropriate that we should highlight their 2 earlier gatherings.

**Grand Nest Convention
August 20-22, 1940
Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, PA**

The 34th Annual Grand Nest Meeting was held in the Main Ballroom of the Benjamin Franklin Hotel with Most Loyal Grand Gander Joseph R. Knowlan presiding. Hosted by Penn Pond, it was the first Grand Nest Meeting held in Philadelphia, and only the second such gathering held in the East since the Order was founded and organized. The first in 1935 took place in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

VALLEY FORGE OUTING

Tuesday, August 20, 1940



70 delegates from 44 Ponds responded to the roll call. MLGG Knowlan was pleased to report that in fiscal year 1939-1940, a new membership record of 7,369 members was established. By increasing their membership 46%, West Virginia Pond won the coveted Membership Cup.

Special emphasis in organizing Puddles resulted in the birth of California Pond's San Diego Puddle. Another objective...that all Ponds should have Pond publications...resulted in the creation in the *Splash* of the Manitoba

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Pond, *La Honker* of the Louisiana Pond, *Web Foot Honker* of the Oregon Pond, *Goose Tracks* of Minnesota Pond, and the *Goose Quill* of the Florida Pond. The project of preparing a suitable framed membership certificates was also accomplished.

He went on to say that “*any organization which has for its objective the development among its members of a sincere friendship of one for another needs no other stimulus to sustain it eternally*”. That’s still true yet today, now 71 years later.

GWGQ R.A. Kenzel reported income of \$14,099.52, less disbursements of \$10,739.75, resulting in an excess of \$3,359.77.

Grand Nest Officers elected for 1940-1941 were MLGG Ben S. McKeel, New York City Pond; GSOF Clifford J. Malcolm, Ontario Pond; GCOG Howard A. Reynolds, San Francisco Pond; GGN Louis L. Law, Minnesota Pond; and GKGGE P.M. Winchester, New York City Pond. Michigan Pond’s PMLGG William T. Benallack installed the newly elected officers.

The prime social events were the opening day family outing at Valley Forge and the closing International Goodfellowship Dinner. Truly the 34th Grand Nest Meeting was a very productive and enjoyable affair.



INTERNATIONAL GOODFELLOWSHIP DINNER

Ben Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia
34th Annual Grand Nest Convention
Thursday, August 22, 1940

GRAND NEST HISTORY

Grand Nest Convention August 21-23, 1951 Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, PA

The 44th Grand Nest Meeting was called to order by Paul M. Fell, Most Loyal Grand Gander. It convened in the Crystal Ballroom of the same hotel that housed the 34th such gathering 11 years earlier. The 37th Grand Nest Meeting, planned for Colorado Springs in 1943, was called off because of World War II. Over 1,200 Ganders were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces that year.

Warm welcomes from Philadelphia's Mayor Bernard Samuel and Penn Pond's Most Loyal Gander James McLaughlin were extended to all Ganders, ladies, and guests.

The roll call disclosed a quorum of 79 delegates from 49 Ponds. MLGG Fell was happy to report an increase of 215 new members, resulting in an all time high of 11,273. Equally satisfying was that every Pond had been visited either by him or a Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander. Wherever he went, they found enthusiasm high and meetings well attended. Every Pond that performed the Ritual did so from memory in fine fashion.

Grand Wielder R.A. Kenzel reported fiscal year income of \$32,250.41, expense of \$22,940.79, and an excess of \$9,309.62.

Grand Nest Officers elected for the year 1951-1952 were MLGG Charles L. Beale, Texas Pond; GSOF S.L. Sterling, Manitoba Pond; GCOG John Henry Martin, San Francisco Pond; GGN Alex B. Young, Heart of America Pond; and KGGE Robert L. Wiseman, National Capital Pond. Richard A. Kenzel, after 15 years of faithful service, relinquished his duties as Grand Wielder of the Golden Goose Quill. His fellow Wisconsin Home Nest Gander, H.L. Mauritson, was appointed to serve that important role.

A widower, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Fell and his daughter, Norma Fell, were host and hostess at the International Goodfellowship Banquet and Ball. A wonderful evening of dining, dancing, and sharing brought down the curtain on a very successful Grand Nest Meeting.



1951 GOODFELLOWSHIP BANQUET
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOTEL
BLUE GOOSE CONVENTION – PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Give a Gift

For Growing and Preserving our Grand Nest Archives

In Memory of Barry L. Snyder, PMLGG
Past Grand Nest Historian



**ARCHIVES...
WINDOW ON
THE PAST,
GUIDE TO THE
PRESENT,
AND LIGHT FOR
THE FUTURE**



Many of us in Blue Goose believe that a careful study of our history is essential...to deepen appreciation for our gifts and foster a renewed effort to remember and carry forward our original purpose and Cardinal Principles. Archives, then, are about keeping our collective history and traditions before us, and taking abstract wording of our rituals and transforming them into vital tools for our survival. Keeping clear this window to our past can provide the best light for our future.

We want to make our archives more accessible and available to our membership. Your Grand Nest officers are exploring ways and means of making this a reality. We welcome your suggestions, and need your support.

Written in 1999 by John T. Zeldam, PMLGG
Grand Nest Historian

**Make checks payable to HOBGI
and include "ARCHIVES FUND" on
the "FOR" line. Mail it to HOBGI,
12940 Walnut Rd., Elm Grove, WI
53122**



*First Ever Grand Nest Archives Exhibit – Aug 5, 2001
St. Louis, MO*