



History of The Grand Nest,
The Second Fifty Years
1956-2006

*Honorable Order of
The Blue Goose International*

The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International is grateful to the following Ganders, who under the direction of Grand Nest Historian Barry L. Snyder, Dedicated hundreds of hours to Collaborate on this project.

**John C. Bishop, PMLGG
Tom Cattell,
JoAnn Clark, GS
Rex Clark, PMLGG
Harold L. Faith WGQ, PMLG, DMLGG
George J. Kindler, Sr., PMLG
Larry Lewer, PMLGG
Linda Meik, PMLG
Dan Rich, PMLG, DMLGG
Barry Snyder, GNH, PMLGG**



John C. Bishop, PMLGG

For twenty-two years, John was Vice-President of Administration and Operations for Jack & Co. Ltd., where his responsibilities included customer service, finance and leading daily operations. Shortly after leaving Jack & Co. his oldest daughter was discovered to have kidney failure which occupied a great deal of his time until she received a transplant in August of 2002. John is currently employed teaching High School Accounting and Economics to grade 11 and 12 students.

John also served as Deputy Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board from 1994-1999 and helped lead the organization through the substantial changes that resulted from an entirely new Workers Compensation Act in 1996.

John's volunteer work extends to many circles. He served as Alumni President and represented the Alumni on the St. Mary's University Board of Governors, with primary responsibility to the Property and Management subcommittee during extensive renovations of the residence complexes. He currently serves as the "voice of the Huskies" as the stadium and arena announcer at the home football and hockey games, as well as an off ice official at the hockey games; and has been doing so for 32 years.

He also served on the IWK Ethics Committee with direct responsibility to the Board. He currently serves on the St. Agnes Church Parish Council as the Past Chair which oversees all affairs of the church including discussions with other parishes regarding resource sharing and collaborative ministry possibilities.

John served as the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International's Most Loyal Grand Gander in 2002-2003.

John graduated from St. Mary's University with Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Business Education degrees. He also participated in several training courses which led to CAIB distinction (Canadian Accredited Insurance Broker).

John resides in Halifax with his wife, Debbie, and their three children, Kristen, Danielle and Allison along with their two dogs, Abbey and Alex and one cat, Oliver. He enjoys spending time with his family along with playing golf, swimming and hockey.



Tom Cattell

Born into an insurance family, I was raised under my father's GAB insurance desk. I helped hold the tape measure at large losses even while still in elementary school.

NOT taking the advice of my mother to stay as far away from claims as possible, I started my own insurance career with State Farm after graduating from the Virginia Tech Pamplin School of Business.

I joined the family business, JF Cattell Associates, as an independent adjuster in 1989. We acquired Chesapeake Adjusting Co. in 1993 where I managed the Annapolis office before "graduating" from independent claims in 2005. I am currently a Sr. Commercial Claims Representative for the Nationwide – Allied Insurance Company serving throughout South Carolina – sometimes all on the same day!

My wife, Robin, and I have three children. We enjoy the South Carolina beaches in the summer and the North Carolina mountains in the winter. When not working claims, one of my favorite volunteer pastimes include assisting churches, charities, ministries and schools establish websites so they can communicate with their membership and supporters. I also love biking and swimming with the kids, teaching an adult Sunday school class at our local United Methodist Church, providing foster care for abandoned kittens, and traveling back to Maryland and Pennsylvania to visit with family and friends.

I joined the National Capital Pond in 1992 where I enjoyed my turn at editing the Honker, the pond website and the Grand Nest website. I served as MLG in 1997 – 1998. I then 'babysat' the Wielder position while PMLGG Barry Snyder took a vacation from the position to serve in the Grand Nest. I maintain my membership in the National Capital Pond as South Carolina does not currently have a local Pond although I have met a couple folks that vaguely recall there being a Palmetto Pond once upon a time. Maybe again some day?

I feel honored to have been able to assist with this publication, even if to a very small degree when compared to all these other fine Ganders you are reading about! Enjoy!



JoAnn Clark, Grand Supervisor

JoAnn has been a member of Blue Goose since 1994. She served as MLG in 1997/98. During her term she was able to generate donations from the insurance industry of over \$6,000 toward the Seattle Firefighter's Memorial. Seattle Pond donated \$1,000 for the memorial and have their name engraved on the contributors stone at the memorial located in Pioneer Square. She chaired the Women's events for the '79 convention, chaired the '99 Convention in Seattle and is working on the 2009 Grand Nest. She chairs Day at the Races and Wine Tasting Dinners for Seattle Pond and works on their annual garage sale.

JoAnn is a member of the Insurance Women of Seattle. She is a past president of the association and has served on all their committees in addition to chairing their 1983 national convention, 1991 State Council and 1993 Regional convention.

JoAnn also volunteers at Washington Park Arboretum in the gift store and manages the Holding area for the plant sale. She is serving her second term as Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge #1800 and Recording Secretary of Emblem Club. Because of this she is heavily involved in community services and raising money for charity.

She enjoys gardening, reading, ballroom dancing and entertaining.



Rex Clark, PMLGG

Rex was General Manager of the Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau for many years. He currently serves as a director on their board.

Rex was elected as Most Loyal Grand Gander in Montreal in 1998. He has been a member of Blue Goose since 1952. In addition to serving as MLG twice Rex has also served on all committees, some more than once. He was co-chairman of the Grand Nest Convention in Seattle in 1979, worked on the '99 Grand Nest and is now working on the 2009 convention.

Rex is a member of Rotary, Elks, Seattle & Tacoma Art Museums, Aquarium and Museum of Glass. He is very active in Rotary serving on community services, classification, and greeters committees. He is now a trustee on the board of the Lake City Elks, and is chairman of Tall Elks.

He volunteers for the Washington Park Arboretum working in the gift store and cooking and serving food to volunteers. He also helps at their plant sales.

Rex enjoys cooking, ballroom dancing, gardening, reading and social events. His married daughter is a commercial underwriter, is also a member of Blue Goose, and is a PMLG of the Seattle Pond.



Harold L. Faith WGQ, PMLG, DMLGG

At present I am 81years young. I have been a member of the St. Louis Pond since 5/18/1952. I was a property claims adjuster for 53years.

The Grand Nest Convention this year, 2008, will make my 21st Convention. Never really got involved until I started through the chairs. My wife was more involved with the women's auxiliary long before then.

I am now a widower after 56 years. We have 2 daughters and 6 Grandchildren but no Great Grandchildren at present.

Being permanent Wielder keeps me busy and well occupied.



George J. Kindler, Sr., PMLG

I started my career with 20 years at Sears Roebuck & Co. in the Floor Covering Department; of which the last 10 was as manager.

My next venture was in the Fire & Water restoration field for some 35 years, with the last 6 years part-time.

I joined Blue Goose in St. Louis in 1983 and received both my 25-year pin and Life Member pin in 2008. I was MLG of the St. Louis Pond in 1994-95 and Program Chair for the 2001 Grand Nest Convention held in St. Louis. I have been the editor of the St. Louis Pond's publication "*BLUE NOTES*" since 1993. I am also the webmaster for our website.

My wife, Marie and I, were both widowed and have been married for 30 years in 2008. Together, we have 8 children, 21 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

One of our grandsons, George J. Kindler, III, joined the U.S. Marine Corp in the summer of 2007.



Larry Lewer, PMLGG

Larry Lewer joined the Nebraska Pond in 1962 where he served in the various offices of the Pond through MLG. He served as MLGG of the HOBGI in 1995-1996. He currently is a member of the Nebraska Pond and dual member of the Tennessee Pond.

He began his insurance career in 1961 as an adjuster for General Adjustment Bureau in Omaha, NE. He subsequently worked for Great Plains Insurance Co., National Indemnity Co., Clarendon National Ins Co., Carolina Casualty Ins. Co. and Acceptance Insurance Co in various supervisory and management positions until his retirement in 2000.

He served in the Iowa National Guard and retired as LTC after 30 years of service in 1989. He served as President of the 34th Infantry Division Association in 1998.

Following his retirement in 2000 he and his wife Connie moved to Fairfield Glade, TN where they currently reside.



Linda Meik, PMLG

Ms. Meik serves as a claim consultant in the Marsh - Dallas Claim Department providing claims advocacy and consulting services for workers' compensation, liability, and FINPRO clients. Ms. Meik's clients are those predominantly within the healthcare, construction and retail industry. She had previously served in the role as a Marsh claims consultant in an outsourced workers' compensation dedicated claim unit for a national retail client.

Ms. Meik joined Marsh in 2001. She has over twenty years of experience in the managed care arena with group health and workers' compensation employers, assisting companies and/or clients with choosing, implementing and evaluating their managed care programs.

Ms. Meik is a graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology. She holds a workers' compensation adjuster license and a property & casualty license.

In 1995 Linda was initiated into the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International – Texas Pond. She has held several positions within the Texas Pond and has been their Wielder of the Goose Quill since 1999. Linda served as the Grand Nest's Educational Chair from 2002 through 2006. Part of the Educational Committee's message was that every Gander needed to become educated in the history of the organization in order to know the direction for the future. Ms. Meik has also served as a DMLGG at Large for the Southern Region since 2004. During her tenure as a Gander of the Blue Goose she was instrumental in getting a Houston Pond started, and today is again assisting in revitalizing Houston as a Puddle to the Texas Pond.



Dan Rich, PMLG, DMLGG

Born and raised in the Bronx, Dan Rich started his insurance career when he joined the General Adjustment Bureau's Worcester, MA office in May 1977. A transfer to Fitchburg, MA preceded a 1987 move to Connecticut to manage GAB's Hartford office. After a 30-year career as a property adjuster, he changed careers in 2008 to become a Training Manager at the Traveler's Insurance Company's Claim University in Windsor, CT.

Dan joined the Hartford Pond in 1991, serving a full term as MLG in 1996-97, and a partial term in 2000 when the MLG position became vacant. He has twice served on the Grand Nest Membership Committee, and has been a DMLGG from the Eastern Region since 2000. He was the Hartford Pond's Co-Chairperson for their 2005 Grand Nest Convention Committee. He has been the editor of *Hartford Ponderings* since 1995. He is also a member of the New England Claim Executives Association, and served as their President in 2006-07.

Dan is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany. He enjoys writing, listening to audiobooks, and rooting for the New York Yankees and New York Giants. He is a big music fan, and as a child saw the Beatles at Shea Stadium.

He resides in Simsbury, CT with his wife, Sue, and their two sons, Matt and Andy.



Barry Snyder, PMLGG, GNH

Born and raised in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, a small coal mining town in the Northeast. After graduating from high school, Barry came to the Washington, D.C. area to further his education. He attended Strayer College of Finance.

Worked for National Standards Association for ten years, as supervisor of the Specification and Technical Information Department. In 1959 decided to go into the insurance damage restoration business. After thirty years of being in business decided it was time to get out of the rat race. Barry then went to work as a Field Inspector with Regional Underwriters Service Company.

Barry is married to Patricia A. Snyder (nee Cooper) from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a member of the National Capital Pond-HOBGI and a Past Most Loyal Gander. Pat and Barry collectively have five grown children and six grandchildren.

In the early seventies Barry was introduced to the National Capital Pond-HOBGI. Attended many open meetings and supported the Pond prior to becoming an active member. On March 1, 1979 Barry took his first swim.

In 1983 – 1984 was the Most Loyal Gander of the National Capital Pond. Served on many committees of the National Capital Pond.

In 1984 was appointed by MLGG Dave White to chair the Charity Committee of the Grand Nest and served thorough 1985.

Barry was part of the Model Ritual Team that participated in the Grand Nest Convention that was held in Toronto, Canada in the year 1968.

1989 MLGG Tim Holland commissioned Barry to serve as the Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander of the National Capital, Penn and West Virginia Ponds. Served six years under six different Most Loyal Grand Ganders.

Barry was the Most Loyal Grand Gander in the year 1999-2000. The Grand Nest Convention was held in Baltimore, Maryland. Appointed Grand Nest Historian by MLGG Richard Philippsen in 2003, has been reappointed by the Most Loyal Grand Ganders ever since.

Currently, Barry is the Wielder and Historian of the National Capital Pond

History of The Grand Nest,
The Second Fifty Years
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<u>Year</u>	<u>MLGG</u>	<u>Convention Site</u>
1956-57	Jules E. Simoneaux	Roosevelt Hotel New Orleans, LA
1957-58	Robert L. Fenerty	Banff Springs Hotel Banff, AB, Canada
1958-59	Mark A. Wells	Hotel Statler Los Angeles, CA
1959-60	E.C. Sauley	Sheraton Cadillac Detroit, MI
1960-61	Robert F. Stumph	Statler Hilton Hotel NYC, NY
1961-62	William G. Stephens	Dinkler Plaza Hotel Atlanta, GA
1962-63	Frank Chandler	Royal York Hotel Toronto, ON, Canada
1963-64	Lester Large	Hilton Hotel Portland, OR
1964-65	Earl Hannan	Chase Park Plaza St. Louis, MO
1965-66	Kenneth Carmody	Lord Baltimore Hotel Baltimore, MD
1966-67	George H. Brussel	Americana Hotel Miami Beach, FL
1967-68	Harry Cutler	Vancouver Hotel Vancouver, BC, Canada

1968-69	Frank L. Hunter	Del Webb's Townhouse Phoenix, AZ
1969-70	Howard L. Dobbs	Commodore Perry Hotel Toledo, OH
1970-71	Joseph W. Knowlan	Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Atlantic City, NJ
1971-72	Browne B. Bolton	Executive Inn Louisville, KY
1972-73	A.J. MacDonald	Queen Elizabeth Hotel Montreal, QC, Canada
1973-74	Roland G. Lett	Hotel Utah Salt Lake City, UT
1974-75	Ivar H. Awes	Radisson South Hotel Minneapolis, MN
1975-76	Gordon C. Crowther	Sheraton Hartford Hotel Hartford, CT
1976-77	Stanley Spore	Shamrock Hilton Hotel Houston, TX
1977-78	Ed Morgan	Nova Scotian Hotel Halifax, NS, Canada
1978-79	Charles Palmerton	Plaza Hotel Seattle, WA
1979-80	Alfred Kregel	Island Inn Westbury, NY
1980-81	Douglass G. Snyder	Hyatt Regency Hotel Milwaukee, WI
1981-82	King Luck	Birmingham Hyatt Hotel Birmingham, AL

1982-83	Dennis N. Ellergodt	Banff Springs Hotel Banff, AB, Canada
1983-84	Robert J. Rice	Marriott Hotel Southeast Denver, CO
1984-85	David E. White	Mayflower Hotel Washington, D.C.
1985-86	Lyle C. Johnson	Red Lion Inn Omaha, NE
1986-87	Jerry Simpson	Hyatt Regency Grand Cyprus Orlando, FL
1987-88	Gordon Crutcher	Royal York Hotel Toronto, ON, Canada
1988-89	Harry Merrifield	Hotel Queen Mary Long Beach, CA
1989-90	Timothy Holland	Park Plaza Hotel Boston, MA
1990-91	John Zeldam	Westin Hotel Detroit, MI
1991-92	Bruce Bolton	Galt House Louisville, KY
1992-93	Trevor Newitt	Westin Hotel Edmonton, AB, Canada
1993-94	Clifford Needham	San Diego Hilton San Diego, CA
1994-95	Christopher Reith	Rye Town Hilton Rye, NY

1995-96	Larry Lewer	Red Lion Inn Omaha, NE
1996-97	George Harwood	Marriott Gwinnet Place Atlanta, GA
1997-98	Marc Thurber	Queen Elizabeth Hotel Montreal, QC, Canada
1998-99	Rex Clark	Four Seasons Olympic Hotel Seattle, WA
1999-00	Barry L. Snyder	Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Baltimore, MD
2000-01	Charles L. Cramer	Hyatt Union Station St. Louis, MO
2001-02	Marvin Wilson	Marriott Raleigh-Crabtree Raleigh, NC
2002-03	John C. Bishop	Casino Nova Scotia Hotel Halifax, NS, Canada
2003-04	Richard Philippsen	Sheraton Universal Hotel Universal City, CA
2004-05	Gerald F. Hale	Foxwoods Resort & Casino Ledyard, CT
2005-06	Timothy T. Seider	Hyatt Regency Hotel Milwaukee, WI

1956 – 1957

The 51st annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Roosevelt Hotel, in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26-28, 1957, with the Most Loyal Gander Jules E. Simoneaux presiding. The following current Grand Nest officers were present:

R. L. Frenedy, Grand Supervisor of the Flock
Mark A. Wells, Grand Custodian of the Goslings
E. C. Sauley, Grand Guardian of the Nest
Robert F. Stumpf, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg
H. L. Mauritsen, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill
H. O. Wolf, Judge Advocate
Charles L. Beale, Grand Historian

A color guard of the Marine Corps presented the colors, followed by all singing the National Anthems. The Rev. Harry W. Brown, Superintendent of the Protestant Home for the aged gave the invocation. Acting Mayor Schiro presented to each Grand Nest officer a Certificate of Honorary Citizenship to the City of New Orleans, together with a Key to the City.

After the opening ceremonies, the Memorial Service was held in the Grand Ball Room. It is not recorded in the Grand Nest Bulletin the Pond that preformed the Memorial Service. The Mississippi Pond conducted the Model Initiation.

Grand Nest Historian and Past G. W.G. Q Paul E. Rudd completed the History of The Grand Nest of The Honorable Order of The Blue Goose International. The first printing was exhausted in the first three weeks in June. Mr. Rudd said a few of the histories are left to be given out at this meeting. One thousand copies were printed. A second printing is now being done by the printer.

Judge Advocate, H. O. Wolfe gave his report. He was happy to report that there are no suits, nor disputed claims, nor legal entanglements of any kind or nature now pending against the Grand Nest, nor are there such to my knowledge on the horizon, nor do I know of any existing in any of our Ponds.

Membership as of June 30, 1956 was 14,170. 985 new members were added, 98 were reinstated. The Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, H. L. Mauritsen, stated that 119 have taken their long last flight, 814 were dropped and 194 have resigned, with a decrease in membership of 44. As of date there are sixty-one Ponds.

The Grand Wielder reported that the following Ponds secured the largest increase in membership: Indiana, 30; Alberta, 22; Chesapeake, 22; West Virginia, 21; Louisiana, 19; Steel City, 19; Oklahoma, 18; Georgia, 13; Mississippi, 13; and Edmonton, 12.

The Ponds securing the most new members for 1956-57 are as follows: Ontario, 61; Ohio, 38; Oklahoma, 36; Garden State, 33; Georgia, 33; Indiana, 33; Kansas, 33; Minnesota, 31; New Mexico, 30; and Quebec, 29.

The Chesapeake Pond won the Membership Cup, with a percentage increase of 33 1/3%.

Present were two “fifty-year” members who were honored by being presented with the first of the Fifty Year Emblems. These were Past Grand Wielder, Paul E. Rudd and Past Most Loyal Gander of the South Texas Pond, D. Maury Pollard of Beaumont, Texas.

Past Grand Ganders W. E. Mallalieu of the New York City Pond; H. B. Leuty of the British Columbia Pond; and J. Clark Buchanan of the California Pond passed away.

MLGG Simoneux reported that two new Ponds were added, one to be known as the St. Joe Valley Pond at South Bend Ind., and the other the Magic Empire Pond at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Also, he stated that the Ladies’ Auxiliaries continue to show wonderful results—five new ones were formed during the past year, making a total of 56.

After the Grand Nest Officers gave their reports, MLGG Simoneaux received the Pond Reports about their activities this pass year. The reports were given orally or they filed a copy with the Grand Weilder.

The following Grand Nest Committee's submitted their reports: The Emblem Committee; Constitution and By-Laws Committee; Ladies' Auxiliary Committee; Ritual Committee; Pond Publications Committee; Membership Committee; Jurisprudence Committee; Pond Welfare Funds Committee; Resolutions Committee and the Committee Report of the Most Loyal Grand Gander Simoneaux's year in office.

Wednesday, August 28th the meeting was called to order by the Most Loyal Grand Gander, Simoneaus. The following Ganders were nominated and voted upon to serve on the Grand Nest for the year 1957-1958, Most Loyal Grand Gander R. L. Fenerty; Grand Supervisor Mark A. Wells; Grand Custodian E. C. Saulcy; Grand Guardian Robert F. Stumpf; and Grand Keeper W. G. Stephens, Jr.

MLGG appointed H.L. Mauritsen Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill; Hubert O. Wolfe, Judge Advocate; and Paul E. Rudd, Grand Nest Historian.

Jules E. Simoneaux Bio

Jules was born on a sugar plantation in South Louisiana in Assumption Parish, November 15, 1902. He attended the Public Schools in the Parish and graduated from Soule' Business College in New Orleans. After graduation in Accountancy in 1920, he became a clerk in the General Agency, which than became known as Henry A. Steckler Company. Jules worked his way to the top and became a senior partner in that firm of Insurance Company Managers.

Jules is a Past President and one of the organizers of the Louisiana Field Men Association, Past President of the American Association of Managing General Agents, Past President of the Louisiana Rating and Fire Prevention Bureau, Past President of the New Orleans Exchange Club and a Past District Governor of the Exchange Clubs of Louisiana. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Southwestern Department of the General Adjustment Bureau and the Underwriting Salvage Company. He was Wielder and Acting Wielder of the Louisiana Pond for twelve years and Most Loyal Gander in 1939. He served on numerous Committees of the Grand Nest, before being elected Grand Keeper in 1952.

Jules was married to the former Nettie Picou and has five children.

Convention Highlights

New Orleans, with its French Quarter, famous Canal Street, and Steamboat Excursion on the Mississippi, combined to give visiting Ganders and Ganderettes all the excitement and interest promised them by the Host Pond.

The International Golf Tournament and Horseshoe Pitching Contest were held on Monday and for those not athletically inclined, there was a bus sightseeing tour, with air-conditioned buses provided.

That evening the "Fais Do Do" party was held in the International Room of the Roosevelt hotel, with entertainment provided from home talent, supplemented by professional entertainment. The name is intriguing, but actually means good cheer and good fellowship and turned out to be exactly the genuinely good time you would expect in their own community.

On Tuesday the ladies were taken on a "Walking Tour" and "Coffee Party" in the Vieux Carre, with a special visit to the Harold Schilke home.

Probably the most unusual event was the "Night Flight on the Mississippi" on Steamer President, when many came dressed in costume, which brought memories of similar scenes enjoyed by most of us only in the movies.

On Wednesday noon, the ladies were entertained at luncheon in the Blue Room of the Hotel. They were entertained by the "Mad Hater", a local lady who has a flair for producing what seems without effort, hats with imagination and that have appeal.

The Good Fellowship Banquet on Wednesday evening concluded the official entertainment for the Convention. Dancing followed the dinner, with excellent music being provided.

1957 – 1958

The 52nd Grand Nest Convention was held at the beautiful resort hotel of Banff Springs in Banff, Alberta, Canada, in the heart of the Canadian Rockies on September 1st to September 5th. PMLGG Charles L. Beale stated that the convention site for this year had as its back drop the most gorgeous scenery that has ever graced any previous meeting of the Order.

Monday, September 1st was registration. The ladies' hospitality room was open whereby many gather to greet old friends and welcome the newer Ganders and their spouses.

Festivities began Monday night September 2nd with a Round-up and Chuck wagon buffet sponsored by the Provincial Government and the Alberta Pond. The "Old West" theme prevailed with the Ganders attired in western clothes—neckerchiefs and ten-gallon hats and the Ganderettes in squaw dresses, denims and scarves.

