

HISTORY OF THE GRAND NEST

Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International

2013-2014



108th Grand Nest Convention
Salt Lake City Marriot City Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

July 23-26, 2014

MLGG John Paris

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**Prepared by
PMLGG John C. Bishop**

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**The Honourable Order of the Blue Goose, International
Grand Nest Executive
2013-2014**



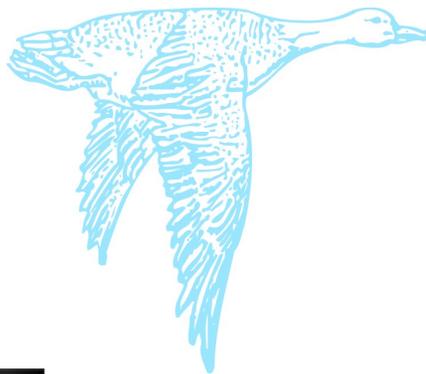
**John Paris
Most Loyal Grand Gander**



**Mark Robertson
Grand Keeper**



**Bill Olson
Grand Supervisor**



**Terry Maloney
Grand Wielder**



**Randy Wilson
Grand Custodian**



**Robert Tayloe Ross
Judge Advocate**



**Linda Meik
Grand Guardian**



**Jerry Hale
Grand Historian**

**Blue Goose Holds 108th Grand Nest Convention in
Salt Lake City, Utah
July 23-26, 2014
Salt Lake City Marriott City Center**

156 Ganders, spouse and guests, including six children from across the US and Canada, journeyed to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend the 108th Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention from July 23-26, 2014. The convention was held at the Salt Lake City Marriott City Center in downtown SLC within easy walking distance of many shops, restaurants, City Creek Mall, Temple Square and attractions.

Wednesday July 23, 2014

The Grand Nest Officers met on Tuesday, but for most Ganders and their families, things kicked off on Thursday. The golfers in our midst left the hotel before 7:00 AM for their Pre-Convention Golf Tournament at the Mountain Dell Golf Course.

The Convention's Days of '47 Welcome Party was held at the Gallivan Center. We had a huge private room on the second floor for a great barbeque dinner. There was musical entertainment from a duo that

played Western music, performed cowboy poetry and led a sing-along version of such favourites as 'This Land is Your Land'. Pins were traded and it was a great time catching up with old friends to start the convention.

Thursday July 24, 2014



After a full breakfast, a bagpiper signalled us to walk over to the Capital Room as the 108th Grand Nest Meeting was ready to get underway. MLGG John Paris welcomed the group and gavelled the opening of the meeting.

The flags were presented by the Utah Society Sons of the American Revolution—a fife and drum corps dressed in replica uniforms of the American Continental Army. They left the room with a hearty cry of

'Huzzah!' The anthems of the United States and Canada were sung by Marilee C. Wilson.

In his invocation, Pastor Scott Delgarno of the Wasatch Presbyterian Church referenced the history of Utah by saying 'we are all descendants of pioneers'. He spoke of Blue Goose's support of charity for over hundred years, and how we are 'making the continent a better place.'

MLGG Paris introduced the head table, Grand Nest Officers and spouses, PMLGGs and spouses, and Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders.

Our next speaker was Doug Koop, the General Manager of the Salt Lake City Marriott City Center. He spoke of the timing of our convention, as it coincided with Salt Lake City's Pioneer Days to celebrate the Mormon pioneers arrival. Thousands were expected for a downtown parade.

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Mormon Temple

Next up was Utah Insurance Commissioner Todd E. Kiser who offered wide ranging remarks on Utah, the insurance industry, and Blue Goose. He called Utah a 'beautiful and diversified state' with 7 National Parks. He acknowledged Blue Goose's service to its local communities through charity work and civic involvement, and thanked us for 'being involved in helping people' and 'rebuilding lives and communities after fire, flood, tornado, or terrorist act.' John Paris awarded an honorary membership in Blue Goose to Commissioner Kiser.

Following Todd Kiser was Philip Notarianni, Ph. D. He is a professor at the University of Utah and teaches a class on 'The Peoples of Utah'. He mentioned that he was speaking to us on his birthday, so of course he received a 'Happy Birthday' serenade from the group.

Mr. Notarianni gave a fascinating presentation on Utah's history and wove it into the emerging national and international trends of the times. He showed us hundreds of historical slides to supplement his story.

He touched on five tribes of Utah's native peoples (Ute, Paiute, Goshute, Shoshone, and Navajo), European exploration, fur trapping and the fashion industry, the diverse Mormon pioneers, the 1869 driving of the 'Golden Spike' in Promontory Point, Utah to signal the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, and how railroads caused Utah's coal industry and population to soar.

Terry Maloney spoke next and recognized the Utah Pond's Convention Committee. Committee Co-Chair Bruce Christensen spoke

about the logistics and details for the Memorial Service, Spouse Program, and the Archive Room.

After a break, the sounds of the bagpiper playing Amazing Grace signalled our return for the Memorial Service.

The Convention's Memorial Service was conducted by Marisa Adamo of the Oregon Pond with assistance from Karen Jensen and Rob Barlow. As Marisa called the name of each Pond, members of that Pond stood in unison. If a Pond lost a member during the year, the name was called and a candle was lit.

Two PMLGG's, Ivar

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Memorial Service

Awes (1975, Minnesota Pond) and Clifford C. Needham(1994, San Diego Pond) were eulogized.

In eulogizing Awes, PMLGG Larry Lewer spoke of Ivar's military service as a member of the 34th Division; first US Division deployed to the European Theatre, and to enter combat in North Africa and Italy and won 2 Bronze Stars and 3 Purple Hearts. After the war, he attended the University of Minnesota on the GI Bill, started a career in insurance, and joined the Minnesota Pond in 1949.

PMLGG George Harwood eulogized PMLGG Cliff Needam as a 'forward looking person' who was an ambassador of the Order in word and deed'. He spoke of how Needam recognized Blue Goose's need for change, and how Needam was a proponent of extending membership to women. He also recalled the full body blue feathered Goose costume that Cliff frequently wore.

The National Capital Pond conducted a raucous Model Initiation ceremony based of the movie 'Blazing Saddles' a classic 1974 satirical Western. The show started with a viewing of the movie trailer, then the Grand Nest officers entered the room as the theme song from 'The Magnificent

Seven' played the Model Initiation team of Bill Olson, Michelle Fitzwater, Jim Dorsey, Donna Digman, Jimmy Lanham, Patrick Bergen, Jim Kern, Allan Albrecht, George Burgee, and Gene Newman assumed the roles of the various characters in the movie and reimaged many of its gags and plot lines into the ritual. By the time the dust had settled, nine new goslings had been initiated into the Utah Pond.

As we were preparing to leave for the All Industry Luncheon, an announcement was made that the Convention Golf Tournament had benefited the Utah Association of Independent Insurance Agents Scholarship Fund with a \$500 donation.

The All Industry Luncheon featured a fascinating presen-

tation by Red Oeherich on "A Road-trip through Utah's 5 National Parks". Our speaker was well qualified to speak on that topic, as he is editor of the Outdoor Utah Adventure Guide.

He began with a humorous summary of "Speaking Utah" including a popular Utah swear phrase "Oh my heck", which becomes even more vulgar when accompanied with arm gestures.

Utah's natural beauty is showcased in its 5 National Parks-Zion, Capital Reef, Arches, Bryce Canyon, and Canyonlands. He entertained us with a terrific slide show of rock formations,

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National Capital Pond Initiation Team



MLGG John Paris

waterfalls, rafting, canyons, rappelling, mountain climbing, lakes, mountains, rivers, arches, and spectacular natured formations like “The Wave” which looked like a psychedelic sandstone kaleidoscope.

After the luncheon, the regional meetings were held from 2:30 to 4:30.

The evening’s Family Night Dinner was held at The Leonardo, where we had a beautiful space on the third floor to enjoy a variety of food stations and desserts. The Leonardo is a fun museum with dozens of exhibits about science, man’s creativity, math, geometry, color and design. There were some great interactive exhibits on film making and animation.