An all day sightseeing trip was scheduled for Tuesday. The camera enthusiasts had no trouble finding suitable material—lovely Lake Louise, glaciers, Takahaw Falls in Yoho Valley, which is the third highest falls in North America, Emerald Lake, and other scenic interest too numerous to mention. The ride through the mountains was designed to test the courage of even the stouthearted with switchbacks and highways cut into the side of the mountains.

Every morning from then on we were awakened by bagpipes played by a piper on the hotel terrace.

September 3th was the opening ceremonies of the 52nd Grand Nest meeting with the Most Loyal Grand Gander Robert L. Fenerty presiding. The following current Grand Nest officers were present:

Mark A. Wells, Grand Supervisor of the Flock
E. C. Sauley, Grand Custodian of the Goslings
Robert F. Stumpf, Grand Guardian of the Nest
W. G. Stephens Jr. Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg
H. L. Mauritsen, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill
H. O. Wolf, Judge Advocate

Grand Nest Historian, Paul Rudd was absent.

MLGG Fenerty opened the ceremonies with a brief official greeting and asked the Ganders and guest to rise for the invocation and presentation of the colors. Reverend Clarence Lethbridge of Riverview United Church, Calgary, pronounced the invocation.

The color guard then entered to bag-pipe music, led by the piper and presentation of the colors of Canada and the United States of America was made followed by the singing of "God Save the Queen" and "the Star Spangled Banner."

MLGG Fenerty then introduced the current Grand Nest Officers, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and guests. Norman W. Scott, Chairman of the Convention Committee greeted the Ganders and guests, followed by a message of welcome from C.C.McCartney the manager of The Banff Springs Hotel.

The Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders in attendance are as follows: General Joe Knowland; Cliff Malccolm; Howard Reynolds; Charlie Beale; John Henry Martin; Bob Wiseman and Jules Simoneaux.

The Memorial Service was held on the Hotel Terrance, with Reverend Clarence Lethbridge and Gander Rowland S. Dant of Calgary officiating, assisted by Ganders Don McPhee, Ross Stevenson, Jack Massier and Tom Eggertson. Mr. Ross Miller was at the organ. The Bow River Valley framed by the towering Rocky Mountains and the morning clouds gradually rising above the peaks and giving way to blue sky and brilliant sunshine, provided a background, which will be long remembered. A Blue Goose Hymn written by Past Most Loyal Gander W. Craig Montgomerie was sung to the tune of the "Old Hundredth" (Doxology). A lament was played by the piper, followed by the benediction and recessional.

The Model Initiation was held in the Cascade Room at 11:30 A. M. and was presented by the Washington Pond Model Initiation team from Spokane.

In the afternoon the International Golf Tournament between the United States and Canadian was won by the Canadian Team. Their score was 377, while the U. S. Team scored 395. The Ladies' Golf Tournament was played at the Bniff Springs Hotel Course. The International Horseshoe Tournament was played on the Banff Springs Hotel recreation grounds.

The Ganderettes were entertained at an informal brunch sponsored by the Edmonton Auxiliary.

That evening everyone met in the Cascade Room for "Derrick Night." Oil Up was at 6:30 pm and the Gusher Buffet at 8:00 pm. Beautifully carved ice figures decorated the table surrounded by every known delicacy.

The business meeting opened on Thursday, September 4th.

After the Most Loyal Grand Gander give his report (report printed in Volume 50 of the Grand Nest Bulletin), the Grand Wielder reported on the status of membership. Membership as of June 30, 1957, was 14,126; 1057 new members were added this year; 165 were reinstated making a total of 15,348. 164 took their long last flight; 924 were dropped from the Order and 263 resigned. Total members of the Order as of June 30, 1958, are 13,997 with a net decrease in membership for 1957-58 of 129.

Grand Keeper, Stephens reported that they have received more Pond dues in for 58-59 than we have ever had at this time. The Order is solvent. Surplus as of June 30, 1958 is \$31,513.42; complete report is printed in Volume 50 of the Bulletin.

H. O. Wolfe, Judge Advocate gave his report. He stated that this past year a number of the Ponds have availed themselves of their right to incorporate. He stated that in his opinion the advantages of being incorporated would be good for the Pond. Wolfe stated, before Pond incorporates, it should make application to the Grand Nest Officers, which may authorize the same, but with the constitutional provision being that for the purpose of securing uniformity in the administration of privileges honors and benefits of the Order any and all Articles of Incorporation or Association shall provide that such corporation or association shall be subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Order, and the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations pertaining to Pond government.

The Grand Historian, Paul E. Rudd gave his report. He stated that the first printing in April, 1957 of the History of the Grand Nest, a factual record covering the first fifty years of our Order, numbered 1,000 copies of the square back book 6" x 9" with 109 pages and cover. Seventy-five copies were reserved and given to some of the members during the Annual Grand Nest meeting at New Orleans last August. After certain changes were made, the second printing of our History, 1,500 copies came off the press last March. A copy of the book was sent to each library in the area where a Pond or Puddle was located. This involved 145 copies. Letters and postcards of acknowledgment, all expressing appreciation, were received from many of the libraries.

After the Grand Nest Officers reports, MLGG Fenerty called upon the chair of the Grand Nest Committee's to give their reports. Fred C. Cox, chairman of The Constitution and By-Laws Committee stated that during the course of the year, no inquiries, recommendations or proposals of any nature was brought to their attention. Under such circumstances, it is presumed the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order must be in satisfactory condition.

H. O. Wolfe, Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee stated that the Committee has had an exceptionally light-year, and with no disputes or controversies having been submitted to it.

William R. Carlin, Chairman of the Membership Committee gave his report. Most of our Ponds increased their new membership during the year and the Ponds securing the largest increase in membership were: Heart of America, 43; San Francisco, 27; Iowa, 22; Florida, 21; West Texas, 21; Tennessee, 17; and Montana, 15. West Texas Pond was the winner of the Membership Cup with a percentage increase of 21%.

The Ritual Committee; Emblem Committee; Publicity Committee; Liaison Committee with Ladies' Auxiliaries; Pond Publications Committee and Pond Welfare Fund Committee all give their reports.

The newest Grand Nest Officer that was elected was Frank G. Chandler of the Ontario Pond for the Grand Keeper.

The last order of business was the installation of the officers. Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Wiseman of the National Capital Pond then installed the newly elected Grand Nest Officers. MLGG Mark A. Wells; Grand Supervisor, E. C. Saulcy; Grand Custodian, Robert F. Stumpf; Grand Guardian, W. G. Stephens, Jr.; Grand Keeper, Frank G. Chandler.

MLGG Wells appointed H. L. Mauritson as the Grand Wielder; Hubert O. Wolfe as the Judge Advocate and Paul E. Rudd as the Grand Nest Historian.

The ladies were entertained a reception and luncheon, with Mrs. W. C. Montgomerie presiding. The Fellowship Banquet and Ball closed the formal activities. All were hesitant to leave the gorgeous surroundings, gracious hospitality and excellent cuisine.

1958 – 1959

The Fifty-Third Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Hotel Statler, Los Angeles, California from August 2-6, 1959.

Honorary Chairman, Verne McKinney, opened the meeting by introducing, first, the Past Most Loyal Ganders, followed by the present Grand Nest officers. The following current Grand Nest Officers were present.

Mark A. Wells, Most Loyal Grand Gander
E. C. Sauley, Grand Supervisor of the Flock
Robert F. Stumpf, Grand Custodian of the Goslings
W. G. Stephens, Jr., Grand Guardian of the Nest
Frank G. Chandler, , Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg
Henry I. Mauritson, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill
Hubert O. Wolfe, Judge Advocate

Grand Nest Historian, Paul Rudd was absent.

The Color Guard, composed of the Marine Corps Reserves, entered and presented the Colors of the United States of America and Canada, accompanied by the organ playing the Marine Corps Hymn.

The Revered LaMar Price then pronounced the Invocation, followed by the singing of God Save the Queen and the Star Spangled Banner.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Wells then introduced General Chairman, George K. Ross and Mr. Steve Gavin, assistant to Mayor Norris Poulson. Mr. Gavin extended the official welcome on behalf of the City of Los Angeles:

The Memorial Service under the chairmanship of Past Most Loyal Gander Verne W. McKinney was held at 2:00 P. M. on Thursday, August 6th in the Pacific Ballroom. Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Beauvais died as the result of a tragic automobile accident, also sixty-eight other Ganders took their long last flight.

After a short break all the Ganders gather together for the Model Initiation that was done by the California Pond.

The Most Loyal Grand Gander, Wells' give his report of his year in office, followed by all the committee reports.

The Ritual Committee Reported some proposes in our Ritual Ceremony and these were adopted by the delegates; those changes were for the purpose of adding dignity and reverence to the ceremony and eliminating reference to extra curricular activities that did not add to the solemnity of the service. In addition to these there was also approved a standard form of invocation and a Blue Goose Hymn that was first introduced at the Memorial Service held at the 1958 convention in Banff Springs, Canada. This hymn was written by Past Most Loyal Gander W. Craig Montgoerie of the Alberta Pond.

The Emblem Committee made three recommendations to be adopted and were passed by the delegates:

1. We recommend the adoption of a Ladies Auxiliary pin, the description of which is 10 kt. Gold pin, with Blue Goose in open wreath circle, cost \$3.50, plus 10% tax.
2. We recommend the adoption of a 25-year button made of sterling silver with rhodium plate finish in the form of an open circle, silver goose with blue enamel in the circle and 2/100 diamond set in the top of the circle. The silver represents 25 years.
3. We recommend the adoption of a 50-year button made of 10 kt. open gold circle and a gold goose with blue enamel and with 2/100 diamond in the top of the circle. The gold is to represent 50 years.

The 1958-1959 winner of the Pond Publications Perpetual Trophy is "The Blue Goose Quill" of the Ontario Pond. Runner-up is "Sky Lines" of the Heart of America Pond. Honorable mention is given to "The Honk of the Seattle Pond and "Flight" of the California Pond, Los Angeles.

The Membership Committee reported that there are certain items of changes within the company ranks, such as companies no longer paying the membership dues, also consolidation, which will tend to affect us, but with an organization such as Blue Goose, no doubt we will continue to grow and grow.

Judge Advocate, H. O. Wolfe stated that he is pleased to report that there are no suits or claims pending against the Grand Nest, or threats of any and likewise, so far as I know, there are no serious misunderstanding, legal in their nature, which are creating and ripples disturbing the domestic waters of any of our Ponds.

The Grand Keeper gave his report. Income for the year was \$38,825.34 and expenses were \$47,699.46 with a net loss of \$8,874.12.

The Grand Wielder reported that membership; as of June 20, 1958 were 13,997. New members 906; reinstated 180; 128 took their long last flight; 791 were dropped and 283 resigned. Total membership as of June 30, 1959 is 13,884.

The following Ponds secured the largest increase in membership: Ontario, 69; Florida, 40; California 20; Mid-South, 17; South Texas, 14; Arizona, 12; Dakota, 12; Georgia, 12; West Virginia, 11;and Edmonton, 10.

The Mid-South Pond wins the Membership Cup with a percentage increase of 19.1%.

The newest Grand Nest Officer that was elected was Lester L. Large of the Oregon Pond as Grand Keeper.

1959 – 1960

The fifty-fourth anniversary of the Grand Nest Meeting was held at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, Michigan from August 7 to 12, 1960. Opening Ceremonies was held Wednesday, August 10th in the Grand Ballroom. The meeting was opened by General Chairman, Robert M. Hill, who introduced the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and the present Grand Nest Officers. The following current Grand Nest Officers were president:

E.C. Sauley, Most Loyal Grand Gander
Robert F. Stumpf, Grand Supervisor of the Flock
W. G. Stephens, Jr., Grand Custodian of the Goslings
Frank G. Chandler, Grand Guardian of the Nest
Lester L. Large, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg
Henry I. Mauritson, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill
Hubert O. Wolfe, Judge Advocate
Paul E. Rudd, Grand Nest Historian

The colors of the United States of America and Canada were presented by the United States Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard followed by the singing of “America” and “God Save the Queen.” led by Samuel Gray of the Michigan Pond.

Invocation was given by Dr. B. S. Levering formerly Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church.

General Chairman Robert M. Hill introduced Mayor Louis C. Mariani of Detroit, who gave the address of welcome. Address of welcome was responded to on behalf of the Order by Grand Supervisor Robert F. Stumpf.

The Memorial Service was most impressive and was conducted with dignity by the Maumee Puddle of the Ohio Pond, under the Chairmanship of Gander Paul E. Smith and his Committee. One hundred and fifty Ganders took their long last flight.

The Model Initiation was presented by the St. Louis Pond on Wednesday, August 10th.

On Wednesday, August 10 at 2:00 P.M. Most Loyal Grand Gander E. C. Sauley called the first business meeting to order. Roll was called by Grand Wielder Mauritson. The roll call indicated 96 delegates were present, with three Ponds not represented: Empire State, Idaho and Nova Scotia. The entire registration was just shy of the 500 mark.

MLGG Sauley gives his report. (This is not his complete report, but a portion taken from his report that is of interest). There was one important observation that I made. Last year when I was elected your Most Loyal Gander, I took office with the realization that, because of conditions beyond our control Blue Goose would be faced with a severe continuation of mounting problems. This thinking was the result of conversations had with various Pond Officers and observations made while visiting many Ponds during previous years. There were three common problems—lack of interest in activities, declining membership and reduced operating funds. The total membership has decreased by 254 members since last year.

The industry with which we are so closely associated is and has been, experiencing a readjustment for server years. From all indications there will be no return to old methods. Old alignment of work responsibilities and old times are gone forever. This has, and will continue to have a direct effect upon our organization. We shouldn't look upon these changes as a problem, but should face them as a challenge. We must make whatever changes are necessary to keep Blue Goose an important segment of the industry.

Last year it became very evident that finances were a major problem—this being due to increasing cost which we had no control. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, a committee was appointed to study ways and means to reduce expenses and live within our present income. It was recommended to reduce the Grant Nest Bulletin to essential facts concerning the organization. This can and will be done for the year 1959-60.

Grand Nest Historian Paul E. Rudd gives his report. This was the last report given by Rudd. He was called to his final resting place only a few months following this 1960 convention. Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Paul M. Fell was appointed his successor.

Among various changes submitted by different committees was one with regard to eligibility requirements, but after considerable discussion it was accepted for deliberation rather than being adopted. The principal proposal was the substitution

of the words “property and casualty” for “fire”. This proposed change is sure to be brought up again at some subsequent Grand Nest meeting. A suggested change that the new states of Alaska and Hawaii be included in the Western Region was adopted.

The Emblem Committee recommends that all Ponds be permitted to choose within the bounds of good taste, the design, colors, materials, etc., of their individual Ponds Banners. However, in the interest of uniformity, we recommend that a standard Blue Goose Emblem be affixed to all Banners, as a requirement. This Emblem should be an oval, not less than neither six or more than eight inches long, depicting the Blue Goose flying, wings down and to the right. In order that this Emblem is uniform, we recommend that it be designed by, or under the supervision of the Grand Nest officers, with all Ponds being required to purchase the Emblems from the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

Grand Wielders Report:

Membership, June 30, 1959.....	13,884	
Admitted to membership.....	797	
Reinstated.....	125	<u>922</u>
		14,806 18,806
Deceased.....	148	
Dropped.....	762	
Resigned.....	246	<u>1,186</u>
Membership, June 30, 1960.....	13,620	<u>13,620</u>
Decreased in membership for 1959-1960.....		264

The following Ponds secured the largest increase in membership: Arkansas, 18; Garden State, 18; Oklahoma, 18; Iowa, 16; Florida, 15; Regina, 14; St. Joe Valley, 12; Settle, 12; Tennessee, 11; New York City, 10.

The Regina Pond wins the membership cup, with a percentage increase of 27%.

Report of Jude Advocate, W. O. Wolfe. I am again happy to advise that there are no suits, or disputed claims pending against the Grand Nest, or are there threats of the same to my knowledge. At the local level again, insofar as I know, there are, likewise, no suits or claims pending against the Ponds, and no storms, or threats thereof, legal in their nature, either in the skies, or fomenting on the horizon of any of our Ponds.

George Allen, Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander and Past Most Loyal Gander of the St. Louis Pond was elected to the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. He is a native of North Dakota, a graduate of the Law School of the State University. He returned from the last war with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He has 24 years of service with the Western Adjustment Company.

Robert F. Stumpf of the Garden State Pond was elected as the Most Loyal Grand Gander. He holds an executive position with the General Adjustment Bureau. He is a member of the New Jersey Fieldmen’s Association, and State Fire Prevention Association and the Loss Executives Association. He has served very chair of the New York City Pond and in 1952 served as the Most Loyal Gander. In 1953 when the Garden State Pond received its Charter, and shortly after his retirement as Most Loyal Gander of the New York City Pond, he was elected to the second highest office in the Garden State Pond and was a Charter member and officer of this unit of our organization.

The 1961 Convention will be held in New York City at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, all room are completely air conditioned. Room rates with bath range from \$8.00 to \$22.00 per night. Suites, which includes living room, bed room and bath range from \$36.00 to \$37.00 per night. Registration for Ganders and guest is \$25.00 ladies \$20.00.

Activities at the 54th Grand Nest Convention in Detroit are as follows:

- Monday, August 8, 1960---Tour of Ford Automobile Plant
- Tuesday, August 9, 1960—International Golf Match. Tour of Greenfield Village and Ford Museum.
- Wednesday, August 10, 1960—Ladies’ luncheon, Groose Pointe Yacht Club. Men’s Luncheon and awarding of Golf Prizes, Michigan night and entertainment.
- Thursday, August 11, 1960—Banquet, entertainment and dancing.

1960 – 1961

The fifty-fifth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Statler Hilton Hotel, New York City, New York, August 6-11, 1961 with the Most Loyal Grand Gander Robert F. Stumph, presiding.

MLGG Robert F. Stumph
GSOFF W.G. Stephens, Jr.
GCG Frank G. Chandler
GGN Lester L. Large
GWQ Henry L. Mauritsen
GKGGE George A. Allen
JA Hubert O. Wolfe
Historian Paul Fell

There were sixty-three Ponds represented at this convention with 101 delegates registered. The Grand Wielders report listed a membership of 13,257 ganders.

It was mentioned that no pond came forth to conduct a Model Initiation and that this was the first time in our fifty-five year history that the ritual had not been performed. This led to a discussion on the importance of this ritual and the good impression it can make on goslings. All attending were admonished to go back to their ponds and encourage participation in this important ritual.

There was a discussion on the information from Grand Nest getting back to the local chapters and the MLGG asked everyone to keep communications open, especially regarding members that are being dropped for non-payment. He urged us to follow up with these members by phone or personal visit to encourage them to continue membership.

It states on a letter from the Grand Historian that the current Grand Wielder Hank Mauritsen is resigning after many years of faithful service. No effective date was given for the resignation.

The minutes of the Grand Nest for 1961 do not state the amendments submitted for vote. However a report of the Constitution & By-laws Committee lists an amendment to Article IV that indicates minor changes, to help clarify fire insurance as the main requirement for membership. It is mentioned that with the merging of fire and casualty companies it is harder to determine between the two. There is no report from the Special Committee MLGG Stumpf commissioned to review the status of casualty men for membership (such an amendment was defeated in the 1960 Grand Nest).

Though nothing is mentioned in the meeting minutes about a Memorial, a Eulogy Report is printed in the convention booklet, listing 149 departed ganders. Special mention was made about the passing of two Grand Nest officers, PMLGG Alex Young, Heart of America Pond and presiding officer for Grand Nest in 1955 at Kansas City and Past Grand Wielder/Grand Historian Paul E. Rudd of Wisconsin Home Nest.

Many reports were read in the meetings and members were asked to vote on their acceptance. All reports were accepted. The first meeting of the convention consisted of voting on Reports, Awards and Amendments.

The second and last day of meetings was a very short discussion on dues payment and then went directly to the election of officers. The same format still exists to this day, a nominator, someone to second and another to close the nomination. However they did permit more than one second at this convention. Since there was only one candidate for each office nominated, all were elected. Those elected were; MLGG William G. Stephens, GSOFF Frank G. Chandler, GCG Lester L. Large, GGN George A. Allen, GKGGE Kenneth S. Carmody; appointed by MLGG are GWGQ David F. Armitage, J. A. Hubert O. Wolfe

Our new officer Kenneth Carmody, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg is a practicing attorney and senior member in a law firm in Baltimore. In addition to being an outstanding member of blue Goose he is a member of the Baltimore Bar Association. Ken is also President of Upper Baltimore Democratic Club, Committee Magistrate of Baltimore County, by appointment of our Governor he is a life member of Sigma Delta Kappa National Law Fraternity and a past grand vice president of that organization. Ken was appointed DMLG in 1952. He has chaired Membership, Nominating and Judiciary committees. He has been a delegate three times representing his chapter Chesapeake Pond

Though there are several photos in the convention booklet showing our members at a gala dinner there is no mention of the social activities.

One interesting item included in the 1961 folder was a small booklet. This booklet contained printed reports from fifty-six Ponds throughout the Order.

Concerns in this year 1961 that are still an issue today, paying dues on time, adapting to change and membership growth.

1961 – 1962

It was “Dixie” all the way for the fifty-sixth Annual Grand Nest meeting held at the Dinkler Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, August 26-31, 1962 with the Most Loyal Grand Gander William G. Stephens, presiding.

MLGG William G. Stephens
GSOFF Frank G. Chandler
GCG Lester L. Large
GGN Earl S. Hannan
GWQ Jack Gravenstine
GKGGE Kenneth S. Carmody
JA Hubert O. Wolfe
Historian Charles L. Beale

This convention according to the historian was the largest gathering of the clan in our history; unfortunately the number of ganders was not recorded in the report. The Grand Wielders report listed a membership of 12,852 ganders.

The Alabama Pond conducted the Model Initiation; those participating wore confederate army uniforms with some in Rhett Butler style suits and string ties. The Memorial Service was performed by the Florida Pond, with a special tribute to William B. Calhoun, the last charter member of our Order.

This past year two of the officers had to resign do to transfers and job obligations. This necessitated the appointment of the Earl S. Hannan as GGN and Jack Gravenstine as GWQ.

This was the first year the order had issued membership cards and dues notices, with the hope this would encourage members to be more aware of the expiration date of their dues and to pay more promptly. Also mentioned during the opening session, by MLGG Stephens was the information that the constitution had been amended to permit membership to other than the fire insurance business. This was done with the intent of increasing membership and insurance company mergers.

The program was crowded with many social gatherings and tours of the area in addition to the business meetings. Stone Mountain, the cyclorama, card parties and fashion shows are a few of the events listed.

The convention was fortunate to have as the opening speaker the Governor of Georgia. Another speaker was Regent’s Professor of Insurance, Dr. Kenneth Black, of Georgia State College. The Membership cup was presented to the St. Joe Valley Pond. St Louis’s Blue Note bulletin won the publication award.

During the convention it was announced that PMLGG Cliff Malcolm, Ontario Pond had unexpectedly died. He was the MLGG in 1942.

The program shows a tour and cocktail party on Monday as well as an MLG and past MLG meeting and the convention concluding Thursday evening with the Fellowship Banquet and Ball. Tuesday the Model Initiation was in the morning with the golf tournament afterward. This meant the initiation was conducted prior to the opening session of the convention.

Thursday the following officers were elected; MLGG Frank G. Chandler, GSOFF Lester L. Large, GCG Earl S. Hannan, GGN Kenneth S. Carmody, GKGGE George H. Brussel, GWQ Jack B. Gravenstine, JA Hubert O. Wolfe and Historian Charles L. Beale.