Friday July 25, 2014

MLGG John Paris called Friday’s meeting to order, and

introduced Grand Wielder Terry Maloney for the roll call of delegates. Terry asked the first-timers to stand and be recognized. Terry called the Ponds in alphabetical order, as the delegates from Alabama to Wisconsin checked in. Terry acknowledged the Grand Nest Bartenders-Bob Partridge and Kevin Brady of the Hartford Pond, and congratulated them on their third place finish in the two-team bobsled competition at the Utah Olympic Park. Bob and Kevin responded by delivering a pizza to Terry who had expressed an interest in a slice the night before, but the aptly named “Pie Hole” provided the pizza to late for night-time consumption.

MLGG John Paris reported on his year in office. He stated how symbolic it was that the Convention was coinciding with the Utah Pond’s 100th anniversary. He thanked the Pond for giving him the honour of representing them on the Grand Nest. He thanked the Utah Convention Committee, his wife Zelma, and all of the 2014 Club Members. He also thanked Terry Maloney, Joe Coccia, Joanne Clark, and all of the Grand Nest officers he served with.

He reported that during the

past year, membership increased by 120 new Ganders; an increase of 6%, causing him to say “this is an exciting time for Blue Goose”.

Grand Wielder Maloney started his report by pronouncing that for the first time in his service, Blue Goose has seen “substantial growth”. He spoke of the challenge at hand, “how can we perpetuate and share our relationships for the next generation?”

The Honourable Order’s growth was highlighted by the new Mid Missouri Pond and the Ocean State Puddle (Rhode Island) of the Hartford Pond. Terry forwarded 125 Grand Nest website membership inquiries to the appropriate DMLGGs for follow-up.

He spoke of Blue Goose’s efforts to “brand” the organization and said how our name recognition is much improved as a result of the years of recent PLRB Meet and Greets. He thanked the officers and Ponds for their help in doing that.

Terry reminded the Ponds of the availability of a membership Anniversary report on the GN website, and stressed the impor-

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tance of recognizing our long-time members.

The ten largest Ponds were announced, with Michigan in the top spot, followed by Ontario, Quebec, St. Louis (with 209), Hartford (with 208), National Capital, Edmonton, Alberta, New York City, and Nova Scotia.

Grand Custodian Randy Wilson spoke of the “thousands of prospective members” we interact with every day, and announced an October 2014 initiative to increase our membership that will be known as “Rush for Goslings 2014”. It will be themed after fraternity and sorority rushes, and he will be sending material to the Ponds’ Wielders.

Before he started his report, Grand Nest Historian Jerry Hale commented that it was “nice to see all the young faces” in the room.

He said that 2013-2014 was an exciting year; we worked hard to increase our numbers with successful ventures in Mid-Missouri, Northern Virginia, Rhode Island, and hopefully Charlotte. There have been surges of Blue Goose interest in Florida, Ohio and an optimistic start in Pittsburgh. There was growth in 18 Ponds, and the

order showed 6% growth overall.

We lost 2 PMLGGs and many Life Members this year. Jerry commented on how supportive and tight-knit an organization we are, and he reinforced that by recounting how six Ponds were represented at the service for Jeannine Blundell-Kennedy, wife of the New York City Pond’s Patrick Kennedy.

Jerry thanked the Ponds for supporting Blue Goose history, and asked for submissions of historical items, and invited the convention to visit the archives.

Judge Advocate Robert Ross opened his report by thanking MLGG John Paris, as a “great and strong leader...a conscientious and dedicated steward”.

JA Ross spoke about the dangers involved with cyber liability issues. Since a lot of our Ponds are offering credit card payment options via their websites, there is a window of vulnerability and possible exposures. He suggested that the Order should pursue Cyber Liability insurance.

There were no referrals this year to the Jurisprudence Committee. There was one

proposed amendment presented to the Constitution & By-Laws Committee concerning a dues increase. Judge Advocate Robert Ross introduced a proposed amendment to increase the amount of dues payable to Grand Nest from \$22 to \$27 US per Gander.

Ross said that 2013-2014 was a “great year for charity”, a fact that should help us promote the organization. He also spoke of the new Puddles and Ponds and complimented Grand Guardian Linda Meik for her active role in the resurgence of the Southern Region.

Grand Keeper Mark Robertson gave the Audit Report, and summarized the Order’s finances by saying that even though our membership numbers have increased, our revenue is down. We are operating under a deficit budget of <\$7,000> and the circumstances call for a dues increase and a need to drive up the membership numbers.

The Grand Nest Committee reports on Charity, and Communication/Marketing followed.

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Grand Guardian Linda Meik confided that while reviewing the Pond's charity reports, she was struck by "how many lives we touch and rebuild, and how many charities we support". She consolidated her findings into a single report. Based on information submitted by the Ponds, in 2013-2014, Blue Goose donated over \$250,000 in cash, goods and services, to charity. The pro-rated average was \$53 per member, compared to \$45 last year.

Linda challenged the Ponds to keep up the great charity work, and stated that a goal for every Pond and Puddle in the Order should be to report their charitable endeavours to the Grand Nest next year.

"The size of your Pond is not important, what is important is that each Pond should do what they can, and report your activity to Grand Nest". Linda highlighted the charitable activity of the Westchester (NY) Pond, and how they serve dinner at a local hospice; an act that is "meaningful for the recipients".

Bill Olson's Communication and Marketing Report was next. He spoke of our ongoing initiatives to have Blue Goose communicate better within our Ponds and our Regions. The use of social media to rein-

force the information found on Pond websites has helped greatly. He will be sending a pdf document to the Wielders on website use.

Some Pond's newsletters have been expanded to include regional information, such as the Seattle Pond's newsletter for the Western Region and the National Capital Pond's newsletter for the Eastern Region.

Our continuing presence at the PLRB conference is working to create new interest in our Ponds and Puddles.

His recommendations were:

- A) Incorporate an advertising and marketing allowance into the budget
- B) Retain current members
- C) Have a Pond membership chairman look at non-participating members.
- D) Have a list of each Pond's charities on the Grand Nest website.
- E) Update Pond websites to include at least the officer names, meeting schedules, and meet-

ing registration details. He praised the Virginia Pond's website as an outstanding example.

- F) Partner with other Ponds and other claim organizations
- G) Continue Blue Goose's Open House Meet and Greets at regional and national PLRBs
- H) Have each Pond plan on 2 continuing Education meetings per year.
- I) Continue to use social media such as Facebook and Linked In.
- J) Create a Grand Nest budget for marketing and website support.

The morning's program continued with the presentation of the Grand Nest Awards.

The **Membership Cup**, for the greatest % of increased membership, was won by the **Penn Pond**. The **Fellowship Cup**, for the lowest % drops & resignations, was won by the **Saskatchewan Pond**. The **No Drop Out Cup**, awarded for no dropped members, was won by the **Westchester Pond**. The **Peace Garden Award Cup**, awarded to the Pond

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with the most first time convention attendees, was won by the **National Capital Pond**. The **Link of the Year**, awarded to a Pond with an outstanding website, was won by the **Virginia Pond**. The **Gordon Crowther Charity Award**, for the Pond with outstanding charitable activities, was won by the **Hartford Pond**, and the **Regional Challenge Cup**, awarded to the region with excellence in five combined membership criteria, was won by the **Eastern Region**.

The Regional Charity Awards were next. The **Western Region** Charity Awards for the highest % increase and Most new & reinstated members were both won by the **Utah Pond**. The **Central Region** Charity Awards for the highest % increase was won by the **Heart Of America Pond** and the award for the most new & reinstated members was won by the **St. Louis Pond**. The **Southern Region** Charity Awards for the highest % increase was won by the **Florida Pond** and the award for the most new & reinstated members was won by the **Virginia Pond**. The **Eastern Region** Charity Awards for the highest % increase and Most new & reinstated members were both won by the **Hartford Pond**.

The **Canadian Region** Charity Awards for the highest % increase was won by the **Saskatchewan Pond**, and the award for the Most new & reinstated members was won by the **Quebec Pond**.

Judge Advocate Robert Ross introduced a proposed amendment to increase the amount of dues payable to Grand Nest from \$22 to \$27 per Gander.

PMLGG Larry Lewer led a discussion of opposing views that included the lack of a consolidated balance sheet, “nebulous justification”, and “incomplete records”.

A roll call vote was held and the motion was approved.

There was a request for a new Pond charter from the Mid Missouri Puddle of the St. Louis Pond. They are located halfway between Kansas City and St. Louis. Their request for a charter passed by a unanimous vote, and Terry read the charter to the meeting.

PMLGG Larry Lewer introduced a motion to include a balance sheet and membership numbers in upcoming Grand Nest Bulletins. A vote on the motion passed.

Prior to concluding the program for the day, the Utah

Pond’s Bill Christiansen announced details for those Ganders taking a tour of the city in the afternoon.

Saturday July 26, 2014

After breakfast, the Grand Supervisor Bill Olson assumed the role of Francis Scott Key and introduced the theme of next year’s convention site “O Say Can You Be in Baltimore”.

Key witnessed the British invasion of Fort McHenry during the battle of Baltimore in 1814. When he saw the American flag still waving the next morning, he was inspired to write a poem which became a song, “The Star Spangled Banner”.

We saw a promotional video that highlighted many of Baltimore’s visitor sites and attractions, and received some information on Convention specifics. The Convention will be held at the Marriott Renaissance from July 18 to 22 (Saturday to Wednesday), the room rate will be \$170, early bird registrations will be \$325 rising to \$350. The costs for the hotel and

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registration should be around \$1,500/couple. Bill recommended flying into Baltimore instead of driving to save the daily \$24 hotel parking fee. There was an auction for two full and one empty Jim Beam Blue Goose decanters.

The convention thanked Neil Miller for photographing the conventions activities, and he was recognized as “Grand Nest Photographer”.

Terry Maloney called the delegate roll call and recognized DMLGG Jacques Cuierrier of the Quebec Pond. He read a letter of greetings from PMLGG Guy Charron who was at home convalescing from back surgery. The convention missed Guy and is looking forward to seeing him next summer in Baltimore.

Gene Newman of the National Capital Pond made a formal motion that next

year’s Convention be held in Baltimore. The motion was seconded by James Lanham, and it was accepted by acclimation.

Nominating speeches for the 2014-2015 slate of Grand Nest Officers ensued, and PMLGGs Rex and JoAnn Clark installed Bill Olson of the National Capital Pond as Most Loyal Grand Gander, Randy Wilson of the St. Louis Pond as Grand Supervisor, Linda Meik of the Texas Pond as Grand Custodian, Mark Robertson of the Edmonton Pond as Grand Guardian, and Kim Bilbrey of the Dayton Pond as Grand Keeper.

The Dayton Pond’s Kim Bilbrey, the Grand Nest’s newest officer shared her thoughts with the convention.

Kim confided that she never really understood Blue Goose until she attended her first convention. She urged the attendees to share the convention experience with their Ponds and “take that message home with you”. She said that the year’s 6% growth is signalling an exciting time for Blue Goose. She spoke of the ties that bind us together “we are all so different, but we are all so

alike with our support of charity”.

The Golf awards from Tuesday’s tournament at Mountain Dell were announced, and the winning team of Mike Sherban, Terry Maloney, John Bishop and Lynne Fawcett. Mike Sherban of the Edmonton Pond received special notice for firing a Hole in One at only his second hole of the day!

Most Loyal Grand Gander Bill Olson’s address of Acceptance followed. Bill hopes to “lead, inspire and build on our recent accomplishments”. He congratulated John Paris on his rise through the Grand Nest chairs and for a great convention.

Bill remarked that 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of women joining Blue Goose. And he asked “where would Blue Goose be without them?” He asked all the women in the room to stand. He spoke of the strong women leaders we’ve had (PMLGG’s JoAnne Clark, Lorena Kohlruss). This is the first time we have ever had two female officers serving on the Grand Nest (Linda Meik and Kim Bilbrey). Bill spoke of the strong fe-

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male leaders in Ponds all across the Order, such as Michelle Fitzwater of the National Capital Pond, Mary Kay Marchetti of the Virginia Pond, Lisa Mullen of the Bay State Pond, Lisa Kane of the Westchester Pond, Kimberly Demarco, Wendy Hubbard and Paula Pelletier of the Hartford Pond, Liz Peterson-Wilcoxon of the New York City Pond and Andrea Clark of the Penn Pond.

Bill acknowledged that he has been “surrounded by wonderful women” in his personal life as well, as he thanked his wife Liz and their four daughters.

Bill’s first convention was in 1993 in Edmonton, and he looked back at that fondly as his “first taste of Canadian hospitality”. He thanked his Blue Goose mentors, and many members of the Blue Goose family he met over the years. He concluded his remarks by reading the “Twenty-One Keys to Success”.

JoAnn and Rex Clark, and Don and Kerry Greeno were recognized on the occasion of the 60th wedding anniversaries.

PMLGG JoAnn Clark reported on John Paris’ year in

office. Terry Maloney presented John with his PMLGG pin and plaque.

The Member’s Luncheon was held at nearby Squatters Grill, where we enjoyed a great barbeque lunch and some of their microbrewery beverages. We had a private room up on the second floor and enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, sausages, and all kinds of sides, green salads, and pasta salads.

That evening, the Convention culminated with a cocktail reception and Grand Banquet and Ball. Music was provided by a great show band (The Bandits), and they did a great job mixing things up with crowd pleasers from the “50s up to today. Quite a few Blue Goosers gave them a hand as PMLGG

Joe Coccia sat in on drums, and Bill Olson, Ganders Jim Dorsey, Pat Bergen, and GK Kim Bilbrey belted out vocal and/or boogied on stage.

The Utah Pond hosted an outstanding convention and we were all impressed by the beauty and history of Salt Lake City. We are very grateful to Convention Chairs Bruce Christensen and Ken Miller, and the Utah Convention Committee for their efforts to plan and produce such a successful and thoroughly enjoyable event.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Rich

Grand Nest Committees

Charity

GN Advisor-Linda Meik

Jurisprudence

GN Advisor-Robert Ross

Constitution & By-Laws

GN Advisor-Robert Ross

Marketing

GN Advisor Bill Olson

Convention & Budget Oversight

GN Advisor-Kim Bilbrey



PMLGG John Paris receiving his PMLGG plaque from Grand Welder Terry Maloney



Grand Nest Officers and Spouses 2013-2014

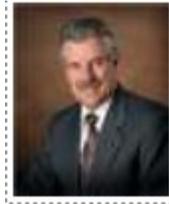


Men Pictured Left to Right: Gerry Hale, Terry Maloney, John Paris, Randy Wilson, Mark Robertson, Robert Ross, Bill Olson
Women Pictured Left to Right: JoAnne Hale, Lynn Maloney, Linda Meik, Zelma Paris, Libby Wilson, Peggy Robertson, Laurie Ross, Michelle Fitzwater



Men Pictured Left to Right: Gerry Hale, Mark Robertson, Robert Ross, Terry Maloney, Bill Olson, Randy Wilson
Women Pictured Standing Left to Right: Peggy Robertson, Lynn Maloney, Elizabeth Olson, Libby Wilson
Women Pictured Sitting Left to Right: Linda Meik, Kim Bilbrey

**Most Loyal Grand Gander Report
108th Grand Nest Convention
John Paris, MLOGG 2013-2014**



I has been a great honour and privilege to serve as Most Loyal Grand Gander for this past year. A privilege made possible by the Utah Pond. We all wanted to host the Grand Nest Convention in 2014, not only because the last one held in Utah was in 1974 but because it celebrates our 100th anniversary. When asked to be the candidate I expressed gratitude but stated that there were other members of our Pond with capability and more seniority. They insisted and I was very happy to accept the position in this great organization. I never would have accepted this position without the support of Co-Convention Chairmen PMLG Bruce Christensen and PMLG Ken Miller. From day one in Reno in 2009 when we announced that we would host the 2014 Grand Nest Convention they have been working very hard in all aspects of the convention from fund raising to planning. Their tremendous loyalty and dedication has never wavered. Second I would like to thank my wife Zelma. She has been very supportive and understanding throughout the 5 year period and has been involved in every aspect of preparing for this convention along with many other members of our Pond. The support does not end with the Utah Pond. We have 55 members of our 2014 Club that have each given \$214. About half are from outside the Utah Pond. Many other ponds have also supported our effort.