The program shows many photos of the officers, convention committee members as well as the social events.

1962 – 1963

This year the fifty-seventh Grand Nest was on August 25 to August 29, 1963, with MLGG Frank Chandler presiding. It was held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada and sponsored by the Ontario Pond.

MLGG Frank G. Chandler
GSOFF Lester L. Large
GCG Earl S. Hannan
GGN Kenneth S. Carmody
GWQ Jack Gravenstine
GKGGE George H. Brussel
JA P. Albert Bienvenu
Historian Charles L. Beale

MLGG Chandler commented on the pride in our Order for having a family convention with seventy children attending. The Grand Wielders report listed a membership of 12,490 ganders. The Ontario Pond conducted the Model Initiation, and the photo shows them in white dinner jackets and dark trousers and several with plaid shoulder sashes. The Ontario Pond also performed the Memorial Service.

The Grand Gander recalled to the members the loss of two Ganders who had taken their last long flight since the Atlanta meeting last August, in the person of our Judge Advocate, Hub Wolfe and Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Howard Reynolds. The Ganders rose to observe a period of silence to honor their memory. Hub had been the Judge Advocate since creation of the position in Vancouver BC in 1937.

This year the MLGG assigned specific duties to the Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders, asking them to report on Ponds in their area within six months of appointment.

Newly appointed Judge Advocate ‘Al’ Bienvenu explained the origin of his title and after eulogizing the late Hub Wolfe he remarked on the duties of the office.

The report of the Constitution & By-laws Committee mentioned an amendment to extend membership to Professors, Assistant Professors and Associate Professors of a fully accredited university who have substantial duties in teaching courses of Fire and Casualty insurance at said university. The committee being of the opinion that the said proposed amendment is not to the best interest of the Order, refrained from recommending to the Grand Nest Officers its adoption. Since this report had not been presented for approval to each member of this committee it was proposed that its adoption be postponed until the 1964 Grand Nest meeting. An amendment to increase dues was passed.

The Pond Publication Report lists Heart Of America’s “Sky Lines” as the winner with the Michigander in second place.

The Committee on Jurisprudence put forth a motion that was seconded by the delegates. The motion instructed the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to prepare a constitutional amendment, to be submitted to the Ponds for their consideration. By virtue of such amendment, employees engaged by finance companies who restrict their activities to financing insurance premiums, would be eligible for membership in this organization. The motion carried. The same committee put forth a second motion that a similar amendment be drawn making college professors who spend their time teaching insurance eligible for membership. This motion also carried. Both of the amendments were to be voted on for approval or rejection at Portland in 1964.

Gander Cox of Heart of America Pond advised that his Pond would donate a trophy for annual competition to be awarded to the Pond having the lowest drop in membership.

The last order of business was the installation of officers conducted by PMLGG R. I. Fennerty. The following are the new officers. MLGG Lester L. Large, GSOFF Earl S. Hannan, GCOG Kenneth S. Carmody, GGN George H. Brussel, GKGGE Harry Cutler, Vancouver, BC Pond and GWQ John (Jack) B. Gravenstine.

Lester became a member in Blue Goose twenty-five years ago joining the Oregon Pond. His father suffered a stroke in his thirties (Les was 9) and his Mother took over the responsibility for the family. Though paralyzed, his father lived until

Les was a junior in High School. He graduated from Oregon State majoring in electrical engineering, with a minor in journalism. He started as an examiner Oregon Insurance Bureau. The Bureau became part of the Pacific Fire Rating Bureau and Les is the current Assistant Manager. The Oregon office had over one hundred employees. When Les started there thirty-five years ago salaries were frozen so he played the banjo to supplement his wages. He and his wife Charlotte have been married thirty-three years and have two married daughters and three grandchildren.

The social events began with a cocktail party, dinner and dance. The next day was a trip to Niagara Falls with a buffet supper and illumination of Niagara Falls before returning to Toronto. Wednesday was opening ceremonies with lunches for the members and a separate ladies luncheon. Thursday the meetings were concluded with the election of officers and followed in the evening with the Fellowship Banquet and Dance.

1963 – 1964

This year the fifty-eighth Grand Nest was on August 16 to August 21, 1964, with MLGG Lester Large presiding. It was held at the Hilton Hotel, Portland, Oregon and sponsored by the Oregon Pond.

MLGG Lester L. Large
GSOE Earl S. Hannan
GCG Kenneth S. Carmody
GGN George H. Brussel
GWQ Jack Gravenstine
GKGGG Harry Cutler
JA P. Albert Bienvenu
Historian Charles L. Beale

MLGG Large, after role call asked to suspend the rules. The purpose; to consider acceptance of a charter for newly formed Long Island Pond that was unanimously approved and accepted on behalf of the 115 members of the new pond by H. Allen Harris.

This year specific assignments had been given to the officers. As a result of these assignments two surveys were conducted and provided a wealth of information. The information on membership, convention costs, dates and programs is available from the Grand Wielder upon written request.

Seattle Pond conducted the Model Initiation. They wore gray slacks Navy blazers with Blue Goose patches on the breast pocket and white captain hats.

The Willamette Puddle of Oregon Pond presented the Memorial Service, with special mention of the passing of PMLGG (1935/36) J. Ray Phillips, PMLGG (1950/51), Paul M. Fell, and PMLGG (1959/60) E. C. Saulcy.

“Al” Bienvenu advised that all records of the previous Judge Advocate Hub Wolfe had been destroyed following his death. This made it necessary to redo much of his legal research.

Membership was expanded to cover some men employed in the premium financing business and college professors teaching insurance. GWQ reported membership at 11,816.

Seattle Pond’s “Honk” won the Pond Publication award with San Francisco named runner-up. Nebraska Pond was the first winner of the new Fellowship Award. Washington Pond won the Membership Cup, when accepting Lee Bowden gave credit for winning to the Yakima Puddle.

Four PMLGG’S were in attendance; Dave McKinley-Seattle Pond, Charlie Beale-Texas Pond, John Henry Martin-San Francisco Pond and R. L. Fenerty-Alberta Pond.

PMLGG R. L. Fenerty installed the following officers; MLGG Earl S. Hannan, GSOE Kenneth S. Carmody, GCG George H. Bressel, GGN Harry Cutler, GKGGG Frank L. Hunter. GWQ Jack Gravenstine and J.A. Al Bienvenu were retained in their same positions. Earl is General Manager of the St. Louis Branch office of the Western Insurance Companies of Fort Scott, Kansas. He and his wife Dorothy are both natives of St Louis. They have one married daughter living with her husband and two children in St Louis.

Social event for the first day was a loop bus tour around Mt Hood. The first stop was Timberline Lodge at the 6,000 foot level with play in the snow for those willing to brave the cold before lunch. On the return trip the bus toured along the Columbia River Gorge with stops at Multnomah Falls and the salmon ladders at Bonneville Dam. The next night was another hotel dinner, fun and dancing. The convention concluded with dinner and the Fellowship Ball.

1964 – 1965

This year the fifty-ninth Grand Nest was on August 8 to August 12, 1965 with MLGG Earl Hannan presiding. It was held at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel, St Louis, Missouri and sponsored by the St Louis Pond.

MLGG Earl S. Hannan
GSOFF Kenneth S. Carmody
GCG George H. Brussel
GGN Harry Cutler
GWQ Jack Gravenstine
GKGGE Frank L. Hunter
JA P. Albert Bienvenu
Historian Charles L. Beale

MLGG Earl Hannan opened the gathering to an Insurance Seminar, a first for the Grand Nest. Some of the topics were availability of insurance to avoid legislation imposed by the government, rate adequacy, increasing severity of claims and over selectivity. Another topic was the explanation of American Insurance Association's role in the industry.

The next day Grand Nest was opened with; an invocation, presentation of colors by the U.S. Naval & Marine Corps of Lambert Field and the singing of our national Anthems. This is the first mention in the minutes of the presentation of colors and singing of anthems for the sixties. Membership is 11,885 as reported by the Secretary.

The afternoon session was a report on the MLGG'S year and reports of the committees. The St Louis Pond members conducted both the Model Initiation and the Memorial Service.

The only mention of a change was a request to admit employees of the Retail Credit Company. The Jurisprudence Committee, chaired by PMLGG R. L. Fenerty declared them not eligible, as they could not be interpreted as an inspection bureau.

Twenty-four Ponds submitted their newsletters for review. First Place was awarded to Heart Of America Pond, with second to Seattle and third to Oregon.

Harry Cutler presented Long Island Pond with the Membership Cup with a 29% increase in members. Hawaii won the Fellowship Cup that was presented by Kenneth Carmody. This award was started by Heart of America Pond.

The amendments to the by-laws regarding Puddles passed. The primary change was the titles of the officers of a puddle and clarification of the duties of a puddle, regarding meetings and dues payment. Section 3 of the by-laws was re-ordered with letters designating sections changed and former section c becoming section g. Another amendment applied only during the period 8/12/65 to 6/30/66 for reinstatement dues payment. A new section was added to the by-laws for the purpose of explaining the rules to Ponds for submitting a gander for the Gander of the Year Award. All Passed.

PMLGG Joseph R. Knowlan installed the following officers; MLGG Kenneth S. Carmody, GSOFF George H. Brussel, GCG Harry Cutler, GGN Frank Hunter, GKGGE Howard L. Dobbs. GWQ Jack Gravenstine and JA Al Bienvenu were retained in their same positions.

Social events listed were; a tour and boat trip on the Mississippi with dinner and dancing, Fashions, Golf awards lunch and closing with the banquet.

1965 – 1966

The Most Loyal Grand Gander Kenneth Carmody presided at the Opening Ceremonies of the 60th Grand Nest Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland, August 21 – 25, 1966. The delegates were welcomed by the Governor of Maryland, the Honorable J. Millard Tawes; the Mayor of Baltimore, the Honorable Theodore R. McKeldin; and, the State Insurance Commissioner, Francis B. Burch.

During the past year the membership decreased by 159, resulting in a total membership of 11,726. MLGG Carmody stated "...we are plagued by the problem of unnecessary drop-outs. I would suggest that each and every Wielder strive to reduce the drop-outs in the coming year." The Ponds with the best percentage increase over the past year were Alabama, Arizona, Ontario, Arkansas, Colorado and Hartford. Hartford led with a 35% increase. Ontario led with the largest increase in reinstatements (total of 66), and New York had the lowest percentage of dropouts.

The Ganders of the Long Island Pond performed the Model Initiation, and the Memorial Service was undertaken by the Ganders of Baltimore. The following committees presented reports: MLGs & Wielders; Jurisprudence; Ladies Auxiliary; Publication; Membership; Publicity; Fellowship Fund; Ritual; Emblem; Constitution and By-Lays; and Grand Nest Liaison.

Awards were presented to several Ponds and Ganders: "Membership Cup" went to the Hartford; "Pond Publications Cup" was presented to the Kansas Pond, with runners up being: Seattle, San Francisco, St. Louis, Louisiana and Tennessee. The "Heart of America Cup" went to the New York City Pond.

The Grand Nest instituted the 'Gander of the Year' Award program, which was placed at the hands of Frank L. Hunter, Grand Custodian of the Nest, and culminated in an additional benefit derived from membership in the Order. Each Pond was asked to send in a nomination for "Gander of the Year". Each Region was to have a committee of three: 1 DMLGG and 2 PMLGG's to make the selection. The winners for this award were: Southern Region – Oklahoma Pond- John Jones; Eastern Region – Chesapeake Pond – Michael Dakin; Canadian Region – Quebec Pond – Stan F. Leriche; Central Region – Minnesota Pond – George Nettleton; and the Western Region – Oregon Pond – A.J. Snow. From these nominations the International Winner of the "Gander of the Year" was John Jones from the Oklahoma Pond.

A tape recording of the founding of The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International was played. Lloyd Wallace, charter member, had recorded it. The delegate from Wisconsin said that copies of this recording would be made for all the Ponds.

Under new business three amendments were presented and discussed. Two passed and one was defeated. The two amendments that passed were: placing Hawaii in the same position as all other Ponds relative to eligibility for Grand Nest Reimbursement of Delegate expense; and, the second amendment gave the right of the Ponds to reinstate former members with payment of current year's dues. The Life Membership was the third amendment to be considered. It was proposed that Section 17 B 2 of the By-Laws be amended so that if a man retires before age 70 and is employed at another job, he must pay dues until age 70. At age 70 no dues are to be paid whether he is actively employed or not. This amendment would be retroactive for any members presently retired. The Grand Most Loyal Gander, Carmody explained that the Wielder of the Pond applies to the Grand Wielder for life membership for a member of their Pond. The Grand Wielder examines the records to determine if this member has been a member for 20 years, at which time a card is made out giving him a lifetime status. It was noted that once a life member, always a life member. Discussion has held at great length about payment of dues. Vote was called for; at which time this amendment was defeated.

Nominations of officers for 1966-1967 were made and the following officers were installed:

MLGG – George H. Brussel, St. Petersburg, Florida
GSF – Harry Cutter, Vancouver, British Columbia
GCG – Frank Hunter, Phoenix, Arizona
GGN – Howard L. Dobbs, Toledo, Ohio
GKGGE – Joseph W. Knowlan, Jr., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The 60th Grand Nest Convention was adjourned.

Enclosed in the Grand Nest Bulletin was an introduction to "Florida Heaven in 67", the 61st Annual Convention to be held in Miami Beach, Florida on August 13-18, 1967.

1966 – 1967

The Sixty-first Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Americana Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida on August 13-18, 1967. This “Florida Heaven ‘67” convention was called to order by Most Loyal Grand Gander George H. Brussel. Following the invocation, the colors were presented by the United States Naval Reserve.

Following the introductions of the Grand Nest Officers and their wives, welcoming speeches by the Florida Convention Chairs and the Florida MLG, the Memorial Service was conducted by the Georgia Pond with a sermon “Reflections of Eternity” given by the Reverend Paul K. Vestal. After a brief recess, the Kentucky Pond did the honors of performing the Model Initiation.

Jack Gravenstine, Grand Wielder provided a detailed report on membership. The membership stands at 11,437. The Ponds with the best increase in membership were: Florida, Alberta, Chesapeake, Minnesota, Hawaii, California, Hartford, West Texas and Saskatchewan. The Pond with the lowest dropouts/resignations was Minnesota. The Ponds with the largest increase in new membership: Ohio and St. Joe Valley with 20 new members; Hartford with 22; Tennessee with 23; Illinois and San Francisco tied with 24 new members each; Quebec with 30; California with 41; Ontario with 48; and the winner was Florida with 53 new members. The Ponds with the highest number of reinstatements were: Ontario with 54; Illinois with 48; San Francisco, Ohio and Texas each had 12; and Florida 9. The Ponds mentioned with the highest percentage of new members and reinstatements combined were: Texas with 23; Iowa, Kentucky, Heart of America and Hartford each had 24; Minnesota and Nebraska each had 26; Tennessee had 29; Ohio had 32; San Francisco had 36; Florida had 62; Illinois had 72; and Ontario had 102.

Grand Wielder Gravenstein noted in his report that 24 Ponds showed an increase in membership, while 35 Ponds showed a decrease and 7 remained the same as the previous year. Twenty-two Ponds had not provided a final report to Grand Nest

Other reports were provided by the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and the Judge Advocate, along with committee reports from: Publicity, Membership, Emblem, Publication, Ritual, Jurisprudence, and Constitution and By-Laws.

Awards were bestowed on the following Ponds and Ganders: “Membership Cup” went to Saskatchewan; “Pond Publication Cup” was presented to San Francisco; “Heart of America” went to Minnesota; and “Gander of the Year Award”: Western Region – Seattle Pond – John Meyer, Southern Region – George L. Frank, Canadian Region – British Columbia – Peter Sloman, Eastern Region – Gilbert Brady, Central Region – St. Louis/Heart of America – Willard M. Brown. The winner of the “International Gander of the Year Award” was Willard M. Brown.

MLGG Brussel called upon Judge Advocate, P. Albert Bienvenu to read the recommended changes in the By-Laws concerning the Gander of the Year Award. “To further improve the image of this Honorable Order and to encourage further education among individuals in the insurance industry the following program has been adopted by the Grand Nest: The Grand Nest Officers are authorized to institute a program within the United States and Canada whereby the total sum of \$450.00 may be distributed annually, in the United States and Canada, to deserving students engaged in any facet of the insurance industry. The Grand Nest Officers are authorized to enter into an agreement for the distribution of such awards with any recognized agency, which in the judgement of the Officers is in a position to select the individuals entitled to such awards. Any such agreement is to be continued at the pleasure of the Grand Nest Officers.” The issue was put to vote and passed.

A second area of recommended By-Law changes was as follows: “Pond dues of the members of this Puddle shall be such dues as have been determined by the members of the Pond as provided in Section 9 (j) of the By-Laws and payable to the Pond Wielder. Dues of this Puddle which are addition to and exclusive of Pond dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present at the regular annual meeting of the Puddle. Such Puddle dues shall be payable to the Puddle Wielder.” Issue was put to vote and passed unanimously.

Judge Advocate Bienvenu stated that Section 17 (b) of the By-Laws would be amended to read as follows: “Any Gander who has been a member in good standing, affiliated with one or more State or Provincial Ponds for at least 30 years shall be entitled to State or Provincial Life Membership upon the following conditions: 1. Upon reaching the age of 70 years, whether actively engaged in the various phases of fire underwriting, engaged in other business pursuits, or retired from active business life; 2. Upon reaching the age which brings complete retirement from active duties of company employment through operation of the company’s rules provided the Gander has reached a minimum of 65 years.” After much discussion the issue was put to vote and defeated. A motion was made that the issue be referred back to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Issue was put to vote and passed.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Brussel called for nomination of officers with the following duly elected and installed: MLGG – Harry Cutler; Grand Supervisor – Frank Hunter; Grand Custodian – Howard Dobbs; Grand Guardian – Jay Knowlan; and Grand Keeper – Browne Bolton. Each new officer was presented a pin by PMLGG – George Brussel.

Following several announcements the meeting was closed with a prayer and Mr. Brussel declared the meeting adjourned.

Enclosed in the Grand Nest Bulletin is an introduction to Vancouver, Canada where the next convention will be held.

1967-1968

Preceding the opening ceremonies of the sixty-second Annual Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, August 18-23, 1968, the delegates and friends of Blue Goose gathered together on Sunday, August 18, 1968 at H.M.C.S. Discovery on Deadman's Island in Vancouver Harbour amidst a perfect setting in the mountains and sea with brilliant sunshine. The General Convention Chairman, Pete Sloman had invited Chiefs Dominic Charley and Simon Baker along with other representatives from the Capilano Indian Tribe. Before the evening ended the Grand Most Loyal Gander, Harry Cutler was made a blood brother of the tribe and was presented with a beautiful eagle headdress. He was given the name of "Chil-Whol-Ouch."

The following morning the Grand Nest Convention was called to order by MLGG, Harry Cutler. The Lieutenant Governor for the Providence of British Columbia welcomed the Delegates, Ganders and friends. The Royal Canadian Naval Cadets presented the Colors followed with the Canadian, British Columbia, Union Jack and American flags. This was followed by a band playing the two National Anthems: "O Canada" and "The Star Spangled Banner." It is believed that this is a first for the Blue Goose Convention.

Later the British Columbia Pond conducted the Model Initiation and the Memorial Service and Norman Newman gave the Invocation.

MLGG Cuter gave a detailed and comprehensive report of his term in office. He was able to visit 32 Ponds, and in addition, other Grand Nest Officers visited 13 Ponds, which represented 70% of the total Ponds. He also stated that as costs had increased, inflation set in, that consideration should be given to increase the dues. During his term the Educational Award was implemented, Group Life study had been made for the benefit of Ganders, and that the Officers' Guide had been completed.

Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Browne B. Bolton, reported that operations for the year ending June 30, 1968 resulted in a deficit of \$3,884.07. The net income showed a drop of \$6,040.03, which is attributed to: 1.) Reduction in dues received; 2.) Increase in cost of Grand Nest Bulletin; and 3) Increase in delegation and convention expense. Dues are a continuing problem and require the close attention of all Ponds.

Grand Wielder, J.B. Gravenstine stated that an increase is a must. We need to increase the number of dues paying Ganders to Grand Nest, otherwise consideration would need to be given to increasing the dues amount.

Additional reports were received from: Judge Advocate, Grand Historian, Publicity, Membership, Constitution and By-Laws, Emblem, Liaison, Publications, Fellowship Fund, Ritual, Jurisprudence, MLGs and Wielders, and Ladies Auxiliary Liaison.

The following three Amendments to the By-Laws and one Resolution were presented and discussed heavily before a vote was called for.

- 1.) "BE IT RESOLVED that Section 15(c) of the By-Laws, shall be suspended and the following substituted for one year: 'Effective November 1, 1968 and valid for one year automatically expired on November 1, 1969, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 15 Paragraph C be temporarily amended to the above one year term to read "Any former member regardless of present occupation classification is eligible for reinstatement of membership upon proper application and Pond approval and with the payment of \$10.00 to Grand Nest and also payment of the Pond's required current dues."

The intent or purpose of this amendment is to allow a one year moratorium on reinstatement of any ex-gander regardless of his present classification, if a Pond desires to do so. The reinstatement is not to be construed as automatic and it requires such ex-gander to be proposed and voted on by a Pond before reinstatement, which provides a safeguard to each Pond on just anyone that might be eligible under the moratorium.

Amendment passed.

- 2.) "BE IT RESOLVED that Section 17 (b) of the By-Laws be amended to read as follows: (b) 'Any Gander who has been a member in good standing, affiliated with one or more State or Provincial Ponds for at least Twenty-five (25) years, shall be entitled to State or Provincial Life Membership, under the following conditions: 1.) Upon reaching the age of seventy years, whether actively engaged in the various phases of fire underwriting, engaged in other business pursuits, or retired from active business life, 2.) Upon reaching the age which brings complete

retirement from active duties of Company employment through operation of the Company's rules, provided the gander has reached a minimum of sixty-five years.' "Notwithstanding (b) 2 above, a Gander who has been a member in good standing, affiliated with one or more State or Provincial Ponds for at least Twenty-five (25) years and who retires before age 65 on account of ill-health or disablement with the consent of his employer, may apply to the Grand Nest Executive Committee for Life Membership and the decision of the Executive Committee shall be conclusive. This amendment shall not apply to any members who have retired prior to July 1, 1969."

This brings the Life Membership rule more in line with similar fraternal Orders. However, it does not apply to Ganders who have retired prior to July 1, 1969. These Ganders are still eligible under the old rule. Further, any Gander who has been a member for 25 years and who retires before age 65 under the rules as noted can apply to the Grand Nest Executive Committee for Life Membership.

Amendment passed.

- 3.) "BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 9 (f), (g), Section 13 (a), (b), and Section 14 (c) of the By-Laws be amended so as to strike therefrom the words Four Dollars (\$4.00) wherever same appears and to insert therein the words Four Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$4.50) to the end that effective July 1, 1968 the annual dues to the Grand Nest be raised from Four Dollars (\$4.00) to Four Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$4.50) each year, Fifty Cents (\$.50) of such dues to be allocated for the local expense of the Grand Nest Convention each year and shall not be considered as dues for the purpose of Section 3 (c) of the By-Laws."

Amendment was defeated.

- 4.) "BE IT RESOLVED that this meeting goes on record in approving in principle a Group Life Insurance program as presented by Joseph K Dennis Company, Inc., Chicago, and further that Dennis and Company be authorized to correspond with each Pond to ascertain if members are interested in participating in a Group Life Insurance program; it being understood that it is entirely up to each Pond to make its own decision in the matter."