Next I would like to thank Terry and JoAnn Clark. We had long discussions in Reno about the possibility of us hosting this convention and they have been very helpful and positive the entire time. I would also like to thank the rest of the Grand Nest officers I have associated with over the past 5 years. When I announced we would host the convention Joe Coccia said I'm watching your back and he has the entire time. The officers this past year have been nothing but outstanding. Bill, Randy, Linda and Mark are unbelievable. Randy was a big part in starting the Mid Missouri Pond and Bill and Linda with Puddles and potential Puddles in the East, South and West. If it was my job to pick a leadership team this would have been it. When it comes to loyalty and dedication these people are the best. I see a very bright future for Blue Goose.

One of the things I am proud of this past year is membership. We have increased membership 6% adding 120 new members. It's been a long time since we've been able to say that and I see no change coming in the future.

Although I was not able to travel as extensively as I would have liked over the past year I was very impressed with the reception that I received wherever I went. Fortunately I was able to attend the Michigan Pond and National Capital Pond meetings and Christmas Parties. I think about 380 attended the Michigan Christmas Party and 460 the National Capital Christmas Party. Very impressive numbers. Joe Coccia picked me up at the airport in Detroit and we went on to Dearborn Michigan where we saw the Henry Ford Museum and

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many other sights. Gene Newman picked me up at the airport in Baltimore. I spent a couple nights at Bill's house before going to the hotel. I had a great time. The midyear was at the Airport Marriott in Newark. Very nice hotel. We went to a Yankees baseball game, Ground Zero and a party in New York that Mike Nardulli lined up. Everything was excellent. I felt very welcome at all events and appreciate their hospitality.

This is an exciting time for Blue Goose. I encourage all of you to continue to promote Blue Goose and always remember Character, Charity and Fellowship. With Bill, Randy, Linda and Mark behind me I feel very comfortable. The future is Bright.

We now look forward to 2015 in Baltimore Maryland. As Bill Olson assumes the office of Most Loyal Grand Gander I encourage you to support him and his never ending effort to provide you the best convention possible. Look forward to the 109th Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore Maryland.

Thank you for the privilege of your friendship and letting me hold this office.

John Paris

2013-2014 Grand Nest Officers



l to r MLGG John Paris, GSOFF Bill Olson, GGON Randy Wilson, GCOG Linda Meik, and GKGGE Mark Robertson

**Newly Elected Most Loyal Grand Gander Acceptance
Speech
108th Grand Nest Convention
Bill Olson, MLGG 2014-2015**



Dear Fellow Ganders,

I enthusiastically accept the nomination to become the next MLGG of the HOBGI. I have been looking forward to this moment for a while now. I hope to lead and inspire the order to build on the accomplishments we have made over the last five years in improving and growing the order. We have much work to do to market our organization to others in the industry and to communicate better between ourselves, Pond to Pond and Region to Region. We are a very special organization like no other in the insurance industry. I look forward to seeing everyone in Baltimore, MD next year.

I am honoured to be the first to congratulate Past Most Loyal Grand Gander John Paris for completing his term of office as a Grand Nest Officer and successfully hosting the 2014 Grand Nest Convention in Salt Lake City. I met John Paris for the first time in 2006 at the 100th Anniversary celebration in Green Lake, WI on the golf course where the Blue Goose started, Tuscumbia Country Club. That was my favourite convention because that is when I really learned the history and traditions of our Order. John and I were paired on the same team along with Utah life member Ralph Reese and his wife. It was a memorable round of golf. John and I have been friends ever since. Over the past five years on the Grand Nest we have built on that friendship. I found John Paris to be a generous, honest, polite and soft spoken man who is loyal to his God, to his country, to his family and to his chosen calling. The Blue Goose is honoured and thankful to you John for serving as a Grand Nest Officer and serving us so well.

I am also honoured to welcome our newest Grand Nest Officer, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Mrs. Kim Bilbrey of the Dayton Pond. She has a dynamic personality and the skills necessary to promote our order. She is a great example of one of our new members who had the leadership and enthusiasm to bring new ideas for the education and entertainment of our members. For the good of the Order she has stepped up to become the next Grand Nest Officer representing the Western Region because no other candidate was available from that region. The entire order should be thankful to Kim and we must all support her efforts to host the convention in 2019.

I have been a gander in the Blue Goose for 28 years now. However my involvement really started 25 years ago in 1989. That is one of the most historic years in the history of our Order. At the 1989 convention and Long Beach California, the delegates voted to allow

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women to become members on 09/09/89. Can you imagine what the discussions and debates were like over that subject? Can you imagine what our order would be today if we had not? I am grateful for all the women in our order and would like all of them here to stand up and be recognized at this time. The women in our order have been the backbone of our ponds and their contributions are greatly appreciated. I would like to recognize PMLGG JoAnn Clark, PMLGG Lorena Kohlruss, GGON Linda Meik for their contributions to the Grand Nest, there regions and their ponds. I would also like to recognize some of those exceptional women leaders of the Order. Michelle Fitzwater PMLG/WGQ, National Capital Pond, Mary Kay Marchetti, WGQ, Virginia Pond, Lisa Mullen PMLG/DMLGG, Bay State Pond, Lisa Kane PMLG/WGQ, Westchester Pond, Kimberly Demarco MLG, Hartford Pond, Wendy Hubbard PMLG, Hartford Pond, Paula Pelletier PMLG, Hartford Pond, Liz Peterson-Wilcoxon MLG, New York City Pond, and Andrea Clark MLG, Penn Pond. What would we do without women in our lives? Thank you all for your friendship and putting up with me on the dance floor for all these years. I am fortunate to be surrounded by wonderful women in my life. First of all, my high school sweetheart and wife of 34 years Liz Olson, and my four daughters Christina, Emily, Samantha and Katy. My big sister Christina Lanier and most of all my mother Kay Joy Olson, who attended four Grand Nest Conventions with me, two in Canada and two in the United States. How many conventions can you take your Mom too?

In 1993 I attended my first convention serving as MLG of the National Capital Pond. The convention was in Edmonton and it was the first time I was ever in Canada. I learned about the beauty of Canada driving from Edmonton to Banff and about Canadian hospitality and fellowship. I have not missed a convention in Canada since. Edmonton, Montreal, Halifax, Niagara Falls, Calgary and Quebec City. I have really come to love all my fellow ganders from Canada I have met over the years. Had it not been for the Blue Goose I never would have had the opportunity to visit and learn about so many great cities in North America.

I would like to thank those people responsible for me being in this position. PMLG Jerry Kaplan who took me to my first Blue Goose meeting. PMLGG Barry Snyder who talked me into running for the officers' chair of the National Capital Pond. To PMLG Edward Noye and Life Member Alan "Buster" Levine who asked me to be in charge of the children's program at the 2000 Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore. I got to entertain 60 children from all over North America that week. It has been fun to watch them grow up over the last 14 years and attend many of our conventions. To PMLGG Joe Coccia for helping me win all those convention golf tournaments. To PMLGG Jerry Hale for appointing me as a Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander among other things. Thank you to the current DMLGGs for the Eastern Region PMLG Lisa Mullen, PMLG Gene Newman, PMLG Dan Rich and PMLG Mike Nardulli. Many thanks to GWGQ Terry Maloney and Judge Advocate Robert Ross for all they do for the Order.