Resolution passed.

The Executive Committee extended for one more year the waiving of past dues for reinstated members. Current membership resides at 11,198 a decrease of 239 from the previous year.

The following awards were presented: Membership Cup was awarded to the Kentucky Pond; Pond Publication Cup went to the Tennessee Pond; and the Heart of America Cup was awarded to the Washington Pond. This was the first year that educational awards had been made at a Grand Nest Convention. The regional winners selected by the American and Canadian Insurance Institutes.

Nominations were called for and the following were duly elected and installed: Most Loyal Grand Gander, Frank Hunter; Grand Supervisor, Howard Dobbs; Grand Custodian, Jay Knowlan; Grand Guardian, Browne B. Bolton; Grand Keeper, A.J. MacDonald, Q.C.; Grand Wielder, J.B. Gravenstine.

A Convention is a combination of "Hi-jinks and Hi-Purpose" and the 1968 (62nd) Grand Nest Convention encompassed these ideas without leaving much to be desired. The next convention will be in Phoenix, Arizona – "Make a Date in the Copper State."

1968 – 1969

The 63rd Annual Grand Nest Convention was held in Phoenix, Arizona. To start the festivities off, on Sunday evening, August 10, 1969, the “New Mexico Night” theme was supported by twenty-two couples from the New Mexico Pond, dressed in identical cowboy attire, made a special trip via bus to Phoenix for this entertainment. An enjoyable time was had by all in attendance.

Monday, August 11, 1969, the Most Loyal Grand Gander Frank L. Hunter called the meeting to order. In attendance were: the Honorable Gary Nelson, Attorney General for the State of Arizona, the Honorable Milton Graham, Mayor of the City of Phoenix and Millard Humphrey, Director of Insurance, State of Arizona. Each provided the group with some appropriate remarks and welcomed all to Phoenix and the State of Arizona.

Following several other introductions of various members of the Arizona Pond and 63rd Convention Committee, the Washington Pond conducted the Memorial Service.

The Arizona Cowboy Team performed the model initiation. This was an impressive and well-executed ceremony.

At 9:00 A.M., the 63rd Annual Grand Nest Convention was officially called to order by M.L.G.G. Hunter. He gave a detailed report of his stewardship. During the past year he visited 39 Ponds, traveling nearly 25,000 miles; with the visitation of his fellow officers. He thanked the Ponds for their tremendous hospitality and warm welcome.

In addition he recognized several committees for their outstanding commitment and reports to Grand Nest. M.L.G.G. Hunter thanked the British Columbia Pond for reimbursing Grand Nest \$800.00 surplus from their 1968 convention, commenting that he hoped this would be a precedent for future convention hosts. In order to build up a fund that would encourage smaller Ponds in the less populated areas to host a convention.

M.L.G.G. Hunter made ten recommendations for the upcoming administration to consider:

1. A continued drive for eligible membership and reinstatements, utilizing “Recruiting, Integration, Retention” (RIR) Program;
2. Stressing interesting and informative programming by the Ponds at the regular meeting;
3. Continued close communication with the Ponds, committees, and the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders;
4. Increased efforts to eliminate dues delinquencies of the Ponds;
5. Better cooperation of the Pond Wielders and MLG’s in responding to requests for information and promptly furnishing their annual reports;
6. Delegation of additional authority and responsibility to all Deputies;
7. Establish permanent initiation teams, with all participants properly memorizing their parts; where this is feasible, to encourage the elected officers to memorize the ritual;
8. Encourage establishment of additional ladies auxiliaries;
9. Encourage more Ponds to establish a Pond publication, and that such Pond publications be forwarded to all Wielders, all Grand Nest officers, all PMLGG’s, and the members of the Grand Nest Publication Committee;
10. That all Ganders continuously stress and practice the theme that nowhere, outside of Blue Goose, can competitors from virtually every segment of our industry, meet in the spirit of social and friendly relationship, better understanding each other’s mutual problems, and through the application of the Golden Rule, do a better job for the company we represent.

Each of the Grand Nest Officers gave a report, along with each of the committee chairs for Publicity, Membership, Constitution and By-Laws, Ritual, Pond Publications, Grand Nest Liaison Jurisprudence, and Liaison Committee with Ladies’ Auxiliary. All reports were outstanding and provided the organization with great insight and direction.

Four Amendments were brought before the 63rd Annual Grand Nest Convention to be considered. They are as follows:

1. (a) Eligibility, Article IV of the Constitution. While the delegates seemed to be generally in favor of broadening the eligibility rules, it was the general feeling that inconsistencies in the wording might defeat the intent, hence this amendment was referred to the new administration for further study and to iron out any difficulties in the wording. DEFEATED.
2. (b) Jurisprudence Committee, Section 2(a) of the By-Laws.

BE IT RESOLVED that Section 2(a) of the By-Laws be amended to read as follows: “There will be a committee on jurisprudence consisting of three (3) Ganders, each to serve for a term of three (3) years. Committee appointments shall be made by the Most Loyal Grand Gander and may be for a term of less than three (3) years in order to provide continuity in committee membership and for the expiration of only one committee member’s term each year.” PASSED

3. (c) Section 1(a); paragraph 5 of the By-Laws and Section 1(a), paragraph 6, Duties of MLGG and Grand Wielder. BE IT RESOLVED that Section 1(a), fifth paragraph of the By-Laws; be amended to read as follows, “His approval of all expenditures of Grand Nest Funds and signing of checks issued by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.”

BE IT RESOLVED that Section 1(e) sixth paragraph of the By-Laws, be amended to read as follows: “To issue and countersign checks in payment of Grand Nest accounts, mailing said checks to the Most Loyal Grand Gander for his approval and signature, following which the Most Loyal Grand Gander shall mail such checks direct to the payees and mail duplicate copies to the Grand Wielder for his records.” PASSED

4. Grand Nest Dues: Section 9(f), (g), and Section 3(g), retroactive to July 1, 1960. BE IT RESOLVED that Section 9(f) of the By-Laws pertaining to dues be amended as follows: “Sixth and seventh line be changed from ‘Four dollars (\$4.00)’ to ‘Four Dollars Fifty Cents (\$4.50)’; Section 9(g), fifth and sixth lines, be changed from ‘Four dollars (\$4.00)’ to ‘Four Dollars Fifty Cents (\$4.50)’; Section 3(g) tenth line, be changed from ‘Three dollars (\$3.00)’ to ‘Four Dollars (\$4.00)’ All effective 7/1/69. PASSED.

The business meeting was followed by an “All Industry Day” luncheon. The featured speakers were Howard Baker, President of Trans-National Insurance Company, Los Angeles and Willard Mayer, Sacramento, immediate past president of the National Association of Independent Adjusters.

During the 63rd Convention the following awards were presented:

Membership Cup – Virginia Pond (a 25.6% increase)

Pond Publication – St. Louis Pond (Blue Notes)

Heart of America – Quebec Pond

Educational Awards

Eastern Region – Stanley E. Honig, Pennsylvania

Southern Region – Robert N. Jones, Texas

Central Region – Martin Christensen, Iowa

Western Region – Elwood Sapp, Washington

Canadian Region – F. Parent, Quebec

Canadian Region – E.E. Blackman, Manitoba

Nominations of officers was called for my MLGG Hunter and the following were elected and installed:

Most Loyal Grand Gander – Howard L. Dobbs

Grand Supervisor – Joseph W. Knowlan

Grand Custodian – Browne B. Bolton

Grand Guardian – A.J. MacDonald

Grand Keeper – A.T. (Pat) Patterson

Following several announcements, the 63rd Annual Grand Nest Convention meeting was brought to a close.

This convention held many highlights for those in attendance. Monday night was “New Mexico Night”, Tuesday evening a poolside reception at Mountain Shadows with a diving exhibition, followed by a cowboy steak dinner. Wednesday the ladies had a shopping extravaganza trip to Scottsdale with a luncheon. Thirty golfers assembled Wednesday morning with the Grand Nest “low gross” trophy being won by Nobel Birmingham of the Texas Pond. Thursday night the Convention concluded with a fellowship banquet and ball.

But one of the great highlights of this convention came when the peace and decorum of the Grand Nest meeting was somewhat upset during the opening business session. “Chuck” Chimp, on loan from the Phoenix Zoo, attempted to be seated as a delegate without the benefit of proper credentials, all to everyone’s amusement. Additionally, the seconding speech for the next MLGG was cleverly given in Norwegian by Ivar Awes. This action brought levity to the nomination, election and installation phase of the convention.

Next convention will be held August 9-12, 1970 in Toledo, Ohio, the Glass Capital of the World

1969-1970

Toledo, Ohio was the host city for the 1969-1970 Grand Nest Convention, which was held August 9-12, 1970. Preceding the opening ceremonies on Monday, August 10, 1970 delegates and friends gathered together on Sunday evening at a gala banquet and reception.

MLGG, Howard L. Dobbs called the meeting to order on Monday, August 10th. The invocation was delivered, followed by the presentation of the USA and Canadian flags by a Color Guard of the US Marine Corps, which was followed by the signing of the National Anthems.

A very dignified and impressive Memorial Service was given by the Michigan Pond and later in the day, the Model Initiation was executed to perfection by PMLG's of the Ohio Pond.

The Alamo, Colorado, Magic Empire, New Mexico, Peace Garden, Saskatchewan, Washington and West Texas Ponds were absent from this convention.

During this past year MLGG Dobbs was able to visit 73% of the Ponds and he thanked them for their warm welcome during his visit. MLGG Dobbs then brought forth the fitting climax of his five years in office by introducing Gander Jack Kerr of Oregon Pond, with whom he had been working with for the promotion of bettering the financial situation of the Grand Nest. Gander Kerr and he had come up with the idea of a Commemorative Bottle by Jim Beam for our 65th Anniversary. This idea presentation met with a standing ovation for Gander Kerr. The Jim Beam Distillery had given approval to work in conjunction with Blue Goose for this project. The bottle design is currently under way.

MLGG Dobbs also offered the following recommendations to Grand Nest and the Ponds for the coming years:

1. Choose the best man for all Blue Goose Officers.
2. Advertise Blue Goose and the Insurance Industry.
3. Plan Pond Meetings far in advance.
4. Membership and dues –our number one project.
5. Educational Committee be formed at the Grand Nest level.
6. Continue to study the Eligibility Rule.
7. Recommend all Ponds have a permanent Wielder.

The Blue Goose Membership stands at 10,410. During the course of this year we had a decrease of 439 members. It was noted that we need to obtain a growing number of new members and that we should not permit a Gander to “slip into the outer marshes through disinterest.”

Ongoing discussion continued at the Mid Year meeting in Philadelphia, PA and at this Grand Nest convention about Life Membership within the Order. Section 17(b) 2 as presently written provides that were a Gander through the operation of the company's rules is retired, he is entitled to Life Membership, which relieves him of the obligation of paying dues. Because of the great number of Ganders who are presently being retired by their companies at an early age, the dues paying members of the Order are being rapidly reduced. Many, of said Ganders, upon retirement become gainfully employed in many other endeavors. It is the purpose of the amendment to allow Life Membership only to such Ganders who have retired from all business activities prior to reaching the age of seventy (70), at which age they are automatically entitled to Life Membership; and, those who have retired from their respective company employment but who continue to be gainfully employed, but have been members of the Order for many years and the Ganders who have been members for twenty-five (25) years but are required to retire because they are disabled.

Regarding this issue the following Amendments were presented:

1. Section 15(b)(1) of the By-Laws – Reinstatement. The Executive Committee, at its meeting on Sunday, August 9th, extended to one more year the waiving of past dues for reinstated members.
2. Section 15(c). This section was amended without limitation of term to permit us to reinstate former members, regardless of present occupation with payment of \$10.00 to Grand Nest and also the Pond's current dues.
3. Section 17(b) 2 – Life Membership rule clarified so that a “retired” Gander may be eligible to life membership if a combination of his age and years as a member total 90 or more.

The following awards were presented:

Membership Cup went to the Oklahoma Pond.

Publication Cup went to the San Francisco Pond.

Heart of America Cup went to the Idaho Pond.

Educational Awards were presented to:

Eastern Region – Charles P. Minnify, Hartford, Conn.

Southern Region – William P. Richard, Linshburg, VA.

Central Region – Thomas R. Frank, Chicago, IL.

Western Region – Lynn E. Sumstrun, Tucson, AZ

Canadian Region – K.S.Roy, Calgary, Alberta

Canadian Region – J.J. Nissen, Toronto, Ontario

MLGG Dobbs next called for nomination of officers resulting in the following being duly elected and installed by Joseph R. Knowlan, Past Most Loyal Gander:

Most Loyal Grand Gander – Joseph W. Knowlan

Grand Supervisor – Browne B. Bolton

Grand Custodian – A.J. MacDonald, Q.C.

Grand Guardian – A.T. (Pat) Patterson

Grand Keeper – Ivar Awes

The “Buckeye” hospitality was everywhere during this 64th Grand Nest Convention and was enjoyed by all in attendance. The convention closed with a dinner banquet and ball.

The invitation to the 65th Grand Nest Convention was presented by the Penn Pond, with their theme of “Let’s Have Fun in ’71.” The Convention for next year will be held in Atlantic City.

1970-1971

The Sixty-Fifth annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 16-18, 1971, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Joseph W. Knowlan, presiding. Fellow Grand Nest Officers included Browne B. Bolton, Grand Supervisor of the Flock, A. J. MacDonald, Q. C., Grand Custodian of the Goslings, A. T. Patterson, Grand Guardian of the Nest, Ivar Awes, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, J. B. Gravenstine, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill and P. Albert Bienvenue, Judge Advocate. PMLGG Frank G. Chandler from the Ontario Pond was the Grand Historian. Fifty-eight of the sixty-five Ponds were in attendance.

Among those attending were PMLGG's George H. Brussel, Kenneth S. Carmody, Howard L. Dobbs, R. L. Fenerty, Robert F. Stumpf, and Robert L. Wiseman.

The Model Initiation Team was comprised entirely of past and present officers of the Long Island Pond, while the Memorial Service was sincerely and tastefully executed by nine members of the Hartford Pond.

The overall membership of the Order had declined from the previous year. Although there were 885 new and reinstated members, 1,120 were dropped from the ranks, 141 took their last flight and 133 resigned, leaving a total of 9,901 members in the ponds. This was a decrease of 509 members from the year before.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee received three proposed amendments, proposing to amend Article 4 of the Constitution. All were presented to the Grand Nest in session. Judge Advocate, Albert Bienvenu, presented the three amendments in order of their issue-#1 and # 2 by Penn Pond and #3 by San Francisco Pond. Each delegate was given copies of the amendments so that he could refresh his memory on the differences. All three proposed to broaden Article 4 of the constitution with # 1 showing great change, eliminating the word "white" and including all members of the insurance industry (male and female). All amendments were defeated soundly.

The Grand Keeper reported that the order was "in fairly sound financial condition" with favorable variations outnumbering the unfavorable ones. After a long period of negotiation, our quest for tax exemption for the Ponds proved successful. Each pond must secure an identification number and file forms each year. There were no suits or disputed claims of any nature pending against Grand Nest.

Several membership increasing ideas were adopted by the Membership Committee including a letter campaign to Insurance Company Officers, by the State Insurance Commissioner and State Superintendent of GAB, urging membership in Blue Goose. Each pond member was given an application. If and when he was successful in signing up a new member for the pond, that person was given a chance to win a Jim Bean bottle. The committee also suggested that each pond provide its members with good education information about the Order.

The Dakota Pond won the Membership Cup, the Heart of America Pond won the Pond Publication Award, and the National Capital Pond won the Heart of America Cup.

Recognition was paid to long time Gander Jay Jones of the San Francisco Pond who received his fifty year membership pin at the meeting.

Gordon Crowther was nominated and elected to the position of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Mr. Crowther was from Hartford, Connecticut. Some years later, Mr. Crowther would become the Grand Historian of the Order and was to hold that position until his last flight in the year 1999.

1971-1972

The Sixty-Sixth annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Executive Inn, Louisville, Kentucky, August 6-10, 1972, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Browne B. Bolton, presiding. Fellow Grand Nest Officers in attendance included Grand Supervisor A. J. MacDonald, Grand Custodian of the Goslings A. T. Patterson, Grand Guardian of the Nest Ivar Awes, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Gordon Crowther, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill J. B. Gravenstine and Judge Advocate P. Albert Bienvenu. There were fifty-nine of the sixty-five ponds represented at the convention.

Among those in attendance were PMLGG's George H. Brussel, Howard L. Dobbs, Earl S. Hannon, Frank L. Hunter, William G. Stephens and Robert L. Wiseman.

Arriving registrants were warmly greeted by the Kentucky Pond Hosts with a registration package, including a bottle of Kentucky Pond's own Beam bourbon and a genuine Kentucky horseshoe.

A most impressive Memorial Service was conducted by Ganders Avery, Luck, Lunsford and Sprigg of the Alabama Pond. The Model Initiation was executed in a most impressive and dignified manner by the Tennessee Volunteer Pond Members.

For the first time since 1965, the overall membership of the Order had increased from the previous year by 140, for a total of 9,826 (corrected). MLGG Bolton introduced the "No Dropout Club" wherein the Kentucky Club challenged all Ponds to join in not having any dropouts. Many Ponds joined in this activity and four Ponds reports no dropouts-Kentucky, Mississippi, Minnesota and Alamo.

The Membership Cup was won by the Kentucky Pond with an increase of 18% in Pond membership. The Heart of America Cup had three winners-The Kentucky, Mississippi and the Minnesota Ponds, each having zero percentage dropouts. Education Awards are presented regionally. The Pond Publication Award went to the San Francisco's "The Honk" with the Seattle Pond's "Honk" and the Kansas Pond's "Jay Honk" coming in 2nd and 3rd respectively.

GKGGG Crowther reported that expenses exceeded the receipts by \$1,793 but it was felt that this was no cause for alarm inasmuch as the Grand Nest Delegate expense increased almost \$4,600. Crowther pointed out that the traveling done by MLGG Bolton throughout the United States, Canada and Hawaii was at no expense to the Grand Nest, which reflected considerable savings for Grand Nest.

The Judge Advocate reported that there was nothing unusual during the past year. It was determined that IRS Form 990 would not be necessary unless the Pond had an income in excess of \$5,000.

The Membership Committee examined several proposed changes in the eligibility rules and urged the adoption of Constitutional Amendments for broadening the Membership Rules; such as having a membership committee at each pond to contact those who may have lost interest, use of the buddy system to notify new members of time and place of the meetings, recognize new members at three successive meetings, increase the amount of initiation ceremonies throughout the year and finally attract new members through social activities, making use of the publicity and Ladies Auxiliary

The only question to come before the Jurisprudence Committee that year was whether individuals employed by the Manitoba Government Insurance Corporation, whose business was solely the insurance of automobiles and drivers, were eligible for membership. They ruled that these individuals were, indeed, eligible and so notified the Manitoba Pond through the office of the Grand Wielder.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee reported that there were three proposed amendments that had been forwarded for consideration. It had to do with Article IV (Eligibility) of the Constitution and that such proposed amendments had been forwarded to the Ponds as required in due time. These proposed amendments were known as the Alabama Resolution, the Penn Pond Resolution, and the Utah Pond Resolution. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee recommended the rejection of the Alabama Resolution and the Penn Pond Resolution. Due to the fact that there was neither a majority nor a minority on the question on the Utah Resolution, it was submitted without recommendation. In due turn, the three resolutions were submitted to the Delegates for discussion and a vote. Each resolution, in turn, was defeated.

Stanley Spore from Houston, Texas was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg for the coming year.

1972-1973

The Sixty-Seventh annual Grand Nest meeting was held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, August 19-22, 1973, with Most Loyal Grand Gander A.J. MacDonald, Q. C. presiding. Fellow Grand Nest officers in attendance included Grand Supervisor of the Flock Roland Lett, Grand Custodian of the Goslings Ivar Awes, Grand Guardian of the Nest Gordon Crowther, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Stanley Spore, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill J. B. Gravenstine and Judge Advocate P. Albert Bienvenue. Regrettably A. T. Patterson had passed away two months before the meeting. Roland Lett was asked to replace Patterson as the Grand Supervisor and did an admirable job on such short notice. PMLGG John Henry Martin had also passed away in 1973.

Four past MLGG's attended the meeting. They were PMLGG Robert Stumpf, Ken Carmody, Browne Bolton and Earl Hannon.

The meeting was called to order by MLGG MacDonald, after which an impressive Color Guard ceremony was performed by "La Franche Marine" ably assisted by a Scottish piper. The Quebec Pond provided the contingent for a rather impressive Memorial Service. Members of their Pond also took charge of the Model Initiation. Fourteen new Goslings were initiated at the service.

Grand Wielder Gravenstine reported that there was a decline in membership to a total of 9,707 made up of active, life and dual members.

A previously circulated proposal by the Minnesota Pond, for amendment to Article IV (a), and another from the San Francisco Pond on eligibility, with regards to the Order's Constitution and By Laws, was circulated at the meeting and discussed. Basically the difference between the two proposed amendments lay in the fact that the Committee on Eligibility in addition to eliminating the word "white" in its requirement, also broadened the wording of eligible positions, so as not only to broaden scope of eligibility but also to legitimize many of our present members who were accepted by Ponds in the past without benefit of legality. The Minnesota Pond amendment changed nothing but the elimination of the word "white". After much discussion and a secret ballot, the motion past and the GWGQ was ordered to change the affected rule in our Constitution.

It was noted again that expenses exceeded income by \$512.05. A favorable variation was a decrease in delegate expense, due to the central location of the meeting. The savings were almost offset by a decrease in dues plus increasing expenses for traveling and telephone.

Judge Advocate, P. Albert Bienvenu had previously sent out a questionnaire with which they were clearly attempting to establish a list of organizations that were persistently holding to "White" membership requirements. The questionnaire was not answered.

Publicity and Membership were again discussed. It was suggested that more should be done in both regards. As far as publicity was concerned more stories and pictures should be sent to the local papers promoting the good works of the Order. Good social activities and support by the Ponds as well as the development of Ladies Auxiliaries would go a long way to attract membership.

Only nine Ponds submitted pond publications that year, less than half from the previous year. The San Francisco Pond won the Pond Publication Award, the Membership Cup was presented to the San Diego Pond and the Heart of America's Fellowship Cup was awarded to the Idaho Pond.

Gander Ed Morgan hosted the MLG/WGQ meeting. It was suggested that the meeting would "weaken the effectiveness of the group" if Grand Nest Officers were in attendance. Grand Nest Officers felt that they should only attend by invitation only and only to provide technical explanation of a moot point.

It was reported, by Grand Historian Earl Hannon, that when he was MLGG in 1964-1965, he was asked to visit the Nova Scotia Pond, as it was reported that interest in Blue Goose was declining. The Pond was considering dropping its Charter and disbanding. MLGG Lett and Grand Historian Hannon paid a visit to the pond. They found that the interest level for Blue Goose was very low. But, with the help of their visit and some dedicated Ganders such as Don McDermaid and his father and a few others, it was decided to continue. Eight short years later a member of the Nova Scotia Pond was elected to Grand Nest. What an excellent example of what can be done by a few dedicated Blue Goose Ganders.

G. E. Morgan from Halifax, representing the Nova Scotia Pond, was introduced and nominated for the position of GKGGE. The new Officers were then sworn in by PMLGG Bolton. Following all of the reports everyone was invited to Salt Lake City, Utah to meet in August 1974, at the Hotel Utah from August 11-14, 1974.

1973-1974

The Sixty-Eighth Grand Nest meeting was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 11th-14th, 1974, at the Hotel Utah, under the direction of MLGG Roland G. Lett. Fellow Grand Nest Officers in attendance were; Grand Supervisor of the Flock Ivar H. Awes, Grand Custodian of the Goslings Gordon Crowther, Grand Guardian of the Nest Stanley Spore, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Ed Morgan, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill J. B. Gravenstine and Judge Advocate Robert Brandt (acting for absent Albert Bienvenue.)

There were several PMLGG's in attendance, including Browne Bolton, Howard Dobbs, Frank Hunter and Earl Hannon.

There were 170 Ganders in attendance; 21 were host pond members, 136 ladies and 34 children for a total of 340. Upon arrival the group was saddened to hear PMLGG Bob Stumpf passed away on August 9, 1974. Grand Nest extended condolences to wife Gwen and family and was represented by PMLGG Jay Knowlan at the funeral.

After a brief recess the Idaho Pond, assisted by their ladies, conducted a very impressive Memorial Service. They were supported by the Marsha Vilven Memorial Hand Bell Ringers, from the Christ Methodist Church of Salt Lake City. 132 Ganders were lost in 1973-74.

The Model Initiation was performed by members of the Arizona Pond, the team known as the "Arizona Cowboy Joes". 14 Goslings were initiated into the Utah Pond.

Over the year the Order had seen another decrease in membership of 296 although some of the ponds reported healthy increases from the year before. Not all of the Ponds had finalized their annual reports which could affect the final figures.

G. E. Morgan reported that the last of the Grand Nest Reserves, the Canadian Bonds, were converted to cash in the amount of \$6,236.66 and was used to "bail" out Grand Nest finances for the year just ended. Without this action Grand Nest would have been in the red by some \$3,000.

During the week a discussion ensued with regard to the eligibility of agents as members of the Order. There were arguments made for and against the proposal. This discussion continued throughout the year but for the present meeting only those who have been in the company ranks seem to be agreeable to the group. No decision was reached and a resolution was expected. It was noted that 28 of the Ganders present were agents.

Grand Nest, through resolutions to amend the By-Laws, suggested raising the dues to \$5.50 and recovery to \$3.00 per active dues paying member of the Pond. Both resolutions were voted upon with unanimous vote cast for approval.

Another proposal to amend the Constitution and By-Laws was put forward by GKGGE Ed Morgan, to strike out the words "God Save the Queen" and insert "Oh Canada". A motion was made, seconded, voted upon and passed unanimously.

Ohio won the Heart of America Cup with an increase of 125 members or a 26% increase from the previous year. Seattle won the Publication Cup but the Kentucky Pond Cup, awarded for no drop-outs over the year, was not award this year due to the fact that no Pond qualified.

At the post-convention meeting a number of items were finalized. For example the Ritual Committee and the Ladies Liaison Committee were dropped. A tight budget was set-up and letters were to be sent to the Ponds regarding payment of dues and delegate's expenses.

Charles I. Palmerton of the Seattle, Washington Pond was elected the incoming Grand Keeper in 1974, while the new MLGG was to be Ivar Awes. PMLGG Browne Bolton installed the Officers and PMLGG Lett presented the badges and pins of office to the newly elected Officers.

G. E. Morgan from Halifax, representing the Nova Scotia Pond, was introduced and nominated for the positions of GKGGE. The new Officers were then sworn in by PMLGG Bolton. Following all of the reports everyone was invited to Salt Lake City, Utah to meet in August 1974, at the Hotel Utah from August 11-14, 1974.

1974-1975

The Sixty-Ninth Grand Nest meeting was held at the Radisson South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 10-13, 1975. MLGG Ivar H. Awes took charge of the proceedings, along with fellow Grand Nest Officers-Grand Supervisor of the Flock Gordon Crowther, Grand Custodian of the Goslings Stanley Spore, Grand Guardian of the Nest Ed Morgan, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Charles J. Palmerton, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill J. B. Gravenstine and Judge Advocate P. Albert Bienvenue.

Nine PMLGG's were in attendance which included Browne Bolton, Frank Hunter, Rollie Lett, Howard Dobbs, Earl Hannon, George Brussell, A. J. MacDonald. All five of the DMLGG's at large were also in attendance.

The Great Hall West, bedecked with all the banners of the attending ponds, was the location for a very impressive Memorial Service, performed by the Dakota Pond. This was also the location, after lunch, for the Model Initiation, where members of the Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota Ponds put on a very well planned and executed performance. 6 Goslings were initiated into the Minnesota Pond during this service.

The overall membership total decreased again from 9,138 to 8,951. However, it was only fair to report that these figures do not include the members of Illinois Mid-South and New Mexico Ponds whose status was in doubt and whose numbers total 235.

Grand Keeper Palmerton revealed a healthy turn-a-bout with increased income and decreased expenses helping to overcome the dilemma of the last two years.

The Membership Committee, under chair Dick Brestrup stressed the involvement in pond affairs by all new Ganders in order to retain their interest. He felt that each pond should systematically prepare lists of eligible's in their area-then set out to contact these eligible's and sell them on membership in Blue Goose.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee with John Downie as its Chair reported it had received and processed two proposed amendments for change: The Utah amendment which was to make certain agents were eligible for membership and the Wisconsin amendment which requested that Central District change its year of succession with the Eastern District so that the 75th anniversary and all succeeding 25 years anniversaries may be held in Central District. The committee approved both proposals. The Wisconsin proposal was passed by voice vote while the Utah proposal was put to a roll call of the delegates. More than the necessary 2/3rds were in favor.

The coveted Membership Cup was won by the Hartford Pond with an increase in membership of 19.3%. The Kentucky "No Drop-Out" Cup wound up in a three way tie between Colorado, Hartford and Louisiana-with the Louisiana delegate pulling the long straw to take home the trophy. The Heart of America Cup won for the lowest percentage decrease in membership from drop outs and resignations was won by the San Francisco Pond.

Richard D. Collins was elected as the new Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg while Gordon Crowther of the Hartford Pond became the sixty-ninth MLGG.

1975-1976

The Spirit of '76 was the theme of the 70th Grand Nest Convention, held at the Sheraton Hartford Hotel, August 15-18, 1976. MLGG Gordon Crowther presided over the convention.

The Lieutenant Governor, Robert Killman gave some warm welcoming comments to the convention attendees, followed by the Insurance Commissioner, Mayor George Athanson. The keynote speaker at the opening of the convention was Mr. Frederick D. Watkins, President of Aetna, who also made a small confession that he was a member of the Arkansas Pond.

Garden State Pond did the honors of putting on the Memorial Service by placing carnations to form a large number "seventy-six". Special eulogies were given for PMLGGs Dave McKinley and George Brussel and GKGGE Dick Collins who all had taken their Last Long Flight during the past year.

Following the Memorial Service a Fellowship luncheon was held. The Hartford Pond presented their annual scholarship award at the luncheon to student, Richard Koneazny, in the State School of Insurance.

On Tuesday, the Model Initiation ceremonies were held. As the doors swung open for the start of the ceremonies, it appeared that history had rolled back 200 years as the officers and guards made their appearance in Revolutionary costumes.

Following the Initiation ceremony, all the Ganders gathered for a business meeting. Before calling roll, MLGG Crowther announced the formation of the Bay State Pond. Grand Wielder Gravenstein was then called upon to begin the roll call, which when finished indicated that the following Ponds were not present: Arkansas, Fresno-San Joaquin, Illinois, Magic-Empire, Montana, Peace Garden, Saskatchewan and Virginia.

As of 7/1/75 our starting count of members was 8,953. During the year and up to 6/30/76, we took in 751 new and reinstated members. Due to deaths, resignations and dropouts we lost 731 members. Our life and dual members' total 1,605, which makes the dues paying members total at 7,368.

Reports were received from the following committees: Grand Nest Liaison; Pond Publication Committee; Jurisprudence; Charity; Constitution and By-Laws; Publicity; and, Membership. Additionally reports were received from the Grand Historian; Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, as well as, the Most Loyal Grand Gander presented his Stewardship report.

Following the adjournment of the business meeting, Ganders and Guests caught the busses leaving for Frank Davis Resort in Moodus, Connecticut. The rest of the day was spent enjoying swimming, golf, tennis, other sports and just plain loafing around. Others went sightseeing trip to Gillette Castle, or took a steam train along the Connecticut River. A sumptuous barbeque dinner was enjoyed by all in the evening.

At the Wednesday business meeting, MLGG Crowther turned the meeting over to Judge Advocate, P. Albert Bienvenu who presented, read and explained the following amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws:

- 1.) The Alabama Pond recommendation was to eliminate the five year rule and amend by striking in its entirety next to the last paragraph in Article IV, and adding sub-paragraph (j) reading as follows:
 - (j) Insurance agents engaged principally in writing fire, casualty and/or multi-peril insurance provided that they have been employed in one or more of the categories set forth in paragraph (a) through (i) above and at the time of such employment would have been eligible for membership.
- 2.) The Florida Pond submitted the second amendment, which had to do with making employees of agents eligible as provided in the Alabama amendment. This amendment proposed that Article IV of the Constitution be amended by the insertion of the following wording:
 - (j) "Insurance agents and employees of insurance agencies engaged principally--"

Both motions were carried.

- 3.) Four other motions were killed outright; one of which was for Ponds with over 100 members being given an extra vote for each additional fifty members or greater – this was tabled for consideration at a later date.

The following awards were presented:

- *Membership Cup went to the Long Island Pond
- *“No-Drop-Out Cup” went begging, as no Pond was eligible.
- *Heart of America Cup went to Wisconsin Home Nest
- *Publication Plaque went to the Arizona Pond

*Educational Awards will be presented at the IIA Awards luncheon in Philadelphia on September 14, 1976 and at the Canadian Institute, date to be announced later. MLGG Crowther announced that each of the four regional US winners would receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and the Canadian winner will receive a \$100.00 check.

The following slate of officers was presented and each officer was nominated, seconded and nominations closed with unanimous approval:

- Most Loyal Grand Gander – Stanley Spore
- Grand Supervisor of the Flock – G. Ed Morgan
- Grand Custodian of the Goslings- C.I. Palmerton
- Grand Guardian of the Nest – Alfred Kregel

Two candidates were placed into nomination for Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg: Lyle C. Johnson – Nebraska Pond and Douglass G. Snyder – Wisconsin Home Nest. A secret ballot was then conducted under proper parliamentary procedures, as a result of which it was announced that the new Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg is Douglass G. Snyder of the Wisconsin Home Nest.

Following this session of business meeting all the Ganders participated in an “hot dog” and beer luncheon, which was again a huge success. At the luncheon the golf prizes were presented. After the luncheon the Grand Nest reconvened for its final business session to do the installation of officers. PMLGG called upon Stanley Spore, MLGG for his address of acceptance.

The convention closed out with a great prime-rib dinner with baked Alaska for dessert and with fabulous dancing and music. An extraordinary event occurred right after the baked Alaska was served. PMLGG Archibald J. MacDonald asked for the privilege to address the assemblage and followed with a stirring, heartwarming tribute toast to the United States. This was answered eloquently by PMLGG Browne Bolton.

Now onto Houston in 1977.

1976-1977

Welcoming honks of the gathering Ganders from all corners of the continent slowly began to assemble at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston, Texas for the 71st Grand Nest Convention. The Ganders and their guests gathered around the pool of the hotel for cocktails and were entertained by a group of local youngsters who put on a water skiing show in the pool. This was the beginning of setting the stage for a great convention.

On Monday, August 8, 1977 all Ganders and Guests gathered for the Opening Ceremonies of the 71st Grand Nest Convention which was presided over by MLGG Stanley Spore. There were several addresses of welcome followed by the keynote speaker Perot "Bud" Nevin, Jr. of California, who is an expert on physical fitness and a man who was instrumental in helping our astronauts attain and maintain physical fitness peaks demanded of them.

A beautiful, simple, but moving Memorial Service for our departed Ganders was put on by the Texas Pond. After the Memorial Ceremonies all adjourned to enjoy a Fellowship luncheon. At the luncheon, George T. Frazier, President of the Independent Insurance Agents of America spoke. He emphatically warned us of the inroads that government has made into our business and expounded the need for close unity between all facets of the Agency business; and he drew similarities between his great association and that of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose.

Following a brief recess the MLGs and WGQs gathered for a meeting. They divided up into four workshop groups: membership, programs, finances and publications. Many interesting ideas/concepts were exchanged in these groups. Some of the ideas were to have a movie made of the Initiation Ceremony to demonstrate to the various Ponds and their membership the proper delivery, proper solemnity and décor of the ceremony.

Buses were loaded with the Ganders and their guests for a trip to the Briar Club for a relaxing evening and a fine dinner by the pool. After the dinner we all retired to the Game Room for a Las Vegas type evening.

Following the Continental breakfast in the Cabaret Room, the Ganders and Delegates gathered for a business meeting. During this meeting the Alamo Pond put on the model initiation ceremony. The initiation was performed with perfection. After the model initiation, roll call was held. The Ponds with no delegates present were Bay State, Chesapeake, Empire State, Fresno, Magic Empire, Montana, Peace Garden, Steel City and Virginia.

Our membership count began at 8,950. During the course of the year we had 976 new or reinstated members and through drop outs, resignations and/or deaths we lost 1173 members, leaving us with an ending membership balance of 8,753. We have 1,353 Life members on our rolls. Our rolls have decreased by 197 from the previous year.

MLGG Spore presented his report of Stewardship for the year, after which several, other Grand Nest offices gave reports. In addition, committee reports were received from Jurisprudence, Pond Publication, Charity, Grand Nest Liaison, Membership and Constitution and By-Laws.

Awards were presented to:

Membership Cup went to Regina Pond
Pond Publication award went to National Capital Pond
Heart of America Fellowship Cup was presented to the California Pond
"No Drop Out" Cup was not awarded as there were no eligible Ponds.
Educational Awards were presented to:
Eastern Region: Ronald V. Zogg
Southern Region: Thomas H. Glidewell
Central Region: Barbara Jane Mitchell
Western Region: John J. Groody

The Judge Advocate was then called upon to read and explain the two proposed amendments to our Constitution. The first proposed amendment was the recommended by the Executive Committee and reads as follows:

“This Constitution shall be the only Constitution for the government of the Grand Nest and all Ponds, and it may be amended only at its annual Grand Nest meeting, by a two thirds vote of the delegates present, provided, however, that written notice of any proposed change shall have been mailed to each Pond at least (90) ninety days prior to such annual meeting; and providing further that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall have received written notice of any proposed change at least (120) one hundred twenty days prior to such annual meeting.” Motion Carried.

The second proposed amendment was then read, “Take notice that the Nova Scotia Pond of the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, International, presents a resolution for a proposed Constitution amendment – that Art. VIII of the Constitution and By-Laws “Order of Business, Annual Grand Nest Meeting”, be amended to read as follows: 1.) Invocation; 2.) Songs – one verse of “America” and one verse of “O Canada”. (No changes in the other ten elements.) The Canadian Members wish to drop the singing of “God Save the Queen” in favor of a truly Canadian song. Motion carried with only one “no” vote recorded.

On the final day of the convention the following slate of officers was presented:

Most Loyal Grand Gander – G.E Morgan
Grand Supervisor of the Flock – C.I. Palmerton
Grand Custodian of the Goslings – A. Kregel
Grand Guardian of the Pond – D.G. Snyder
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg – King Luck

Following the installation of the officers, Most Loyal Grand Gander G. E. Morgan gave his acceptance speech. The business of the Grand Nest was completed and the meeting was adjourned.

To close out the Grand Nest Convention, Houston Pond sponsored a grand gala. During the dinner PMLGG Spore called upon the new officers for remarks. The highlight of the evening came when PMLGG Spore introduced Julian Speed, for many years Wielder of the Texas Pond, who was celebrating his 100th birthday. Julian Speed holds the honor of attending all three conventions that have been held in Texas.

We are off to Halifax!

1977 – 1978

The 72nd year of our Order was indeed a good one. The Grand Nest Convention was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on August 13- 16, 1978. The Nova Scotia Pond had planned for 600 attendees and received a Blue Goose Blessing for a Grand Total of 763. This additional increase surprised many, including the Nova Scotian hotel and their staff. A total of 275 rooms had been reserved at the Nova Scotian hotel, so some of our Ganders had to be put up at the Chateau. St. Mary's and at the Holiday Inn hotels.

As the Ganders began to gather the New Brunswick Pond hosted the evening cocktail and chowder party. The Halifax schools Ukulele Group, Senior Jazz Band, BagPipe Group and a Tap Dance Group furnished great entertainment. These various groups all go to international competition.

Ed Morgan MLGG called the 72nd Grand Nest Convention to order on Monday, August 14, 1978. Following the presentation of colors by the H.M.C.S. MicMac Canadian Navel Cadet Corp, the Ganders and Guests sang "America" and "O'Canada". This was followed by introductions of the head table, and the Officers wives.

The Mayor of Halifax and the Premier of the Providence of Nova Scotia gave some warm welcoming remarks that all enjoyed. Following these remarks a Charter was presented to MLG Freeman J. Walsh of the Montana Pond and PMLGG's Gordon Crowther and Ivar Awes installed the officers.

The morning session concluded with the Nova Scotia Pond conducting the Memorial Service. The Ceremony was impressive and touching as the names of our departed Ganders were read and the Pond representatives stood in honor of them. At the center of the Ceremony was a black cloth covered frame with a goose in flight and a beautiful picture of the Bluenose sailing vessel.

Approximately 480 Ganders and guests attended the luncheon before leaving on the various bus excursion trips and/or to the golf course.

Monday evening, all the Ganders, Guests and children gathered at St. Mary's University grounds, where an open bar and a lobster feast awaited the arrival of everyone. A string group, the Heritage Band, and an excellent Piper provided music. Approximately 825 people were served and to afford everyone the opportunity to partake of at least two lobsters over 1700 were prepared. During this evening event the Honorable Walter Fitzgerald, the Minister of Labor, spoke to the group. Then he and MLGG Ed Morgan presented 23 members of the Blue Goose with a certificate showing them to be members of the "Order of Good Times." This is a social order of the Providence of Nova Scotia, which is said to have originated over 360 years ago and was known at that time as Acadie.

Tuesday, August 15, 1978, the business session got underway. MLGG Ed Morgan introduced 3 DMLGG's and 8 PMLGG's who were present. He then gave his Stewardship report and shared with everyone about his travels to 11 Ponds over the past year.

It also should be noted that at the start of this session, there was a sign on the podium offering free beer, free booze and free snacks, day or night, in PMLGG Gordon Crowther's room. Gordon swore he did not post this sign.

Reports were received from the other Grand Nest Officers and from the following committees: Jurisprudence, Publicity, Pond Publications, Charity, Membership and the Grand Nest Liaison Committee. Following the reports the Ganders got to observe the Long Island Pond put on the Model Initiation Ceremony with the initiation of 10 Goslings into the Nova Scotia Pond.

Following the Model Initiation, the Nova Scotia Pond Officers hosted a luncheon. Ted Belton, President of the Agents Association was the guest speaker, who spoke about the changing times of our business.

The Wednesday business meeting got underway. The Grand Nest Officers presented awards to the following Ponds:
Membership Cup went to both Quebec and Magic Empire (a tie)
Pond Publication went to the Arizona Pond
Fellowship Cup went to Wisconsin Home Nest

No Drop Out Cup went to Empire State Pond.

The Educational Award winners were:

- Eastern Region – Helen Vass
- Southern Region – Tonya Smith
- Central Region – Lawrence Whalley
- Western Region – Nicholas Garrow
- Canadian Region – No information available

P. Albert Bienvenu Judge Advocate presented three proposed amendments to the Constitution. Two of the amendments were defeated and one was withdrawn. The following is a brief overview of the amendments:

1. Submitted by the Minnesota Pond, this amendment would allow an amendment to be amended at the Grand Nest Convention. Failed.
2. Submitted by Minnesota Pond, asked for a change in voting representation (larger Ponds would have more votes, etc.) Minnesota withdrew the motion after considerable discussion.
3. Submitted by the Alberta Pond, requesting a change in the voting procedure on new Goslings. Three blackballs now reject, and the proposed change would be to 10% of the Ganders voting would be required to reject. Amendment was defeated.

Seattle presented a slide presentation of Seattle for the 73rd Convention, which generated interest in attending the next convention.

The following slate of new officers were presented, elected and installed:

- MLGG – Charles I. Palmerton – Seattle Pond
- GSOE – Alfred Kregel, Jr. – Long Island Pond
- GCG – Douglas G. Snyder – Wisconsin Home Nest
- GGN – King G. Luck – Alabama Pond
- GKGGG – Dennis N. Ellergodt – Alberta Pond

The membership experienced a decrease in membership of 114; this was an improvement over the prior year. We finished with a minus 31 on total membership.

Our financial condition is only fair and it is hoped a dues increase of \$1.50 a year will receive approval starting in July 1979. This will mean Ponds will pay Grand Nest \$7,00 for each active member. There was \$250 given to the winning Ponds of each of the five Regions for Charity.

As a result of the surprise registration volume at the 72nd Grand Nest Convention in Halifax, the registration for future years was revamped to include an early registration fee and a late registration fee.

The 72nd Grand Nest Convention closed with a Fellowship Banquet. According to the records a total of 755 Ganders, Ladies, Guests and juniors attended the banquet. PMLGG Ed Morgan introduced the head table, and PMLGG Archie MacDonald gave the blessing. Wine was served and PMLGG R.L. “Buzz” Fenerty gave a toast. He spoke of Fellowship and how our Order flourishes and grows on a very real and widening friendship, each member knowing he can find a friend in any Pond on this continent or in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. He then asked everyone to raise their glass and toast “To the friendship between Canada and United States of America, and may it never waver.”

Following the dinner, the Stan Watson Orchestra entertained the group. Now we are off to Seattle for the 73rd Grand Nest Convention.

1978 – 1979

On Saturday, August 11, 1979 registration had hardly begun for early arrivals, when a “sizeable” band of golfers were taken to Mt. Si golf course for the annual “lost ball” contest. They returned late that evening – all claiming they had broken the course record. In fact the truth was not in any of them.

Sunday, August 12, 1979 all the registered attendees were bussed to the waterfront to board two excursion boats which took everyone for a delightful cruise to the Kiana Lodge, where all were served excellent steamed claims in broth and sumptuous baked fresh salmon.

Following a continental breakfast on Monday, August 13, 1979, sponsored by the Oregon Pond, MLGG Charles “Chuck” Palmerton called the 73rd Grand Nest Convention to order. Presentation of the Colors had to be delayed until the next day, when it was determined that apparently Sea Scout Group No. 451, Bellevue, Washington failed to sail their Sea Explorer Ship “Argo” to the Hotel. Undaunted the Ganders and Guests continued on with the opening ceremony by singing the first verses of “O’ Canada” and “America”.

Following the invocation and introductions, MLGG Palmerton introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Jay D. Porter, CEO of Unigard Insurance Group. His profound remarks were met with resounding applause. After which, the Washington Pond put on a simple, yet very effective Memorial Service, honoring and remembering our departed Ganders. Following the Memorial Ceremony all the Ganders sat down for an “All Industry Luncheon” while the Juniors visited Woodland Park Zoo and the ladies went to Edgewater Inn for lunch.

The Ganders re-assembled where they were privileged to witness one of the finest (and letter perfect) initiations of 14 actual Goslings into the Seattle Pond. The 18-man team from the Arizona Pond is known as the “Ragtime Cowboys”. After the Model Initiation the delegates, officers and fellow Ganders gathered for a meeting to discuss various issues of the Order.