I would like to make a toast to all of you "I smile because you are family, but I laugh because there is nothing you can do about it" You all are stuck with me for another year. My

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friends in the National Capital Pond feel like family to me as do many of you. I know that I could count on you in times of trouble . Especially those that are in attendance here today not previously mentioned, MLG Jimmy Lanham, PMLG Jim Dorsey, PMLG Jim Kern, PMLG George Burgee, SOF Patrick Bergin, Donna Digman and Alan Albrecht, Thank you for your support as I prepare to serve the next year as your Most Loyal Grand Gander.

Sincerely,
William G. Olson
Most Loyal Grand Gander



Newly Elected MLGG Bill Olson and his wife Elizabeth

% of Ponds with Websites by Region	Future Conventions	DMLGG's by Region
Eastern-86%	St. Louis, Missouri July, 2016	Central-Kim Billbrey
Southern-63%	Savannah, Georgia July, 2017	Steve Boyer
Central-78%	Edmonton, Alberta July, 2018	Ken Zetocha
Western-60%		Chris Reith
Canadian-45%		Southern-Barbara Curtis
		Wayne Ottoway
		Brian Hill
		Canadian-Jacques Cuierrier
		Lynne Fawcett
		Martin Moran
		Dustin Bales
		Archie Gillis
		Western-Nora Saldana
		Ken Miller
		Eastern-Lisa Mullen
		Gene Newman
		Dan Rich
		Michael Nardulli

**GKGGGE Address of Acceptance
108th Grand Nest Convention
Kim Bilbrey, GKGGGE 2014-2015**



Fellow Grand Nest Officers, Ganders and Guests,

It is indeed an honour to stand before you as the newly elected Grand Keeper. I want to assure you that I will do the best job that I can, with my fellow Grand Nest Officers, to continue the good work of the many Officers that came before me.

I never really understood Blue Goose until I attended my first convention. I urge the attendees to share the convention experience with your Ponds and take that message back home with you.

The 6% growth is signalling an exciting time for Blue Goose. We are all so different, but we are all so alike with our support of charity.

Currently I am the MLG of the Dayton Pond and central Region President. Along with the duties that those bring, I am also a DMLGG for our Region. I have learned a great deal by jumping in with both feet and by doing so Blue Goose has found a path deep to my heart.

I have loved every minute since becoming a member of Blue Goose and along the way I have met many wonderful individuals. I am grateful for those opportunities and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future.

Our Convention team have plans well under way for when we host the Grand Nest in 2019. We promise a fun filled event and look forward to seeing you all in Dayton.

Thank you for the trust you place in me.

Fraternally yours,

Kim Bilbrey,
GKGGGE



GKGGGE-Biography
Kim Bilbrey, GKGGGE 2014-2015



My name is Kim Bilbrey and I was born in 1970 in Tokyo, Japan...my father was military so we moved a lot throughout my childhood...

I have two daughters that are grown...Morgan and Kristin Tullis and am currently married to Tim Bilbrey.

I graduated from Stebbins High School and was the President of CECA (marketing) in my senior year. Then went to Park College at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and on to Sinclair Community College but never finished. Having a passion for people and sales & marketing did not stop me from having a degree. I started working at the age of 14 at a fruit farm, then on to fast food and then restaurant work and worked my way up through management. Having a need for a day job because I had two daughters I went to work for Carlson Marketing Group for 3 years until they relocated to Minneapolis. For many years after, I worked at my girls' private school and then also volunteered a lot of time there. Once my girls were getting a little older I worked part time for a Nationwide agent for 3 years. From there went to Portamedic and covered 11 countries marketing to insurance agents for another three years, and that's when I really started forming strong relationships in the industry. I started my company 14 years ago and it's still going strong. Bilbrey Marketing and Advertising, Inc. is my company. It has been an awesome 14 years and love what I do and the people I market for their companies and their clients...I have met so many wonderful people in the insurance world and feel very blessed.

I joined the Honourable Order of the Blue Goose International in 2009 and at the Reno Convention got inducted at the initiation. I am currently the MLG for the Dayton Pond and Central Region President and the DMLGG for our region. I have loved every minute of being part of this organization and have met many wonderful people along the way and honoured to call them friends. Looking forward to hosting a National Convention in 2019 with our great team.

July 24-26, 2014
Annual Convention and Meeting
Report of the Judge Advocate
Year Ending July 1, 2014



Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Nest Officers and Ganders;

During this Annual Meeting of the one hundred and eighth year of the Honourable Order of the Blue Goose International, I am pleased to give this report to you as the Judge Advocate.

It has been a great pleasure for me to serve again as the Judge Advocate under the administration of John Paris as the Most Loyal Grand Gander. He has been a conscientious and dedicated steward of our Order. MLGG Paris has worked closely with the Regions and respective Grand Nest Officers to emphasize important issues facing each Region and our Order, such as the importance of charity, communication as well as marketing of our Order. He also focused on future conventions and international funding issues. While doing so, he has exemplified our guiding principles of charity, character and fellowship.

The Grand Nest has addressed a number of issues regarding websites as well as credit cards. The Grand Nest is evaluating whether third party vendors with substantial insurance and adequate protections for the Blue Goose may be employed. Also, the Grand Nest has been considering potential needs for cyber liability insurance in this age of expanding technologies.

While the Grand Nest has been very active over the year 2013 through 2014, there have been no issues referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Constitution & By-laws Committee received and evaluated one proposed amendment, which involved a modest increase to our dues to cover important works and operations of our Order.

As always, the Grand Nest continues to focus on the Order's charitable activities and growth. Charity goes hand in hand with promotion and recognition of our good works, which will translate into the expansion of the Blue Goose. The Southern Region, for example, is experiencing particular growth and expansion at this time along with success stories throughout the other regions of our Order.

As we endeavour 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 honour and a distinct pleasure for me to serve this past year as the Judge Advocate of the Honourable Order of the Blue Goose International.

Fraternally,

Robert Tayloe Ross, Judge Advocate, PMLG



July 24-26, 2014
Salt Lake City Convention
Grand Nest Charity Report

Grand Nest Charity Committee for 2013-2014 is as follows:

Grand Nest Advisor: Linda Meik, Grand Guardian of the Nest

Edmonton Pond Committee members:

Neil Miller, Keegan McLennan and Cheryl Gardiner

The Edmonton Pond at the Quebec Grand Nest Convention was the winner of the Gordon Crowther Charity Award.

In December, I highlighted to the committee what had occurred in the previous year with collecting data on our charitable endeavors. I noted, that not every Pond responds on what they do for charity, so obtaining a complete picture of what we as a collective organization do is a challenge. I also noted that this is truly our greatest success story and that we need to look at ways to capitalize on this success.

In response to my note, Neil Miller sent the following message:

“I think the more we can publicize the good work of the Order the higher our profile becomes both in the minds of our ganders as well as non-members. So I commend your efforts in trying to publicize this more.

One question that comes to mind is, are the non-reporting ponds active ponds? Were they ‘non-reporting’ as they had nothing to report or did they just not get around to reporting? Perhaps this is something the DMLGG’s can take a more active role in investigating. There is a deadline for submitting the report. Maybe once the deadline has passed a message should go to the DMLGG’s for each non-reporting pond asking them to contact the pond and follow up.

Did they not report as perhaps they thought their activities weren’t important enough? Maybe they are a small pond that only donated a small amount to some organization? If that’s the case we need to get the message to them that every dollar, every activity is important.

Would it be worthwhile to send a questionnaire in the next month or so to each of the ponds that didn’t report to get some insight into why they didn’t report? It’s hard to really come up with ideas to address this issue without knowing why we didn’t get the reports.

On a grander scale, any publicizing of all of the charitable activities our ponds are involved in can only be a good idea. Right now that publicity is probably regional at best. Some ac-

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tivities are reported on Facebook or on Linked-In but not everything is publicized. This information not only raises our profile, as I mentioned above, but also gives other ponds some ideas as to the kind of activities they might get involved in.

One thing of which our pond has been guilty and I suspect we have lots of company, is not publicizing our activities in the news media, in particular the trade news. For the first time ever I sent a press release about our Charity Gala last spring off to two of the Canadian trade publications and it was published. The news release is on our website, under the “News” tab (www.edmontonpond.com). We need to do more of that but it does take a little effort to write the release.

These are some of my “off the top of my head” thoughts. I look forward to any additional thoughts that Harvey, Keegan or Cheryl might have.

Best regards, Neil”

I think Neil’s message has some key elements that we need to explore further:

1. Why is there not a report from every Pond?
2. Do we make too much of doing something BIG, that we forget it is the SMALL things that may count”
3. Should we devise a method for the small players to come together with another small player and build synergy that way?
4. How about highlighting a Region a month on the website about their charity activities?

As I review what I have been able to collect from everyone at mid-year and now at year-end, you can see not every Pond responded. I believe Grand Nest Officers must encourage their respective Ponds to shout out what they are doing...this is a huge success story for Blue Goose.

I am wondering if we should not have a representative from each Region on the Charity Committee. Still allow the winners of the award make the next selection, but somehow we need to push this story to the forefront and make the small guy feel important in their efforts.

On the next few pages is a grid of the Ponds within a Region that reported charity activity either at mid-year or year-end. What is so striking about this information is all the various charities that Blue Goose has touched. I hope the names of the organizations presented give others ideas on what they may undertake for charity.

At the mid-year point, what has been reported to-date was approximately \$87,000+ in funds collected and donated to various charitable organizations. By year end our total reported

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cash donations reached a magnificent level of \$203,926.36

In 2012-2013 from what had been reported, our donation per Blue Goose member to charity was \$45., and today I am pleased to say our 2013-2014 charitable cash donation equates to \$53. per Blue Goose member.

Adding in the various items plus time donations we have hit a great milestone of over a Quarter of a Million dollars in value for charitable endeavors.

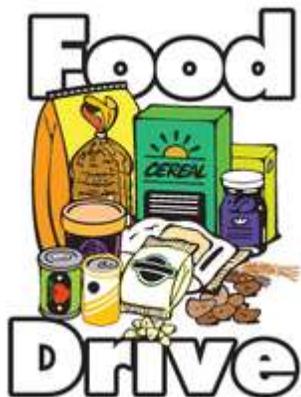
Note, The Grand Nest is not listed here and it is my understanding that a check for \$500. is given to Special Olympics.

So where do we go for 2014-2015? Well, here are the goals:

1. Keep up the awesome charitable endeavors.
2. Let's have every Pond/Puddle from every Region send in a report. Remember the smallest charitable action often provides the greatest rewards. I request that every Grand Nest Officer and their DMLGG's reach out to each Pond within their Region and encourage them to submit a report.
3. Every Pond to provide 3-5 pictures of their charitable event, with a description of how, when, where, why, who for each picture. (Please no more than 5). Let's assemble a Charity Scrap Book!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Meik
Grand Guardian of the Nest
Chairman of the Charity Committee



Canadian Region

Pond	Charity	Dollars	Donation Items	Time
Edmonton	YOUCAN Youth Services, MacEwan University Insurance & Risk Management programs Top Student	\$34,250		
Manitoba	Special Olympics, Manitoba Dragon Boat (CancerCare Ctr), Shriners Hospital for Children, Christmas Cheerboard, Insurance Institute	\$11,050		
Alberta	Alberta Cancer Foundation, Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids, Animal Rescue Foundation, Calgary Food bank, an IISA program candidate, Women in Need	\$4,618		16hrs. Volunteer time @ Salvation Army Toy Mountain Drive
Nova Scotia	Insurance Institute of Nova Scotia, Special Olympics, a Food Bank	\$4,000		
British Columbia	Christmas Toy Drive		Toys-filled a van	
Regina	Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Insurance Institute of Saskatchewan	\$11,950	Barbeque and Christmas Dinner	
Saskatchewan	Saskatoon Food Bank, The Bridge on 20th, Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan	\$3,600		
Total		\$69,468		

Western Region

Pond	Charity	Dollars	Donation Items	Time
Utah	The Road Home (homeless shelter)	\$800		
Colorado	Toys for Tots, The Gathering Place (a domestic shelter)		Toys (they invited 2 marines to luncheon to pick up toys); approx. 400lbs of non-perishable food items, used clothing, trial size hotel and sample soaps & shampoos	
Arizona	Salvation AZ Ponderosa Children's Camp, Sunshine Acres Children's home, St. Mary's Westside Food Bank Alliance, Season for Sharing AZ Republic, John C. Lincoln Health Foundation-Desert Mission	\$5,000. (Note over the last 25 years AZ has donated \$122,500 to these organizations)		
Total		\$5,800		



Eastern Region

Pond	Charity	Dollars	Donation Items	Time
Penn	Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$2,000		
New York	Wounded Warrior Project, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 1 Cpl R. J. Slattery Det 206 MCL, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, A Day of Dez, WTC Memorial	\$8,600		
Westchester	Rosary Hill (Hospice patient ctr.)		Provided a Holiday party with food and entertainment	
Hartford	Feeding Empty Little Tummys, A Kid's Place of Tampa Bay, Prudence Crandell Center, Immaculate Conception Shelter, Autism Services & Resources Connecticut, The Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp, Salvation Army, Doreen Nylund Fund, Special Olympics of CT, + 7 others	\$20,100	Women & children's clothing, men's clothing, toys, non-perishable food, personal care items, baby clothes & supplies	
National Capital	House of Ruth, Children's National Medical Center, DC Firefighters Burn Foundation, A Day for Dez, The Friends of Quite Water-Garrett White foundation, Red Cross	\$21,230	Toys for the Children's Hospital	
Total		\$51,930		

Southern Region

Pond	Charity	Dollars	Donation Items	Time
Alabama	Women's Shelter		Clothing, toiletries & cell phones	
Florida	A Kid's Place of Tampa Bay	\$50	Shampoo, cold & flu medicine, trash bags, toothpaste and tooth brushes	
Kentucky				
Louisiana	Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans	\$1,500	Non-Perishable food, gifts to adopted families	
Tennessee	Special Olympics of Tennessee, Salvation Army	\$1,500		
Texas	North Texas Food Bank, Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Feeding Empty Little Tummys	\$7,437.20	Collection of non-perishable food, books, videos & CDs for kids	
Virginia	YMCA Shelter Program, Comfort Zone Camp, Edmarc Children's Hospice + 15 others	\$10,328.16	Sets of sheets and pillow cases, snacks, chap stick, personal items-travel size, individual care packages	5K & Fun Walk-raised \$3,000 for ASK, Charity Auction –raised \$26,000
Total		\$20,815.36		

Central Region

Pond	Charity	Dollars	Donation Items	Time
Ohio	Faith Mission, Cure Tay Sachs Foundation, "Manna Café" (a soup kitchen), Holiday Wish Toy Drive.	\$5,500	toys	Members volunteered one night per month
Columbus	ALS/Lou Gehrig's walk & donation, adopted 3 families @ Christmas	\$600	Presents for families, food & money (approx. \$1,500)	
Heart of America	Camp Quality, Christmas in October, 'Birdie for Bailey'	\$7,000 in 2013 \$1,500 in 2014	Building materials and supplies	Donated/ volunteered time to rehab a house
Michigan	Lyman Foundation, Toys for Tots, VFW Children's Home, Facundo Element, Women's Shelter of SE Michigan, Humane Society, WKAR Talking Books, Gateway Community Services, Ferris State University Scholarship, Special Olympics, God's Kitchen and 15 others	\$41,313	78 gifts of toys	12 hours of volunteer time
Total		\$55,913		

Interesting Walk Through Time with PMLGG John Paris

The Utah Pond was initiated by the Colorado Pond and Chartered on July 21, 1914. Utah hosted the Grand Nest Convention in 1974 at Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City. Hotel Utah was by far the best and nicest hotel In Utah at the time. Rollie Lett was the MLGG during that period.

In 2014 the Utah Pond again hosted the Grand Nest Convention at the Marriott City Center in Salt Lake City. John Paris was the MLGG. Currently the Utah Pond has 85 members including 39 life members.