All assembled that evening for “getting acquainted cocktails, cocktails, and cocktails”, after which all were ushered into the ballroom for a delicious banquet. The group was entertained by Seattle Pond’s SOF Jack Howard’s witticisms and a professional song team who featured “Songs of the Twenties.” After this the smart ones retired for the evening while the rest renewed friendships, etc. until whenever.

Tuesday, August 14, 1979 the 73rd Convention was called to order and then “a surprise” and no doubt “a first” event happened. To the rousing beat of their feet on the floor, in marched the visiting PMLGG’s (all of them), carrying the colors, which they advanced in precision, placed properly, and fell back amongst tumultuous applause. Indeed a memorable moment! Roll call followed with the following Ponds not present were: Arkansas, Bay State, Chesapeake, Magic Empire, Montana, Palmetto, Peace Garden, St. Joe Valley, Saskatchewan, Steel City, Virginia and West Virginia.

Reports were received from the officers and the committees. A brief synopsis of the reports is as follows:

GWGQ Gravenstine: membership has advanced for the 2nd consecutive year – an increase of 281 Ganders produced a new total of 9,074 members. There are 1,415 life members and 7,466 active members.

Grand Keeper Dennis Ellergodt reported that financially we were solvent, but that with increasing cost due to inflation and rising travel costs, our proposed dues increase will prove to be timely and in order.

Judge Advocate P. Albert Bienvenu was absent. Acting as JA Robert Keating of Seattle Pond read Mr. Bienvenu’s report, which indicated there were several proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws which had been properly submitted and would be taken up for a vote at this convention.

Grand Historian Browne Bolton (PMLGG) commented on Earl Hannan’s report of his last year in office.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee Thomas Toale, Chairman. Four amendments were proposed this year: 1.) Dues to increase from \$5.00 to \$7.00 to Grand Nest; 2.) Changing name of the Order to include the word “Ancient”; 3 & 4) The Minnesota amendments: interpretation of Roberts Rules and granting the larger Ponds a greater vote at the Grand Nest Conventions. Number two was withdrawn, but the remainder will be voted on at the convention.

Jurisprudence Committee Ernest O’Brien, Chairman, this committee enjoyed “a quite and uneventful year.”

Publicity Committee Lester Beal, Chairman reported that we have made inroads into the realm of publicity for our Order. The Blue Goose story was mailed to 23 insurance journals in the United States and Canada.

Grand Nest Liaison Tom Hebb, Chairman stressed the importance of getting firm knowledge of the number of anticipated registrants at an early date for the conventions, firm up arrangements and prices as early as possible. Push attendance of local Ganders. All of this helps the Pond as well as the convention.

Membership Committee Walter Albeyll, Chairman said that this committee feels that membership will be strengthened by having elected good officers. Pond officer enthusiasm will rub off on the membership. Also they believe a Pond needs an active “telephone committee”. Pond publications are vital.

Charity Committee Art Harris, Chairman stated that his committee feels there is a need for greater coverage in our annual bulletin concerning charitable endeavors. Winners of this year’s Charity awards are:

Canadian Region – New Brunswick Pond

Western Region – San Diego Pond

Central Region – St. Louis Pond

Eastern Region – Hartford Pond

Southern Region – Alabama Pond.

Pond Publication Committee Dorsley Hemsley, Chairman awarded this year’s Pond Publication award to National Capital Pond’s HONKER. Honorable mention went to Arizona, Tennessee, Heart of America, Seattle, Washington and St.Louis.

Additional awards went to:

Membership Cup, greatest membership increase – New Brunswick Pond

Heart of America Fellowship Cup went to Quebec Pond.

No Drop Out Cup was won by Long Island Pond.

Following a Beer, Wieners and Beans lunch the Grand Nest reconvened. The chair of the Delegates, Officers and Ganders meeting reported on the recommendations compiled by the members:

1. Communications are vital – use Pond publications and see that all members get them.
2. Carry applications with you at all times.
3. Divide charity awards into two segments of \$125 each within each region -
 - \$125 to that Pond charity choice, within the region, that obtains the most new members and reinstatements during the fiscal year; and,
 - \$125 to that Pond’s charity choice, within the region, that produces the best percentage increase in membership during the fiscal year.
4. Each Pond should prepare self-addressed envelopes and send a supply of these to GWGQ office for his use in getting mail to the right person.
5. Get new members involved in Pond affairs as quickly as possible and keep them involved.

Thereafter, MLGG Palmerton called for new business. MLG Harris of the Seattle Pond moved that Grand Nest dues be increased from the present \$5.00 to \$7.00 per active dues paying member to be effective July 1, 1979. Harry Emerson of Oklahoma Pond made a motion to modify this motion by also increasing the maximum return granted each Pond by Grand Nest from the dues for delegates attendance at the Grand Nest convention from the present \$3.00 to \$3.50. After a roll call vote with a two-thirds majority in favor of the amendment to the amendment, then the original amendment was passed by unanimous acclamation.

The next amendments having to do with the larger Ponds having a greater vote at conventions and the other establishing the ability to change a Constitutional amendment at a Grand Nest Convention. Vote was called for and both were defeated.

It was proposed that a Public Relations experts be hired to help spread the word of Blue Goose. MLGG Palmerton advised he would take the matter up with the executive committee to explore the possibilities of costs versus results.

Delegate from the Ontario Pond, Gordon Cruther asked for the floor and proposed that a new section be added to the By-Laws as follows: “All dollar amounts specified in any preceding section of these By-Laws shall be in U.S. Funds.” Motion was seconded and passed by acclamation. Meeting was adjourned.

The following slate of new officers were presented, elected and installed:

MLGG - Alfred Kregel

GSOFF – Doug Snyder

GCG – King Luck

GGN – Dennis Ellergodt

GKGGGE – Robert J. Rice

Motion was made and passed that Long Island will host the 74th Grand Nest convention with headquarters in the Island Inn in Westbury, Long Island, New York.

The 73rd Grand Nest Convention closed with everyone gathering for a delightful hour of cocktails before taking their places in the banquet room, followed by good music and dancing until the night was gone.

1979-1980

On August 10, 1980, the Grand Nest Officers, Ganders, family and guests began to arrive for the 74th Grand Nest Convention at the Island Inn in Westbury, Long Island, New York. Following registration and officer meetings, everyone gathered by the outdoor pool for a welcome gala cocktail party with superb hors d'oeuvres that evening.

Monday morning, August 11, 1980 Most Loyal Grand Gander Alfred Kregel called the 74th Convention to order. Welcoming remarks were presented to the attendees by Francis T. Purcell, Nassau County Executive, Albert B. Lewis, State of New York Superintendent of Insurance, Harold Goerlich the MLG of the Long Island Pond and our MLGG Alfred Kregel. The theme of this past year and convention was "Continued Growth and New Dedication."

It was reported that registration for the 74th Convention was 161 men, 151 ladies and 48 children for a total of 360. In addition partial attendance numbers from local participants was 100 for an overall attendance record of 460.

The Ganders of the Empire State Pond performed an impressive memorial service, with great dignity. All 87 members who had passed away during the past year were honored. Additionally, a break from protocol took place during the Memorial Service, in that our Grand Wielder's wife, Helen Gravenstine, who had passed away during the past year, was honored.

The Nova Scotia Pond members headed by PMLGG Ed Morgan, all decked out in full Scottish attire, complete with bagpipes and kilts, and put on a magnificent initiation. Following the model initiation all the Wielders and MLGs held their annual meeting.

This first full day of the convention ended with everyone boarding busses for a memorable ride into and through downtown New York city to the waterfront where we were put aboard one of the larger cruise ships, which toured up and down the Hudson River along Manhattan's impressive "concrete jungle".

Tuesday, August 12, 1980 the second day of the Grand Nest Convention was called to order by our MLGG Alfred Kregel and then followed by roll call from our Grand Wielder, Gravenstine, which revealed that some 15 Ponds failed to send delegates. The 15 Ponds that were not represented were: Alamo, Arkansas, Chesapeake, Fresno, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, Montana, New Brunswick, Palmetto, Saskatchewan, South Texas, and Virginia. It is noted that this was the largest absenteeism in over 20 years, partly due to the energy crunch and the economic conditions of the day.

Following roll call, reports from the Grand Nest Officers and Committees were presented. During the presentation of the Committee reports the following awards were presented to the following Ponds:

Pond Publication – Arizona Pond
Membership Cup – Regina Pond
Fellowship Cup – Georgia Pond
No-Drop Out Cup – Kentucky Pond

Regional Charity Awards – this new distribution of \$125 to two Regional Ponds was based upon the recommendation made at the 73rd Annual Convention. The \$250 award had been presented to the Pond with the highest percentage increase in membership and the most new and reinstated members. It was decided to split this award, beginning at the 74th Annual Convention and possibly recognize two Ponds within a Region, and/or one single one could win both awards.

Eastern Region – Most New and Reinstated Members – Long Island Pond
Best Percentage Increase – Long Island Pond
Western Region – Most New and Reinstated Members – California Pond
Best Percentage Increase – Colorado Pond
Central Region – Most New and Reinstated Members – Iowa Pond
Best Percentage Increase – Nebraska Pond
Southern Region – Most New and Reinstated Members – Kentucky Pond
Best Percentage Increase – Kentucky Pond
Canada Region – Most New and Reinstated Members – Regina Pond
Best Percentage Increase – Regina Pond

For the third straight year the overall membership of the Honorable Order increased and this time the net increase was 361 members. Our overall membership now stands as of June 30, 1980 at 9,412.

The financial stature of the Honorable Order was materially improved with a net increase in net worth of over \$13,000.

The finances were given a big boost with the return of \$3,733 to the Host Pond fund by the Seattle Pond on November 7, 1979.

Grand Guardian of the Nest Ellergodt had been working actively on the Thunder Bay Pond and thus they were granted their Charter at this 74th Grand Nest Convention.

There was no new business to come before the convention; accordingly MLGG Kregel called upon the acting Judge Advocate, Chuck Palmerton, to read the proposed amendments that were before the convention for a vote:

1. Mr. Palmerton took up the matter of re-coding and reprinting the Constitution and By Laws booklet. Corrections were prepared and explained. Motion was passed by acclamation.
2. Judge Advocate Palmerton noted that one of the pending amendments had been withdrawn. It had to do with the establishment of an audit committee and a finance committee, both to be recognized and sanctioned as integral parts of the Order.
3. The last amendment was filed by the Kansas Pond and had to do with the changing of eligibility requirements so women, otherwise qualified, could join our Order. After reading of the proposed amendment, MLGG Kregel called for action. After considerable discussion and confusion to table the amendment the proposed amendment was put forth to the delegates for a vote. The resulting vote tally was 27 for and 67 against. Motion was defeated.

Tuesday afternoon we all boarded busses for Lido Beach. That evening we were provided with unlimited raw clams, steamed clams, steaks, brats, wieners, hamburgers with all the trimmings plus the omnipresent open bar with limitless alcoholic beverages to tempt our sobriety.

The final business session of the 74th Grand Nest Convention was called to order by MLGG Kregel and after Grand Wielder Gravenstine had called the roll call he asked for unfinished business, of which there was none. He then called for election of officers. The newly elected officers then were installed.

Most Loyal Grand Gander – Douglass G. Snyder
Grand Supervisor of the Flock – King Luck
Grand Custodian of Goslings – Dennis Ellergodt
Grand Guardian of the Nest – Robert J. Rice
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg – David E. White

Following the Installation of the new Officers, PMLGG Kregel then turned the gavel over to MLGG Snyder.

Motion was called for, received, seconded and passed by acclamation that Milwaukee be accepted as the 75th Convention site, after which the 74th Convention was officially adjourned.

During this 74th Convention the Family Theme was stressed, thus the ladies and juniors were included in essentially all of the regular activities including the Sunday night Buffet and Party, Opening Ceremonies, Bus and Boat tour around Manhattan, Lido Beach Outing and the Fellowship Banquet.

1980 – 1981

The “Diamond Jubilee” Seventy-Fifth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 16-19, 1981, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Douglass G. Snyder, presiding. In addition to MLGG Snyder, the other Grand Nest officers were Grand Supervisor King G. Luck of the Alabama Pond, Grand Custodian Dennis N. Ellergodt of the Alberta Pond, Grand Guardian Robert J. Rice of the Colorado Pond, Grand Keeper David E. White of the National Capital Pond, Grand Wielder J. B. Gravenstine of the Wisconsin Home Nest, Judge Advocate Charles I. Palmerton, PMLGG of the Washington Pond, and Grand Historian Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG of the Kentucky Pond.

The Convention was attended by 221 Men, 216 Women, 42 Juniors, and 100 “Partial Local Participants”, for a Grand Total of 579. The Convention opened on Sunday evening with a cocktail party and sit down dinner in the hotel’s Lakeshore Room. Entertainment was provided by “Richeleau, the Banjo Man” who was actually a banjo manufacturer from Oregon, Wisconsin who played one of his one creations.

In attendance were the following PMLGGs: Earl Hannan (1965, St. Louis, MO with wife Dot), Frank Hunter (1969, Phoenix, AZ with wife Celeste), Browne Bolton (1972, Louisville, KY with wife Lois), Rollie Lett (1974, Salt Lake City, UT), Ivar Awes (1975, Minneapolis, MN with wife Lois), Gordon Crowther (1976, Hartford, CT with wife Ivey), Charles Palmerton (1979, Seattle WA with wife Helen), and Al Kregel (1980, Long Island, NY with wife Pat). Also present were Ann Knowlan, widow of PMLGG General Joe Knowlan and mother of PMLGG Jay Knowlan, and Dot Gravenstine, widow of 1967 PMLGG George Brussel and now married to Grad Wielder Jack Gravenstine.

Monday’s Opening Ceremonies started with an invocation by The Reverend Clifford Kittelson of the Bay Shore Lutheran Church who wittily said that his business also involved “the underwriting of fires”. Other morning speakers included MLG Robert Rogo of Wisconsin, Glenn Weesly of the Milwaukee Convention Bureau, Grand Supervisor King Luck, and the Keynote Speaker Senator William Proxmire (D-WI). A special presentation of a framed painting of geese in flight was made to Ann Knowlan, in honor of her attendance at the 25th, 50th and 75th Grand Nest anniversaries. Also recognized for similarly attending all three milestone conventions were Burt Roe of the Wisconsin Home Nest and Grand Wielder Jack Gravenstine.

The Dakota Pond conducted the Memorial Service and used a diamond-shaped board with a Blue Goose in the Center. As the names of the departed Ganders were called, red roses were placed around the diamond. After the Memorial Service, the Convention took a lunch break and enjoyed a “Brat and Beer” luncheon. The lunch speaker was CUNA Mutual Insurance’s Harry Manzer whose mix of humor and industry stories was very well received. After lunch, the Iowa Pond, dressed as farmers, initiated ten new members into the Wisconsin Home Nest. The evening excursion included tours and sampling at the Miller and Pabst breweries, and dinner and dancing at the Bavarian Club in Milwaukee.

Tuesday’s morning session began with the roll call of the Ponds, and 55 of the 62 Ponds were represented. Fresno, Idaho, Kansas, Magic Empire, Mississippi, New Brunswick and Virginia were absent. MLGG Snyder reported on his year in office. He attended the Central and Eastern District Regional meetings, each of which had seven Ponds represented. He also visited Fargo, Iowa, St. Louis, Kansas City, Des Moines, Columbus, Lansing, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Orlando, Omaha, New Orleans, Gatlinburg, Birmingham, Minneapolis, and Cedar Rapids. During his year in office, Grand Nest awards for education were increased by 20, and awards for charity were increased by 25.

Tuesday’s “All Industry” Luncheon featured addresses by Milwaukee mayor Henry J. Maier, and Robert Doucette, President of the Milwaukee Insurance Company. Golf and an open evening followed the luncheon.

On Wednesday morning, King Luck of the Alabama Pond was installed as the new MLGG and the convention voted to hold next year’s Convention at “THE CLUB” in Birmingham, AL. In his address of acceptance, MLGG Luck commented on the “good health” of the Order, and said upcoming issues for discussion would include changes in eligibility requirements, incentives to increase membership, and new ways to increase charitable and educational activities.

During the past year the membership increased by 149, from 9,353 on 6/30/80 to a total of 9,502 on 6/30/81. This represented the fourth straight year of increased membership. The Honorable Order now had sixty-two Ponds, consisting of fifteen Ponds in the Southern Area (Alabama, Alamo, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Palmetto, South Texas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia), thirteen Ponds in Canadian Area (Alberta, British Columbia, Chinook, Edmonton, Manitoba, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Thunder Bay), twelve Ponds in the Western Area (Arizona, California, Colorado, Fresno-San Joaquin,

Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Utah, and Washington), nine Ponds in the Eastern Area (Bay State, Empire State, Garden State, Hartford, Long Island, National Capitol, New York City, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia), and thirteen Ponds in the Central Area (Dakota, Heart of America, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Peace Garden, St. Joe Valley, St. Louis, and Wisconsin Home Nest).

1981 - 1982

The Seventy-Sixth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Birmingham Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama from August 14-19, 1982, with Most Loyal Grand Gander King Luck presiding. In addition to MLGG Luck, the other Grand Nest officers were Grand Supervisor Dennis N. Ellergodt of the Alberta Pond, Grand Custodian Robert J. Rice of the Colorado Pond, Grand Guardian David E. White of the National Capital Pond, Grand Keeper Lyle C. Johnson of the Nebraska Pond, Grand Wielder J. B. Gravenstine of the Wisconsin Home Nest, Judge Advocate Charles I. Palmerton, PMLGG of the Washington Pond, and Grand Historian Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG of the Kentucky Pond.

The Convention was attended by 183 Men, 172 Women, 31 Juniors, and 127 “Partial Local Participants”, for a Grand Total of 513. The Convention opened on Sunday evening with an off-premises excursion to “The Club” – a magnificent castle perched in the Red Mountains that afforded a spectacular view of the Birmingham skyline. After the cocktail hour, the group was seated for a Chateaubriand dinner. Entertainment was provided by a full orchestra that played big band songs from the 40’s and 50’s.

In attendance were the following PMLGGs: Buzz Fenerty (1958, Calgary, Alberta with wife Muriel), Earl Hannan (1965, St. Louis, MO with wife Dot), Frank Hunter (1969, Phoenix, AZ with wife Celeste), Browne Bolton (1972, Louisville, KY with wife Lois), Gordon Crowther (1976, Hartford, CT with wife Ivye), Stanley Spore (1977, Houston, TX with wife Alberta), Edward Morgan (1978, Halifax, NS with wife Judy), Charles Palmerton (1979, Seattle WA with wife Helen), Al Regel (1980, Long Island, NY with wife Pat), and Douglas Snyder (1981, Madison, WI with wife Mary Ann).

Monday’s Opening Ceremonies started with the presentation of the colors by Birmingham’s US Marine Corps Reserve Unit and an invocation by Dr. Frank L. Robertson, Bishop, Birmingham area United Methodist Church. The national anthems were sung by Garden State Pond PMLG and DMLGG Paul Hughes. Other morning speakers were MLG Bernie Thompson of the Alabama Pond, Dr. Edmund La Monte (Executive Secretary to the Mayor of Birmingham), and Chriss H. Doss (President, Jefferson County Commission), Grand Supervisor Dennis Ellergodt, and the Keynote Speaker Alabama Insurance Commissioner Tharpe Forrester, who gave a very humorous and entertaining talk on the myriad of problems facing state insurance commissioners.

The Mississippi Pond conducted the Memorial Service, after which Gander Roy Cowan, Chaplain of the Florida Pond delivered a eulogy for PMLGG (1947) George Edmondson, Sr., who passed away in October 1981. After the Memorial Service, the Convention hosted the “Alabama Insurance Industry Luncheon”, attended by over 600 people including Blue Goose wives. The head table was a two-tiered affair to accommodate twenty-three people for Master of Ceremonies MLGG Luck to introduce. The principal speaker was John H. Bretherick, Jr., President of the Continental Insurance Companies, who made the trip from New York City to speak at the event. He delivered a no-nonsense address on loss ratios, rate stabilization, and expense reductions.

After lunch, the Tennessee Pond initiated five new members into the Alabama Pond, and Regional meetings were held. The evening program featured a “Southern Theme” dinner in the hotel’s Four Seas Ballroom.

Tuesday’s morning session began with the roll call of the Ponds, and 51 of the 63 Ponds were represented. Chinook, Fresno, Frederickton, Kansas, Magic Empire, Moncton, New Brunswick, Peace Garden, San Francisco, Saskatchewan, Thunder Bay and Virginia were absent. MLGG Luck introduced P. Albert Bienvenu to a standing ovation. He had served as the Honorable Order’s Judge Advocate for 18 years, but poor health had preventing him from attending the convention for the last two years.

MLGG Luck reported on his year in office, in which he visited 32 Ponds, 30 of which were outside the Southern region. The year before, he visited 9 Ponds within the Southern region. He attended the IIA Presentation Ceremony in New Orleans, the Great Duck Dinner in Cedar Rapids, and an organizational meeting of the Greater Chicago Pond. Inclement weather caused him to become snowbound at the Minneapolis Airport and miss the “Hands Across the Border” festivities in Fargo, and a last minute business commitment prevented him from visiting five Canadian Ponds. MLGG Luck commented that he had seen “*some of the finest and some of the sloppiest*” Initiation Ceremonies performed, and was disappointed in the “*disrespect*” some of the Ponds showed for the Ritual. During his year in office, Grand Nest initiated a partnership with Special Olymics, Inc. and the Educational Awards Committee finalized an award program for the coming year.

MLGG Luck then asked PMLGG Alfred Kregel to make a special presentation to former Judge Advocate P. Albert Bienvenu. He was presented with an oil painting of the Canadian Rockies and a plaque commemorating his many years of outstanding service to the Honorable Order. Grand Wielder Gravenstine, Judge Advocate Palmerton and Grand Nest Historian Bolton gave their reports, followed by reports on Constitution and By-Laws, Jurisprudence, Publicity, Grand Nest Liaison, Membership, Charity, Education, and Pond Publications.

The Regional Charity Awards were next, as each Region named two winners: one for most new and reinstated members, and one for best percentage increase. The Eastern winners were Long Island (+58) and Empire State, the Central winners were St. Louis (+45) and St. Joe Valley, the Southern winners were Florida (+29) and South Texas, the Canadian winner in both categories was Saskatchewan (+42), and the Western winners were Arizona (+35) and Idaho.

In the Pond Award ceremonies, Saskatchewan won the Membership Cup, Peace Garden Pond won the Fellowship Cup, and South Texas Pond won the Kentucky No Drop Out Cup. The Pond Publication Award winners were 1) *Arizona Honker*, 2) *Iowa Honker*, and 3) *St. Louis Blue Notes*.

DMLGG Simpson of Florida reported on the Delegates, MLGs and Wielders meeting. Key issues discussed were 1) a preference for having future delegate meetings held on Sunday, before the opening ceremonies on Monday, 2) a recommendation that Fred Carlton and Myron F. Steens (respective chairs of the Charity & Education Committees) continue in their positions “for as long as it takes to get the Charity and Educational endeavors really moving”, 3) a suggestion that Grand Nest meet with Special Olympics, Inc. at the Mid Year Meeting in Denver to set a plan into action in 1983, 4) a preference to return to the old system of individual dues notices and dues cards, and 5) a preference to send the Annual Bulletins direct to the membership.

A Luncheon with the wives followed in the hotel’s Caribbean and Baltic Rooms with a “spicy entertainment revue” presented by *Wits Other End*. The men’s meal consisted of hot dogs, beans and beer, but “more standard fare” was available for the ladies.

After lunch, three Proposed Amendments to the Constitution were brought up for discussion and voting. A proposal to clarify expenses incurred by the wives of Grand Nest Officers while attending Grand Nest Conventions was carried by a vote of 100-2. A proposal to add the Grand Nest Historian to the regular team of Grand Nest Officers, in an appointive position similar to the Judge Advocate and Grand Wielder was carried by a vote of 98-4. There was far less consensus over the third proposal, which called to eliminate the word “male” from the membership eligibility criteria. The motion was introduced by Delegate Jerome Mackenzie of the Michigan Pond, and seconded by Delegate Robert LeDuc of the Quebec Pond. After considerable discussion, a “show of hands” vote ensued, but it became too difficult to accurately count the show of hands. A roll call vote followed, and the measure was soundly defeated by a vote of 72-22 with 2 abstentions.

Wednesday morning started with the usual “Bountiful Continental breakfast” featuring grits for all. Breakfast was followed by PMLGG Bob Boyce’s presentation on the Banff Springs Hotel and the province of Alberta.

Dennis Ellergodt of the Alberta Pond, a 28-year member of Blue Goose, was installed as the new MLGG and the convention voted to hold next year’s Convention at the Banff Springs Hotel. Jerry Simpson of the Florida Pond joined the Grand Nest Officers as Grand Keeper. MLGG Ellergodt called on Grand Wielder Jack Gravenstine to come forward and be recognized for his 21 years of service as Grand Wielder, eclipsing the marks of his predecessors Paul Rudd (16 years – 1912-1931), and Richard Kenzel (15 years – 1937-1951). Mr. Gravenstine received an oil painting of the Canadian Rockies near the Banff Springs Hotel.

In his address of acceptance, MLGG Ellergodt urged the Order to make a concerted effort to reduce the alarming number of “drop-outs” (3,232 over the last five years). He stressed that retaining current members is just as important as soliciting new members. He urged the Ponds to not only make its new members feel welcome, but to also remember their senior Ganders. Lastly, MLGG Ellergodt suggested adding *Publicity*, as a fourth precept to join *Character, Charity and Fellowship*. He said the Order’s goals cannot be reached without our members being “*better salespersons*” to “*spread the word about Blue Goose*”.

During the past year the membership decreased by 262, from 9,342 on 6/30/81 to a total of 9,080 on 7/1/82. This was mostly due to the loss of the Arkansas, Chesapeake, and Steel City Ponds, as well as a general housecleaning effort in many Ponds. The loss in membership followed gains made in the four previous years.

The Honorable Order now had sixty-three Ponds, consisting of fifteen Ponds in the Southern Area (Alabama, Alamo, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Palmetto, South Texas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia), fourteen Ponds in the Canadian Area (Alberta, British Columbia, Chinook, Edmonton, Manitoba, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Thunder Bay), twelve Ponds in the Western Area (Arizona, California, Colorado, Fresno-San Joaquin, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Utah, and Washington), nine Ponds in the Eastern Area (Bay State, Empire State, Garden State, Hartford, Long Island, National Capitol, New York City, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia), and thirteen Ponds in the Central Area (Dakota, Heart of America, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Peace Garden, St. Joe Valley, St. Louis, and Wisconsin Home Nest).

1982 - 1983

The Seventy-Seventh Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta, Canada, from August 28-31, 1983, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Dennis N. Ellergodt presiding. In addition to MLGG Ellergodt, the other Grand Nest officers were Grand Supervisor Robert J. Rice of the Colorado Pond, Grand Custodian David E. White of the National Capital Pond, Grand Guardian Lyle C. Johnson of the Nebraska Pond, Grand Keeper Jerry Simpson of the Florida Pond, Grand Wielder J. B. Gravenstine of the Wisconsin Home Nest, Judge Advocate Charles I. Palmerton, PMLGG of the Washington Pond, and Grand Historian Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG of the Kentucky Pond.

The Convention Golf Tournament took place on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. For most of the 320 Men, 276 Women, and 100 Junior Ganders in attendance (total of 696), the Convention opened on Sunday evening with a Welcome Cocktail Party and a Bavarian Night Dinner in the hotel's Main Ballroom. The waiters, musicians, and entertainers were all dressed in Bavarian outfits, as were a fair number of Ganders. Bavarian music was in the air, and Bavarian foods such as wieners, sauerkraut and Kessler Rippchen (smoked pork loins) were on the menu. In a salute to our Canadian Ponds, Canadian beer was served.

In attendance were the following PMLGGs: Buzz Fenerty (1958, Calgary, Alberta with wife Muriel), Earl Hannan (1965, St. Louis, MO with wife Dot), Frank Hunter (1969, Phoenix, AZ with wife Celeste), Browne Bolton (1972, Louisville, KY with wife Lois), Rollie Lett (1974, Salt Lake City, UT with wife Nabbie), Ivar Awes (1975, Minneapolis, MN with wife Lois), Gordon Crowther (1976, Hartford, CT with wife Ivy), Edward Morgan (1978, Halifax, NS with wife Judy), Charles Palmerton (1979, Seattle WA with wife Helen), Al Kregel (1980, Long Island, NY with wife Pat), Douglas Snyder (1981, Madison, WI with wife Mary Ann), and King Luck (1982, Birmingham, AL with wife Mildred).

Monday's Opening Ceremonies started with the presentation of the colors by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the singing of "Oh Canada" and "America" by the Alberta Pond's Blair Mason, and an invocation by Rev. Frank Breisch of the Banff Presbyterian Church. Other morning speakers were MLG Douglas Jordan of the Alberta Pond, the Hon. Justice Allen Wachowicz of the Alberta Dept. of Insurance, Tom Ross of the Banff National Parks Service, and GSF Bob Rice. The Keynote Speaker was Al "Boomer" Adair, Alberta's Minister of Tourism.

The Alberta Pond conducted a spectacular Memorial Service. Set in the hotel's Rob Roy Terrace against the backdrop of the Canadian Rockies, the ceremony included a bagpiper and 80 members of the Stampede City Chorus wearing blue uniforms and white cowboy hats while they sang the "Blue Goose Hymn". GN Historian and PMLGG Browne B. Bolton delivered a eulogy for PMLGG (1973) Archibald MacDonald of the Quebec Pond, who passed away in November 1982.

After the Memorial Service, the Convention hosted two luncheons. The Men's Luncheon was sponsored by the Insurance Brokers Association of Alberta and the Guest Speaker was Jack Tenant, publisher of the Alberta Sun. Although he professed to having no knowledge of, and no relationship to, the insurance industry, he delivered a very humorous address on the state of the newspaper publishing business. The Ladies Luncheon was held on-site in the Alhambra Room and featured a return performance by the Stampede City Chorus and a fashion show.

After lunch, the Alberta Pond conducted an abbreviated but very well received Model Initiation ceremony, and the MLG and Wielders meeting was held. Open to all Ganders, the meeting was chaired by DMLGG Gordon Crutcher of the Canadian Region. The highlight of the meeting was GSOF Robert Rice's announcement that the Grand Nest had committed itself to compiling a computerized list of all Ganders in the Honorable Order, so that every Gander could receive mail directly from the Grand Nest.

The evening program featured a "Klondike Days" theme and was hosted by the Edmonton Pond. They recreated the flavor of Edmonton's famous Klondike celebration with a panning for gold station, a fresh salmon dinner, entertainment by Klondike Kate and her Can-Can dancing girls, and a replica Klondike Gambling Hall to wager play money on roulette, craps, blackjack and poker.

After a Continental Breakfast, Tuesday's morning session began with the roll call of the Ponds, and 55 of the 64 Ponds were represented. Alamo, Chinook, Fresno, Kansas, Magic Empire, Palmetto, Saskatchewan, Virginia and West Virginia were absent. MLGG Ellergodt called PMLGG Al Kregel to the podium to present the new Westchester Pond's charter to its Wielder, Dave Olsen.

MLGG Ellergodt reported that during his Grand Nest term, he visited 43 Ponds, visited all the Canadian Ponds, and attended the Duck Dinner in Cedar Rapids, IA, the curling Bonspiel in Banff, the “Hands Across the Border” festivities in Fargo, ND, and twice visited the Hawaii Pond. He visited with five Ponds that were celebrating their respective 75th Anniversary. MLGG Ellergodt commented that he was dismayed at some of the “lack of preparation” by Pond Officers in more than one meeting. He asked all elected Pond officers to avoid future embarrassment by learning the Order’s ritual and adding more dignity and solemnity to their meetings. During his term as MLGG, the Order added four new Ponds: Westchester, Fredericton, Chinook, and Thunder Bay. Ellergodt also emphasized the Grand Nest’s fledgling relationship with Special Olympics, Inc. and asked all Ponds to support this endeavor. He also reported that the Grand Nest’s activities in promoting education expanded by naming an additional 50 award winners.

Grand Wielder Gravenstine, Grand Keeper Simpson, Judge Advocate Palmerton and Grand Nest Historian Bolton gave their reports, followed by reports on Constitution and By-Laws, Jurisprudence, Publicity, Grand Nest Liaison, Membership, Charity, Education, and Pond Publications.

The Regional Charity Awards were next, as each Region named two winners: one for most new and re-instated members, and one for best percentage increase. The Eastern winners were Garden State and Empire State, the Central winners were St. Louis in both categories, the Southern winners were Georgia and Magic Empire, the Canadian winners were Nova Scotia and Fredericton, and the Western winners were Arizona and Utah.

In the Pond Award ceremonies, Magic Empire won the Membership Cup, Hartford won the Fellowship Cup, and the Alamo Pond won the Kentucky No Drop Out Cup. The Pond Publication Committee, chaired by Ed Laity announced eleven winners. The overall winners were 1) *Blue Notes* from the St. Louis Pond, 2) *Fliteline* from the Washington Pond, and 3) *The Honker* from the National Capital Pond. Additional “Specific Achievements” were singled out for the following ten publications: 1) Frequency of Issue – the *Arizona Honker*, 2) New Gander Profiles – *Fliteline* and *Blue Notes*, 3) Total News – *Colorado Flyway*, 4) Printing/typeset/graphics – Long Island *Goosetale* and *Georgia Gander*, 5) Advertising Layout – Iowa Pond *Honker*, 6) Packaging/conciseness – National Capital Pond *Honker*, 7) Professionalism – San Francisco *Honk*, 8) Promotional - *The Michigander*.

Judge Advocate/PMLGG Palmerton read a proposed amendment to the By-Laws submitted by the Michigan Pond. The amendment proposed increasing the Host Pond Fund from \$0.50 to \$1.50 with a related increase of Grand Nest dues from \$7 to \$8 annually. It was ruled that the amendment was improperly submitted, and the matter was tabled.

PMLGG King Luck took the floor and reminded all present of a standing resolution to adopt Special Olympics as the international charity of the Grand Nest. He stressed that this would in no way involve any of the Ponds in supporting Special Olympics, unless they chose to become involved. He pointed out that many Ponds were already involved in Special Olympics programs. The motion was carried by acclamation.

A Luncheon at the hotel was sponsored by Delco Construction and Servpro Cleaning. After lunches, Ganders, spouses, and guests boarded buses as the group travelled to a local Indian reservation for a “Rodeo Show” featuring expert Indian riders. The group next travelled to The Rafter 6 Ranch for a sumptuous steak barbecue. The evening’s entertainment included ancient Indian dance and rituals.

After Wednesday morning’s Continental breakfast, all attendees (including spouses, children, and guests) were invited to a slide-show presentation by the Colorado Pond promoting the 1984 Convention in Denver.

Robert Rice of the Colorado Pond, a 33-year member of Blue Goose, was installed as the new MLGG and the convention voted to hold next year’s Convention at the Marriott Hotel Southeast in Denver Colorado. The other Grand Nest Officers installed that day were Grand Supervisor David White of the National Capital Pond, Grand Custodian Lyle C. Johnson of the Nebraska Pond, Grand Guardian Jerry Simpson of the Florida Pond, and Gordon C. Crutcher of the Ontario Pond joined the Grand Nest Officers as Grand Keeper. J. B. Gravenstine, Charles Palmerton and Browne B. Bolton agreed to serve an additional year in their terms as Grand Wielder, Judge Advocate, and Grand Nest Historian, respectively.

In his address of acceptance, MLGG Rice emphasized the importance of communication, and said that without it “no organization can possibly prosper”. He held in his hand several Pond newsletters and said that Pond publications are “*vital to our continued growth*”. He urged all Ponds that were not publishing a newsletter to start one. Looking at the broader issue, Rice said that “*communication does not stop with a Pond publication, and good communication has many side effects and benefits*” such as Pond growth and vitality and publicity for our educational and charitable endeavors.

During the past year the membership decreased by 77 members, from 9,189 on 6/30/82 to 9,112 on 6/30/83. The Grand Nest Bulletin reported that “this has been a somewhat troubled year for many of our Ponds. Some have reported a slackening of interest plus difficulty in collecting dues.”

The Honorable Order now had sixty-three Ponds, consisting of fifteen Ponds in the Southern Area (Alabama, Alamo, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Palmetto, South Texas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia), fourteen Ponds in the Canadian Area (Alberta, British Columbia, Chinook, Edmonton, Fredericton, Manitoba, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Thunder Bay), eleven Ponds in the Western Area (Arizona, California, Colorado, Fresno-San Joaquin, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Utah, and Washington), ten Ponds in the Eastern Area (Bay State, Empire State, Garden State, Hartford, Long Island, National Capitol, New York City, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Westchester), and thirteen Ponds in the Central Area (Dakota, Heart of America, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Peace Garden, St. Joe Valley, St. Louis, and Wisconsin Home Nest).

1983 – 1984

The Seventy-Eighth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Marriott Hotel South-East in Denver, Colorado, from August 5-8, 1984, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Robert J. Rice of the Colorado Pond presiding. In addition to MLGG Rice, the other Grand Nest officers were Grand Supervisor David E. White of the National Capital Pond, Grand Custodian Lyle C. Johnson of the Nebraska Pond, Grand Guardian Jerry Simpson of the Florida Pond, Grand Keeper Gordon Crutcher of the Ontario Pond, Grand Wielder J. B. Gravenstine of the Wisconsin Home Nest, Judge Advocate Charles I. Palmerton, PMLGG of the Washington Pond, and Grand Historian Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG of the Kentucky Pond.

The Convention opened on Sunday afternoon with visits to two attractions around Colorado Springs. The first stop was at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where the group saw the famous 17 spire Cadet Chapel, “cadets....marching in drill formation, wearing full packs”, and the enormous athletic field house -- home to a hockey rink, football field, basketball court, and swimming pools. Next stop was “The Garden of the Gods”, where the group saw magnificent rock formations, which presented numerous photo opportunities. The buses then climbed the mountains directly under Pikes Peak and headed to “The Flying W Ranch”. The bus ride, featuring expert tour guide narration and majestic scenery did not require any enhancements, but nevertheless, the ride was made even more enjoyable because of the cold beer, wine, and soda provided by the Hawaii Pond. The Flying W offered beautiful scenery, an old time Western town for shopping, an outdoor bar and a lavish barbecue steak and beans dinner, served on tin plates with tin cups for the beverages. Entertainment was provided by “The Wranglers” a veteran Western music vocal group that played western favorites such as “Ghost Riders”, “On the Trail to Santa Fe” and a “yodel rendition of Cattle Call”. Neither the Grand Nest Bulletin, nor the History of the Grand Nest, cited a specific breakdown of attendance figures, but the Bulletin did say that “all 600 of us were whisked off” onto the buses for Sunday’s itinerary.

In attendance were the following PMLGGs: Buzz Fenerty (1958, Calgary, Alberta with wife Muriel), Earl Hannan (1965, St. Louis, MO with wife Dot), Frank Hunter (1969, Phoenix, AZ with wife Celeste), Howard Dobbs (1970, Toledo, OH), Browne Bolton (1972, Louisville, KY with wife Lois), Rollie Lett (1974, Salt Lake City, UT with wife Nabbie), Ivar Awes (1975, Minneapolis, MN with wife Lois), Gordon Crowther (1976, Hartford, CT), Stanley Spore (1977, Houston, TX with wife Alberta), Charles Palmerton (1979, Seattle WA with wife Helen), Al Kregel (1980, Long Island, NY with wife Pat), Douglas Snyder (1981, Madison, WI with wife Mary Ann), and King Luck (1982, Birmingham, AL with wife Mildred).

Monday’s Opening Ceremonies followed a complete breakfast buffet hosted by Marriott Hotels in appreciation of Blue Goose’s decision to hold the Convention at their facility. The Opening Ceremonies were slated to have the Air Force Color Guard from Lowry Air Force Base present the colors, but they did not arrive at the hotel at their appointed hour. Paul Hughes led the group in the singing of “Oh Canada” and “America”. The invocation was delivered by Rev. Glen E. Hamlyn of the Goode Centennial Methodist Church, whose prayer included reference to “nest”, “flock”, “fine feathered friends”, “flying in formation”, and “flight through life”. Other morning speakers were MLG Jerry Womack of the Colorado Pond, David J. Miller of the Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting, and Keynote Speaker Larry Varnell, Director of the Colorado Visitor’s Bureau and President of the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, delivered a dynamic address on the importance of physical fitness. He also suggested that we set life goals for “ultimate satisfaction” in Attitude, Confidence, Humility, Self Respect, and Integrity.

The Utah Pond conducted a tasteful Memorial Service that saw candles lit for each departed Gander. GN Historian and PMLGG Browne B. Bolton delivered a eulogy for the Louisiana Pond’s P. Albert Bienvenu who passed away on May 21, 1984 and served an eighteen year term as the Honorable Order’s Judge Advocate between 1962 and 1980. Known as “Prince Albert”, his customary remarks when called upon for his Convention report were “no lawsuits have been filed against the Honorable Order during the past year, and so far as we know, none are pending”. Browne Bolton also noted the passing of two special members of the Blue Goose family. He acknowledged 107 year old Julian Speed, the long time Wielder of the Texas Pond who passed away on May 21, 1984, and Ivey Crowther, wife of PMLGG Gordon Crowther (1976) of the Hartford Pond, who passed away suddenly on June 21, 1984. Bolton stated “those of us who knew her learned to love her, and she will be in our fondest memories until we, too, shall pass her way”.

The convention was treated to an incomparable Model Initiation by the Arizona Pond’s Cowboy Team. Their well-drilled precision made it a memorable introduction to the Blue Goose ritual for the 20 new members of the Colorado Pond that they initiated. After the Model Initiation, the Blue Goose ladies attended their own luncheon, while the Blue Goose men attended the Colorado All Industry Luncheon. The Luncheon featured a two-tiered Head Table for twenty-one guests and dignitaries. The afternoon’s Guest Speaker was F. Cedrick McCurley, President of Western Insurance Companies. McCurley, a former Blue Goose member, praised PMLGG Earl Hannan for his contributions to Blue Goose, the industry in general, and the Western Insurance Companies, for which he served as manager of their St. Louis office.

After lunch, DMLGG Chuck Hubbard of the Washington Pond chaired the MLG & Wielders Meeting at 2:30, and at 3:30 the Regional meetings followed.

The evening program of Bingo and Jazz took place in the hotel's Rocky Mountain Ballroom. After a steak and seafood dinner, a series of group Bingo games took place (regular, round robin, and black-out bingo) with cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$100. The Queen City Jazz Band took stage after the last bingo number was called, and they entertained the crowd with ragtime music.

There were no less than three Hospitality Suites open that evening, hosted by the California, San Diego and Michigan Ponds.

After a 7:00 AM Continental Breakfast sponsored by the San Diego Pond, Tuesday's morning session began with Grand Wielder Gravenstine's roll call of the Ponds. A total of 54 of the 64 Ponds were represented. Chinook, Empire, Frederickton, Fresno, Kansas, Magic Empire, Mississippi, Palmetto, Virginia, West Virginia and were absent.

MLGG Rice reported that he visited 17 Ponds in the Western, Southern and Central Regions. In doing so, he travelled 19,794 miles by air and 2,863 miles by automobile. He attended the Iowa Pond's Duck Dinner in Cedar Rapids, worked with DMLGG John Downie to try and get a Greater Chicago Pond off the ground, and attended the Mid-Year Meeting at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D. C. He also reported on interest in starting a New Pond in Newfoundland and a new Puddle in Las Vegas. He participated in some initiations, and was alarmed that "one or two were done very poorly", causing him to "urge every Most Loyal Gander of every Pond to insist that each of his officers commit his part to memory, or to at least know how to read their parts, and to hold practice sessions to perfect their performance".

Rice next touched on the first year of the Grand Nest's new relationship with Special Olympics, Inc. In February 1984, he worked as a "Hugger" at the Special Winter Olympics in Colorado's Arapahoe Ski Basin. He spoke eloquently as he described the 350 participants, "it brings tears to your eyes when we see how hard those kids try and try to do things we take for granted every day. They have more guts than I do in just getting on the skis". He said that some of the Ponds are already contributing to Special Olympics, and he urged all Ganders to contact Special Olympics and ask how they can help.

Rice also returned to the Communication theme he introduced in his acceptance speech the previous year. He remarked that several Wielders did not appear to be communicating with either their Ponds or with Grand Nest, because Convention registration information was not delivered to numerous Ganders, and several Pond's computerized mailing list data was not returned to Grand Nest. Grand Wielder Gravenstine, Grand Keeper Crutcher, Judge Advocate Palmerton and Grand Nest Historian Bolton gave their reports, followed by committee reports on Constitution and By-Laws (Eugene McKeever, Colorado Pond), Jurisprudence (Robert Howell, Mississippi Pond), Publicity (Arthur Harris Seattle Pond), Grand Nest Liaison (Robert Boyce, Alberta Pond), Membership (Thomas Toal, Arizona Pond), Charity (Sam Luke, Hawaii Pond), Education (Richard Soper, Colorado Pond), and Pond Publications John Orr, Washington Pond). Charles L. Hubbard (DMLGG) reported on the MLG-Wielders Delegate Meeting.

In the Pond Award ceremonies, the Alamo Pond won the Membership Cup, but did not receive the trophy because it had become lost. The Wisconsin Home Nest won the Fellowship Cup, and the Alamo Pond won the Kentucky No Drop Out Cup for the second year in a row. The Pond Publication Award was split into two categories this year. *Blue Notes* from the St. Louis Pond won in the "Professional" category, and the *Arizona Honker* won in the "Amateur" category. St. Louis took home the existing plaque, but a new plaque for the second category "will have to await (it's) design and procurement."

The Regional Charity Awards were next, as each Region named two winners: one for most new and re-instated members, and one for best percentage increase. The Eastern winners were Long Island and Empire State, the Central winners were St. Louis and Heart Of America, the Southern winners were Florida and Alamo, the Canadian winners were Regina and British Columbia, and the Western winners were Colorado in both categories.

MLGG Rice then called upon Judge Advocate Palmerton to explain three proposed changes to the Constitution, and one proposed change to the By-Laws that were about to be submitted to the delegates for a vote. The first Constitutional change was commonly referred to as the "Ladies" amendment, and was proposed by Delegate Bertrand of the Quebec Pond and seconded by Delegate Olsen of the Honorable Order's newest Pond, the Westchester Pond. The amendment called for the deletion of the word "male" from membership eligibility criteria. The motion was opened to the floor for discussion, where two delegates voiced their support for, and two delegates voiced their opposition to the motion. MLGG Rice called for a voice vote, the "No's" prevailed, and the motion was defeated.