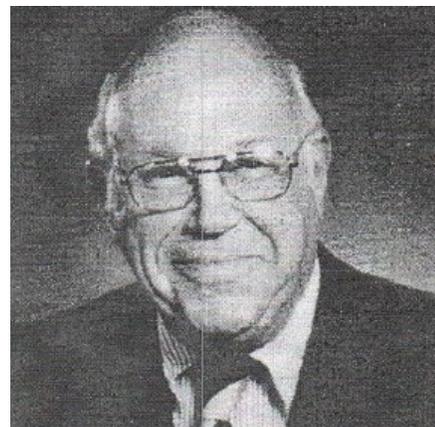
Some activities hosted by the Utah Pond are their annual initiation meeting, Valentine Brunch, guest speakers, including the Utah Insurance Commissioner Todd Kiser, several golf outings wrapping up the year with a wonderful Christmas party

Like other Ponds the Utah Pond has several of its most loyal, dedicated members getting up in age. This limits their participation in activities. They are the backbone of our organization. We work very hard to get new younger members involved but it is very hard for them when you are trying to raise a family and work at the same time. There are so many activities for kids now than there were when I was that age keeping the parents very busy. It's nice to see an increase in membership in recent years. Charitable, Fraternal organizations are very important to our society.

I see a very bright future for the Order as membership grows and people realize the value and pride of our organization.



Utah Pond Meeting in days gone by!



PMLGG Rollie Lett



A bit about Salt Lake City

Salt Lake lies in a mountain valley with the Wasatch Mountains to the east and north... Salt Lake's official elevation is 4,330ft/1,320 meters above sea level. The region was first explored for Spain by Franciscan friars Escalante and Dominguez in 1776. in 1824 the famous frontiersman Jim Bridger discovered the Great Salt Lake.

Some unknown facts about Salt Lake City are:

1. There are more non-Mormons than Mormons
2. There are more bars than you think... 118 more
3. It's one of the most accessible ski destinations in the world
4. There are 12 local breweries in the area
5. It's home to the first KFC
6. It's bike friendly

Salt Lake City was founded in 1847 by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Mormons. They came as a well organized, centrally directed group. They considered themselves on a mission from God, having been sent into the wilderness to establish a model society.

Rich in natural resources, Utah has long been a leading producer of copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc, potassium, salt, and molybdenum (one of the uses is to make steel alloys). Oil and natural gas have also become major products. Utah is the only state that produces gilsonite, a pure form of asphalt used in dark colored printing inks and paints, oil drilling muds and cements, asphalt modifiers, foundry sands additives, and a wide variety of chemical products.

Utah is also host to the internationally known Sundance Film Festival. Held every January, Sundance is one of the largest independent film festivals in the United States. In 2012, there were 46,731 attendees. In 2013, a record 12,146 films were submitted and the festival had 1,803 volunteers.

In 2002, The Salt Lake Region welcomed the world at the Winter Olympics Games. Approximately 2,400 athletes from 78 nations participated in 78 events in fifteen disciplines, held throughout 165 sporting sessions. Utah became the fifth state in the United States to host the Winter Olympics and the Paralympics.

Salt Lake City and the surrounding area enjoys many locals for skiing, hiking, biking, climbing and camping, boating and floating and beautiful venues for the avid golfer.

One of North America's best locations for the entire family.

Midyear Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2013
Marriot-Salt Lake City, Utah

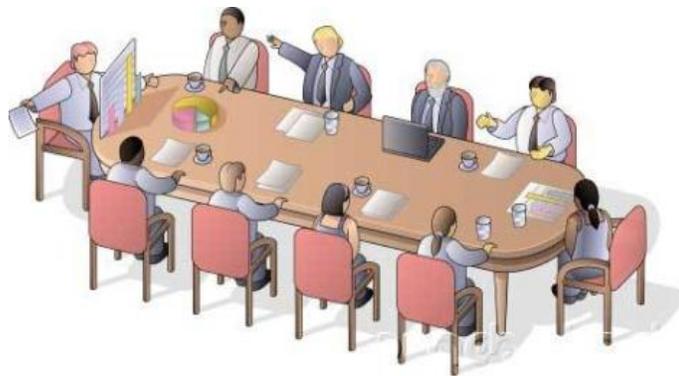
1. MLGG Charron called the meeting to order.
2. GSOFF Paris welcomed all.
3. GWGQ Maloney noted all GN Officers were in attendance as well as PMLGG's JoAnn and Rex Clark, J. Coccia, and L. Kohlruss.
4. No old business.
5. While there were some significant adjustments by some of the larger Ponds, there has been some growth in selective areas. Dues are paid on a good pace with each Region having one Pond still outstanding.
6. MLGG Charron said that Thunder Bay may not survive this year. GWGQ Maloney said he was going to meet with Tim Violet, Executive Director of Minneapolis, MN. Tim represents an international group of select Insurance Defence attorneys, Noted that there will be a PLRB meeting in Charlotte, NC next October which GKGGE Meik will try to use to jump start that area. PLRB region is in Des Moines in September. GKGGE Meik is also cultivating a new group in Sarasota, FL.
7. Future Convention Discussion
 - a-GKGGE Meik will be visiting Southern locations to determine the best location to maximize attendance for 2017. This site will be funded by attendance and underwritten by Grand Nest. The Southern Region has \$10,000 and additional funds are starting to be raised. The convention committee is presently being expanded.
 - b-GGN Wilson said 2016 contract set and solid. Budget was provided.
 - c-GCOG Olson said this Eastern convention started with the \$20,000 Penn convention surplus. Mid-year next year not yet set. The Bermuda cruise will cost about \$3,500 couple, however GCOG Olson is hoping to raise finds to be able to discount the cost by \$1,000 or so.
 - d-GSOFF Paris stated he has monthly conference calls with PEC our convention planner. This will be a family style convention with a registration fee of around \$350. He feels Utah will raise about \$70,000 but is still in need of sponsors.
 - e-MLGG Charron has \$330,000 in revenue with a \$350 registration.
8. Future convention will be in Edmonton in 2018 and Hartford in 2020.
9. MLGG Charron report of his year in office to date is attached.
10. PMLGG Kohlruss filed her Calgary convention liaison report available upon request.
11. Everyone felt that the mentor program at the convention should continue including "GN Bingo"
12. All were reminded to have their Deputies and Committees ready prior to Quebec including the new GKGGE
13. GWGQ Maloney asked that all officers send their nominators to him before Quebec.
14. MLGG Charron indicated that the hospitality room cost in Quebec would be \$632 and could be shared

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15. 55.5 cents per mile approved.
16. Ponds being considered for incentives to attend are New Brunswick and Louisiana
17. Committee Reports.
 - a. Communication/Marketing: GCOG Olson provided an extensive power point presentation reviewing Pond websites encouraging continued improvements. He also discussed ideas to help excite existing members and recruit new membership.
 - b. Convention Management: PMLGG Kohlruss discussed the committee's overview of the Utah and southern region planning. She will continue to assist as needed. Increasing attendance thru attractive, easily accessible sites for our Ganders and guests is the NUMBER 1 GOAL.
 - c. GN Website: GSF Paris reported the enhancements were completed.
 - d. JA Ross reminded us of our responsibility to obtain copyright permission for use of any photos and writings. Our insurance carrier settled a complaint against the Seattle Pond's use of a poem.
 - e. National Fundraising: PMLGG, GNH Hale proposed creating a limited \$1,000 per sponsor program with funds used to support our organization, listed on our International website and recognition at our convention would be available. The number of sponsors may be limited.
 - f. Charity: GKGGE Meik is asking Ponds to continue to use our GN website to share the charity efforts.
18. GKGGE Meik reported that on April 24, 2013 she will be hosting a meeting in Atlanta, GA area with about 40 attendees to restart Blue Goose in that area.
19. GWGQ Maloney asked the GN officers to encourage each of their Ponds to send delegates to Quebec.

Respectfully Submitted
Terry Maloney, GWGQ



Pre-Convention Meeting
July 26, 2014
Salt Lake City Utah, Marriot City Center

1. All current GN Officers plus PMLGG's Bishop, R. Clark. J. Clark, Coccia, Harwood, Lewer, and Reith were present.
2. Pending convention budgets were filed to MLGG Paris. Edmonton has \$14,000 and are reviewing planners and hotel options. National Capital has cancelled the boat convention due to excessive cost changes. They have signed contracts with PEC for planning and the Renaissance for the hotel on July 18th-22nd, 2015. Utah has 158 registered and the contract obligations will be met.
3. Dues paying membership increased 6%. Mid-Missouri Puddle will be asking for a Pond Charter here. Our website received 125 applications this year.
4. New Brunswick and Thunder Bay appear to be in trouble again. Charlotte, NC, Providence, RI, and a few other cities are starting to have activity.
5. Award presentations were confirmed.
6. GN officer nominations were confirmed.
7. R. Clark and J. Clark will install GN Officers.
8. The audit process was discussed by GKGGE Robertson. All was in order.
9. GGN Meik presented an outstanding report on Charity which will be published on the web. GFS Olson, chair of Marketing suggested that charity should be a category under the search engine for HOBGI to highlight the extensive work done by our Ponds. There should be more use of Facebook. Ponds need to update their web pages. His complete report is on file. GHN Hale led the national fund raising program. He said there are four possible vendors, 1 yes and 1 no at this point.
10. JA Ross went through the amendment that will increase International dues from \$22 US to \$27 US.
11. New business included the need to buy cyber liability insurance. Discussion will be ongoing. The use by HOBGI and Ponds of obtaining credit card information was prohibited. Third Party vendors for this will be reviewed further. JA Ross reminded all to be careful of copyright infringement on our websites.
12. Enhanced identification of HOBGI on our "Email Blasts" to members will be worked on.
13. GCG Wilson introduced a new membership drive called "Rush Month of October". All Ponds will be asked to do some activity focused on recruiting members in October. Rather than rely on sporadic times where Ponds may sign up individuals. Notices will be produced by GCG Wilson to be emailed to our Ponds prior encouraging participation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ

Post Convention Minutes
July 23, 2014
Salt Lake City, Marriot City Center

1. All the Current GN Officers were in attendance plus PMLGG's Paris, Reith, Lewer, Harwood, Coccia, J. Clark, R. Clark, and Bishop
2. MLGG Olson confirmed appointments of GHN Hale, JA Ross, and GWGQ Maloney.
3. The GWGQ contract was executed and signed by the GN Officers
4. Bank cards and resolutions will be executed by MLGG Olson
5. GSF Wilson made a motion to accept expenses of GN Officers to Utah. GCG Meik second. Unanimous
6. The 2014-2015 budget accepted as presented. The area of variance may be GN Convention expense in a positive manner. MLGG Olson mad motion. GGN Robertson second. Unanimous.
7. Next mid-year meeting is April 10-12, 2015 at the St. Louis Hilton at the Ball Park.
8. Annual budget meeting set for June 2015 with GKGGE Bilbrey and GWGQ Maloney at Elm Grove, WI
9. GKGGE Bilbrey photo and signature received. JA Ross, GNH Hale and GSF Wilson were asked for color face photos for the bulletin.
10. MLGG Olson asked to have committee regional reports and roll calls given to GWGQ Maloney.
11. MLGG confirmed GN duties.
12. MLGG confirmed committee and deputy appointments. PMLGG Reith replaced Fabian and Ken Zechota replaced Cowman and GKGGE Bilbrey took over the marketing committee. PMLGG Paris was added to future conventions.
13. Mileage rate is 56.5 cents per mile for 2014-2015
14. Each GN Officer was asked to make personal contact with each first time Utah convention attendee and to make a diligent effort to recruit new delegates from each Pond for Baltimore.
15. MLGG Olson will be editing the "gander welcome pack" for distribution.
16. JA Ross suggested that the expanded financial report will be sent to members ut not displayed on our website. Acceptable solution to all.
17. GSF Wilson introduced his vision for "Rush for Goslings" month. October 2014 or around that time he is asking every Pond to host a membership drive event. Announcements to the Ponds, members and any other possible sources to assist in this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Maloney, GWGQ

Statistically Speaking and Awards

Top Ten Ponds-# of Members 2013-2014

1.	Michigan	301
2.	Ontario	249
3.	Quebec	242
4.	St. Louis	209
5.	Hartford	208
6.	National Capital	192
7.	Edmonton	145
8.	Alberta	137
9.	New York City	132
10.	Nova Scotia	130

Charity Report

Eastern Region	—\$51,930.00
Central Region	—\$55,913.00
Canadian Region	— \$69,468.00
Western Region	— \$ 5,800.00
Southern Region	— \$20,815.36
Grand Total Cash	\$211,926,36

2013 Award Winners

Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award	—	Hartford Pond
St. Joe Valley Pond Membership Award	—	Penn Pond
Heart of America Pond's Fellowship Award	—	Saskatchewan Pond
Kentucky Pond's No Drop-Out Award	—	Westchester Pond
Peace Garden Award	—	National Capital Pond
Link of the Year	—	Virginia Pond

Regional Challenge Awards

East Region	Hartford	—53-Most New & Reinstated
	Hartford	—35.57%-Best % Increase
West Region	Utah	—8-Most New & Reinstated
	Utah	—9.3%-Best % Increase
South Region	Virginia	—31-Most New & Reinstated
	Florida	— 37.04%-Best % Increase
Central Region	St. Louis	—49-Most New & Reinstated
	Heart of America	—45.45%-Best % Increase
Canada Region	Quebec (3rd year in a row)	—31-Most New & Reinstated
	Saskatchewan	—29.49%-Best % Increase

Photo GALLERY



Ganders enjoying the Days of '47 welcome party in their western getups, at the Gallivan Center



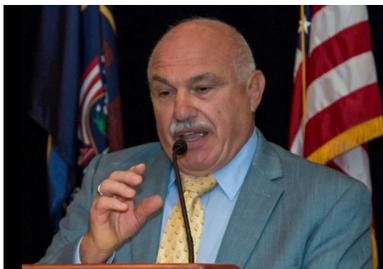
The Utah Society Sons of the American Revolution-fife and drum corps dressed in replica uniforms of the American Continental Army



Opening night entertainment from the cowboy and cowgirl



PMLGG's JoAnn and Rex Clark, the first woman and the first couple to become MLGG's



**Philip Notarianni, Ph.D.
Utah University professor-guest speaker**



Gander from Alberta holding one of the Jim Beam Decanters



Dustin Bales from Manitoba and fans of his outfit



From Left to Right-Grand Keeper Mark Robertson, Grand Guardian Linda Meik and Grand Custodian Randy Wilson. Grand Wielder Terry Maloney in the background



The Place Monument, Heritage Park



Grand Supervisor Bill Olson and Grand Keeper Mark Robertson



Members of the Edmonton Pond Delegation



Ganders enjoying the buffet at the Leonardo



Grand Historian Jerry Hale



Grand Nest Wives. From left to right Lynn Maloney, Peggy Robertson, Libby Wilson, Elizabeth Olson and Zelma Paris



Grand Guardian Linda Meik taking a well deserved break hoping someone will carry her away!



Member of the Virginia Pond accepting the Link of the Year Award from Robert Ross (l) and Terry Maloney (r)



Gander Halie Natasha and newly appointed Grand Keeper Kim Bilbrey



Red Oeherich, Oh My Heck!



**PMLG Mike Sherban
Picking his ball out of
the hole after his Hole-
In-One**



**Eastern Region Ganders accepting their
Regional Challenge Award**



**PMLGG Joann Clark in-
stalling the new officers,
Grand historian Jerry
Hale in the background**



**Members of the Hartford Pond re-
ceiving the Gordon F. Crowther
Charity Award**



**Regional Winners
St. Louis for Most New & Reinstated and
Heart of America for Best % Increase**



Four lovely young ladies attending the Grand Nest Ball in Salt Lake City



Grand Keeper Kim Bilbrey and others joining in with the band.



Grand Guardian Linda Meik and her granddaughter dancing the night away at the Grand Ball



Last night dance off with Ray Wicker and his bride Sonja from the Texas Pond!