The second proposed amendment, introduced by Delegate Knight of the Alberta Pond, called for the membership eligibility of local agents, regardless of their prior affiliation. After the motion was seconded by Delegate Swifte of the Manitoba Pond, the resulting voice vote was inconclusive, so a roll call vote followed. The tally was 56 yes votes, which fell below the required 72, and the motion was defeated.

The third proposed amendment, introduced by Delegate Sharpe of the Colorado Pond called to re-name two Officer titles; from the Grand Nest Historian to the Grand Recorder of Flock Facts, and from the Judge Advocate to the Grand Counselor of the Goose Gaggle. The proposal did not receive a seconding nod, and was defeated for that reason.

The Proposed By-Law change, submitted by the Michigan Pond called for a change in the way the Grand Nest handles the Host Pond Fund, and also called for a \$1.00 increase in dues. However, Delegate Cameron of Michigan soon addressed the convention and said that after the recent meeting of the Central Region, the Michigan Pond had decided to withdraw the motion.

At this point, the convention adjourned for the day, the golfers prepared for their tournament, and all had the balance of the day and evening free to spend with their families and friends.

After Wednesday morning's Continental breakfast (sponsored by the Seattle Pond), all attendees (including spouses, children, and guests) were invited to a slide-show presentation by the National Capital Pond promoting the 1985 Convention in Washington D. C.

The Grand Nest reconvened with a delegate roll call, and when MLGG Rice asked if anyone had unfinished business to discuss, PMLGG Stanley Spore of the South Texas Pond (1977) was recognized. He promptly took the opportunity to correct an oversight he was guilty of some seven years earlier. It seems that PMLGG Spore had omitted awarding a DMLGG certificate to Paul Hughes of the Garden State Pond in 1977, so made sure to correct the slight, even though some seven years had passed.

David E. White of the National Capital Pond was installed as the new MLGG and the convention voted to hold next year's Convention at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D. C. The other Grand Nest Officers installed that day were Grand Supervisor Lyle C. Johnson of the Nebraska Pond, Grand Custodian Jerry Simpson of the Florida Pond, Grand Guardian Gordon C. Crutcher of the Ontario Pond. There was a heated battle for the Grand Keeper position as two candidates from the Western region emerged, namely Harry Merrifield of the California Pond and Cliff Needham of the San Diego Pond. Each candidate received a nominating, seconding, and closing speech. Judge Advocate Palmerton was needed to advise the Convention on the Order's rules for deciding such circumstances. A roll call was used to distribute secret ballots to the 100 delegates that were present, and after the ballots were counted, Mr. Merrifield was declared the winner by a razor sharp margin of 51 to 49. J. B. Gravenstine, Charles Palmerton and Browne B. Bolton agreed to serve an additional year in their terms as Grand Wielder, Judge Advocate, and Grand Nest Historian, respectively.

In his address of acceptance, MLGG White emphasized the importance of an individual's actions over his declarations. *"The only thing in which we can be said to have title to in this life is that of our actions...Our actions are our immortality; it is that one thing in which we have a say-so and, of which, we cannot be disinherited...what we have done will last for an eternity"*. He urged all ganders to live the principles of Blue Goose every day, and promised that *"as long as we remain faithful to the principles and ideals of this Order; we as individuals will not fail, nor will the Order cease to exist"*.

A Brat and Beer Luncheon hosted by the California Pond followed the adjournment of the Business Meeting. That evening's Banquet and Ball featured a prime rib dinner and entertainment by Pearle Ray, a local vocalist and the band "Encore Music".

During the past year the membership decreased by 167 members, from 9,091 on 6/30/83 to 8,924 on 6/30/84. The Grand Nest Bulletin reported that "for the second straight year we appear to be in the doldrums...these figures would suggest that all of us should make it a top priority commitment to plan and carry out an effective membership drive—and to shut the door on dropouts".

The Honorable Order now had sixty-four Ponds, consisting of fifteen Ponds in the Southern Area (Alabama, Alamo, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Palmetto, South Texas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia), fourteen Ponds in the Canadian Area (Alberta, British Columbia, Chinook, Edmonton, Fredericton, Manitoba, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Thunder Bay),

twelve Ponds in the Western Area (Arizona, California, Colorado, Fresno-San Joaquin, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Utah, and Washington), ten Ponds in the Eastern Area (Bay State, Empire State, Garden State, Hartford, Long Island, National Capitol, New York City, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Westchester), and thirteen Ponds in the Central Area (Dakota, Heart of America, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Peace Garden, St. Joe Valley, St. Louis, and Wisconsin Home Nest).

1984 – 1985

The Seventy-Ninth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D. C. from August 11-14, 1985, with Most Loyal Grand Gander David E. White of the National Capital Pond presiding. In addition to MLGG White, the other Grand Nest officers were Grand Supervisor Lyle C. Johnson of the Nebraska Pond, Grand Custodian Jerry Simpson of the Florida Pond, Grand Guardian Gordon Crutcher of the Ontario Pond, Grand Keeper Harry Merrifield of the California Pond, Grand Wielder J. B. Gravenstine of the Wisconsin Home Nest, Judge Advocate Charles I. Palmerton, PMLGG of the Washington Pond, and Grand Historian Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG of the Kentucky Pond.

The Convention opened on Sunday afternoon with the Regional meetings. Before dinner, the Michigan Pond sponsored a cocktail party in honor of their upcoming Grand Nest Candidate, John Zeldam, who would join the Grand Nest in 1986. A gala Welcome Party was held in the hotel's Grand Ball Room with an "All Nations Night" theme. A variety of food stations were set up around the room and food servers in an assortment of native costumes served ethnic foods representing their respective homelands. One of the most popular food stations, at least among the children, was the ice cream sundae bar. Registration figures totaled 240 Ganders, 198 Ladies, and 83 children for a total of 521.

In attendance were the following PMLGGs: Bob Wiseman (1956, Silver Springs, MD with wife Eleanor), Earl Hannan (1965, St. Louis, MO with wife Dot), Frank Hunter (1969, Phoenix, AZ with wife Celeste), Browne Bolton (1972, Louisville, KY with wife Lois), Gordon Crowther (1976, Hartford, CT), Charles Palmerton (1979, Seattle WA with wife Helen), Al Kregel (1980, Long Island, NY with wife Pat), Douglas Snyder (1981, Madison, WI with wife Mary Ann), and Bob Rice (1984, Arvada, CO with wife Lillian).

Monday's Opening Ceremonies followed a continental breakfast buffet hosted by the Mayflower Hotel in appreciation of Blue Goose's decision to hold the Convention at their facility. MLGG White called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, and PMLG John Brenner of the National Capital Pond delivered the morning invocation. There was a last minute problem concerning protocol among the flag bearers, but we are pleased to report that an international incident was narrowly avoided. The Joint Military Color Guard of the Military District of Washington refused to carry the Canadian flag, but delegate Louis Chaisson of the Nova Scotia Pond stepped in and personally presented the Maple Leaf flag to the group, resulting in a rousing standing ovation. MLGG White led the assembly in singing "Oh Canada" and "America", after which the Joint Military Color Guard presented the American flag and the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung. Next, the Grand Nest Officer's wives and the head table dignitaries were introduced. Morning speakers were the National Capital Pond's MLG, Harvey Goodman who welcomed the group, Father Reginald, the Director of Religious Affairs for the Mayors Office, bringing greetings from Mayor Marion Barry, and Cathleen Dodge, the Public Relations Director for Tour Mobile Sightseeing, offering sightseeing pointers and tips. Convention Co-chair Myron Schwartz called for a fifteen minute break, and asked the ladies to assemble for their bus ride to the Indian Springs Country Club, where they would spend the afternoon and later be joined by the rest of the Convention for the evening program.

The Westchester Pond conducted a tasteful Memorial Service, and even though they were one of the Honorable Order's newest Ponds, the Grand Nest Bulletin stated that their performance was "skillfully and reverently done". Next, PMLGG Gordon Crowther delivered a eulogy for PMLGG Frank Chandler of the Ontario Pond who passed away on January 22, 1985. Mr. Chandler joined Blue Goose in 1924, was MLG of the Ontario Pond in 1939-40, and served as the Honorable Order's MLGG in 1962-63. In his eulogy, Gordon Crowther's said Mr. Chandler was "*probably best remembered for his quiet dignified manner, his understanding approach to anything and anyone with whom he had dealings, and his dedication to the principles and ideals of our Honorable Order*".

After the Memorial Service, the convention attendees headed to the Grand Ballroom, where they were joined by many local insurance agents and dignitaries for the All Industry Luncheon. The Luncheon featured a two-tiered Head Table for eighteen guests and industry leaders. The afternoon's Guest Speaker was Dr. Edwin Overman, President of the American Institute for Property and Casualty Underwriters. Overman gave an inspirational address on how "fear of failure", complacency, and procrastination can sabotage personal and professional development. He quoted W. Somerset Maugham and promised that "It's a funny thing about life. If you refuse to accept anything but the best, you often get it".

The Model Initiation followed lunch, as the Long Island Pond's Initiation Team, dressed in American Colonial costumes, flawlessly inducted ten new members into the National Capital Pond. Tim Holland of the Bay State Pond chaired the MLG & Wielders Meeting that followed the Model Initiation.

Later that evening, the Ganders departed by bus for the Indian Springs Country Club to join their wives and children, and partake in a Maryland Crab Feast. Crab cakes, fried chicken, and an abundant supply of hard shelled crabs and cold beer were on the menu. Later that evening, a panoramic photo of hundreds of our participants was taken.

After a 7:00 AM Continental Breakfast, Tuesday's morning session began when MLGG White called upon DMLGG John Downie of the St. Joe Valley Pond for a historic announcement. Mr. Downie proclaimed that after 14 years of frustration, 1) a Greater Chicago Pond had finally been formed with 66 charter numbers, 2) they were represented at this convention with their new MLG Bill Wilson and WGQ Dave Mehren as delegates, and 3) their Pond now numbered over 100 members. MLGG White called up the two Greater Chicago delegates and presented them with their Pond's official charter from the Grand Nest. Grand Wielder Gravenstine called for the roll call of the Ponds. A total of 54 of the 65 Ponds were represented. Chinook, Fredericton, Fresno, Kansas, Magic Empire, Palmetto, South Texas, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Mississippi were the eleven absent Ponds.

MLGG White reported that he visited 18 Ponds: Bay State, Long Island, New York City, Westchester, Empire State, North Carolina, Georgia, Nova Scotia, Moncton, New Brunswick, Fredericton, Magic Empire, Texas, Alamo, Hawaii, San Diego, West Virginia and Ohio. He spoke of the enjoyment and personal honor that he felt from these visits, thanked *"those who went out of their way to accommodate me, who took time off from work, busy schedules, and personal convenience"*, and he described these visits as *"rewards upon rewards"*. He was however cautious, and warned the Convention that we are in a *"turbulent changing world"* where the traditional value system is dying. He held up Blue Goose as a standard, as one of the few institutions that still holds onto the importance of it's value system. Although membership continued to slide, he asked Blue Goose to remain vigilant in holding onto it's traditions and not to compromise it's precepts and principles. *"Blue Goose is a composite, a mosaic of thousands of pieces; it represents an accounting of each man's accommodation with his conscience and a commitment to a belief. This is the true meaning of the Blue Goose. We are individuals banded together in the spirit of character, charity, and fellowship, who represent the culmination of a thousand years of Christianity and civilization"*.

Grand Wielder Gravenstine, Grand Keeper Merrifield, Judge Advocate Palmerton and Grand Nest Historian Bolton gave their reports, followed by committee reports on Constitution and By-Laws (P. A. Bienvenue, Jr. Louisiana Pond), Jurisprudence (James A. Wiley, National Capital Pond), Publicity (Charles A. Kalthenthaler, Kentucky Pond), Grand Nest Liaison (Jerry Womack, Colorado Pond), Membership (John T. Zeldam, Michigan Pond), Charity (Barry Snyder, National Capital Pond), Education (Kenneth E. Morris, National Capital Pond), and Pond Publications (John Orr, Washington Pond).

JA Palmerton's report discussed membership eligibility, and how it was becoming a growing concern among several Ponds, specifically as how eligibility relates to interested parties in the contractor, glass dealer, property appraiser industries; and other insurance service organizations, and public adjusters. Mr. Palmerton rendered an opinion to MLGG White stating that the existing eligibility rules *"do not need clarification and that the individual Ponds are admonished to give consideration to the intent of these rules as stated in Article IV of the Constitution and to also use the inherent latitude and wisdom dictated by the circumstances of each individual Pond"*.

In the Pond Award ceremonies, the Palmetto Pond won the Membership Cup, and will receive a new plaque, designed by Grand Custodian Simpson, to replace the trophy that had become lost during the previous year. The Wisconsin Home Nest won the Fellowship Cup for the second year in a row, and no Pond qualified to win the Kentucky No Drop-Out Cup. The Pond Publication Award was given to *Flyaway* from the Colorado Pond in the "Amateur" category, and *Skylines* from the Heart of America Pond won in the "Professional" category. Honorable Mentions were awarded to The San Francisco Pond's *Honk* and to the New Brunswick Pond's *Droppings*.

The Regional Charity Awards were next, as each Region named two winners: one for most new and re-instated members, and one for best percentage increase. The Eastern winners were Empire State and National Capital, the Central winners were Michigan and Indiana, the Southern winners were Palmetto in both categories, the Canadian winners were Nova Scotia and Alberta, and the Western winners were Oregon in the first category, but no Pond qualified in the second category.

Timothy Holland of the Bay State Pond reported on the MLG-Wielders Delegate Meeting. Some of the key points raised in the meeting included a) Membership Procurement Aids, such as golf outings open to the entire industry, breakfast meetings, PMLG Nights, and establishing regular meeting dates, b) Pond publications are being under-utilized inasmuch as only 34 Ponds sent copies to the Committee, c) New Forms and Wielders Manual, i. e. the abundance of old and obsolete forms still in use, and a call for an updated Wielder's Manual, and 4) Convention location- where a preference for downtown rather than suburban locations was expressed.

MLGG White then called upon Judge Advocate Palmerton to explain a proposed constitutional amendment change. The Constitutional change involved the updating of verbage in the ritual manual, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote. At this point, the convention adjourned for the day. The balance of the day and evening were free to spend with families and friends.

After Wednesday morning's Continental breakfast, all attendees (including spouses, children, and guests) were invited to a presentation by the Nebraska Pond promoting the 1986 Convention in Omaha, NE. After the presentation, the children departed for a day at Wild World, and the ladies left for a visit to Mount Vernon.

When the business meeting reconvened, Michigan delegate Don Cameron was recognized and addressed the meeting about a recommendation that came out of the MLG-Wielders meeting; a call to update the Grand Nest forms and create a concise Wielder's manual. He put forth a motion to chair a committee to act on and accomplish those goals. The vote to do so was unanimous, and his committee was named to include George Harwood of the Georgia Pond, Al McMahon of the Seattle Pond, C. John Brighton of the Quebec Pond, and John Ryan of the New York City Pond.

Lyle C. Johnson of the Nebraska Pond was installed as the new MLGG and the convention voted to hold next year's Convention at the Red Lion Inn in Omaha, NE. The other Grand Nest Officers installed that day were Grand Supervisor Jerry Simpson of the Florida Pond, Grand Custodian Gordon C. Crutcher of the Ontario Pond, Grand Guardian Harry Merrifield of the California Pond, and Grand Keeper Timothy Holland of the Bay State Pond. J. B. Gravenstine, Charles Palmerton and Browne B. Bolton agreed to serve an additional year in their terms as Grand Wielder, Judge Advocate, and Grand Nest Historian, respectively.

In his address of acceptance, MLGG Johnson expressed his "gratitude and sincere thanks" upon his election to the highest rank in the Honorable Order. He gave a commitment to continue the basic initiatives that were important to his predecessors, such as "communication, dedication and responsibility, continuing education, charity, Pond publications, and increasing membership. A Beer and Brats luncheon followed, and the evening's Grand Banquet & Ball featured a prime rib dinner and dancing to the music of Gene Donati and his orchestra.

During the past year the membership decreased by 186 members, from 8,924 on 6/30/84 to 8,738 on 6/30/85. The Grand Nest Bulletin reported that "*for the third year in a row we must report a declining membership...Ponds have been adversely affected by the extreme unrest in our business*".

The Honorable Order now had sixty-five Ponds, consisting of fifteen Ponds in the Southern Area (Alabama, Alamo, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Palmetto, South Texas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia), fourteen Ponds in the Canadian Area (Alberta, British Columbia, Chinook, Edmonton, Fredericton, Manitoba, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Thunder Bay), twelve Ponds in the Western Area (Arizona, California, Colorado, Fresno-San Joaquin, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Utah, and Washington), ten Ponds in the Eastern Area (Bay State, Empire State, Garden State, Hartford, Long Island, National Capitol, New York City, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Westchester), and fourteen Ponds in the Central Area (Dakota, Greater Chicago, Heart of America, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Peace Garden, St. Joe Valley, St. Louis, and Wisconsin Home Nest).

1985 - 1986

Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting, January 10-12, 1986

The Mid-Year meeting was held at the Hyatt Grand Cypress, Orlando, FL with the following officers and guests in attendance:

Executive Committee:

Lyle C. Johnson, MLGG, Nebraska Pond
P. J. "Jerry" Simpson, GSF, Florida Pond
Gordon C. Crutcher, GCG, Ontario Pond
J. B. Gravenstine, GWGQ was absent due to family illness

Other Officers and Guests:

Harry M. Merrifield, GGN, California Pond
Timothy F. Holland, GKGGE, Bay State Pond
Charles I. Palmerton, PMLGG/JA, Seattle Pond
Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG/GNH, Kentucky Pond
Ivar H. Awes, PMLGG, Minnesota Pond
Gordon Crowther, PMLGG, Hartford Pond
Frank Hunter, PMLGG, Arizona Pond
Al Kregel, Jr., PMLGG, Long Island Pond
King G. Luck, PMLGG, Alabama Pond
Douglass G. Snyder, PMLGG, Wisconsin Home Nest
David E. White, PMLGG, National Capital Pond

The attendance of 14 present and past officers was the largest number recorded according to GNH records at a Mid Year Meeting. Some of the items discussed:

1. Pending convention plans and fund-raising were reported progressing according to schedule.
2. The only firm commitments for future candidates for GKGGE were indicated as being:
 - a. 1986 John T. Zeldam, Michigan Pond, Central Region
 - b. 1987 Bruce B Bolton, Kentucky Pond, Southern Region
3. A list of delinquent Pond balances was presented by the GWGQ to each area officer with a request to follow up.
4. The only Constitutional Amendment known at the mid-year date was Alberta's proposal to make Agents eligible to membership; those in attendance looked with favor upon it. It was thought that the Georgia Pond would probably later enter their Amendment to admit females and the Colorado Pond again will endeavor to change titles of the Judge Advocate and the Grand Nest Historian.
5. The Executive Committee suggested, and all present agreed, that MLGG Johnson write Chairman John T. Orr of the Pond Publication Committee, expressing Grand Nest's thanks for his handling of this important Committee. Thanks, John!
6. The Agenda including computer mailing to Ganders, prompt notification of Committee appointments, Canada's payment of Grand Nest dues (monetary exchange rate), standard registration forms, formation and progress of new ponds, was completed fully.....a good meeting.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, August 17, 1986

The Pre-Convention meeting was called to order by MLGG Lyle Johnson at 8:00 am with those officers, PMLGGs, DMLGGs and guests noted below in attendance. The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Future Convention:
 - a. MLGG Johnson, Central Region: Convention registration appears to be between 375 – 400.
 - b. GSF Simpson, Southern Region: Room rates at Grand Cypress, Orlando for 1987 are \$99/room with registration projected at 800 – 1000
 - c. GCG Gordon Crutcher, Canada: Plans advancing with \$31,000 in Convention fund
 - d. GGN Merrifield, Western Region: The California Pond convention fund is approximately \$45,000 and plans are underway for the 1989 Convention aboard the Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, CA. Harry reported that excellent hotels (Holiday Inn & Hyatt) are available across the street for those who do not like shipboard facilities.
 - e. GKGEE Holland: Site for 1990 Convention will be the well known, refurbished, downtown Park Plaza Hotel, situated close to many historical sites, Aug 19-22, 1990. Fred Dean and Joe Campbell are Co-Chairmen and the 1990 Host Fund, Inc is well underway.

2. Regional Concerns and Comments:
 - a. Central Region: Kansas Pond, Wichita, KS does not answer correspondence and has not sent Grand Nest Delegate since 1979 thru 1986. However, they do pay their dues annually – they seem to need a shot in the arm!
 - b. Southern Region: Magic Empire long missing in Grand Nest circles now has a new young Wielder and hopefully the situation will improve. Oklahoma is aging but based upon visit by MLGG Johnson, 1986-87 should bring a big improvement. South Texas has folded and removed from list. Texas is aging with reduced membership but endeavoring to keep alive; have 1986 delegate. Virginia apparently recovering although no 1986 delegate. Mississippi has a core of good active members, pay their dues, answer Grand Nest correspondence but are generally not active. No delegate 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986; needs a boost from Southern Region Grand Nest Officers.
 - c. Canadian Region: Chinook is talking of quitting; no delegate since original charter in 1981. Canadian PMLGG Ellergodt, who was instrumental in formation of the Chinook Pond called upon to help.
 - d. Western Region: Washington Pond having trouble with membership dropping apparently because many insurance companies are closing Spokane offices, however, with our excellent Pond Publication Committee Chairman as the incoming MLG (1986-1987) things should really perk up.
 - e. Eastern Region: Penn Pond thru efforts of PMLGG Gordon Crowther (Eastern DMLGG) seems on the way back after years of virtual silence which had followed years of glory. Thanks, Gordon. West Virginia Pond is heard from infrequently but continues active; they have always paid their dues on time and in 1986 sent a \$500 check to Grand Nest as proceeds from a raffle held on behalf of Grand Nest which they thought “could use the money”. On behalf of all Grand Nest Officers, MLGG Johnson sent an appropriate letter of thanks.
3. Future Convention/Candidate Possibilities:
 - a. Central Region: John T. Zeldam, Michigan Pond, candidate 1986 for GKGGE. Convention in Detroit area 1991 if elected.
 - b. Southern Region: DMLGG Bruce B. Bolton, Kentucky Pond, going for GKGGE 1987. Convention in Louisville 1992. No known opposition
 - c. Canadian Region: Feelers out by Moncton, Frederickton, New Brunswick and possibly British Columbia Ponds, but nothing firm.
 - d. Western Region: GGN Merrifield is hoping for San Diego to bring forth DMLGG Cliff Needham; there also may be a possibility San Francisco is stirring – nothing definite yet.
 - e. Eastern Region: Nothing definite this early but a rumor that newly chartered (1983) Westchester Pond may be interested.
4. Other agenda items were discussed and set forth in the following 80th Grand Nest Convention history including Awards presentations and presenters; review committee for MLGG report; resolutions committee; GN Officer Nominators, seconders and closers; installation of newly elected officers; committee reports; Constitutional and Bylaw amendments. Additionally, the cost and effectiveness of Mid Year Grand Nest Bulletin was discussed and it was the consensus that this was really an advertisement of the next Host Pond. The Florida Pond agreed to handle and pay for the Spring 1987 Mid Year issue, but there were to be little or no other Grand Nest articles. The Florida Pond also requested a centerfold page (plus possibly two more pages) insertion regarding 1987 Convention to be placed in the regular Fall 1986 Bulletin; with additional cost borne by Florida Pond. This was agreed by the Committee.
5. MLGG Lyle C. Johnson, following appropriate comments and thanks to those present, adjourned the meeting.

Eightieth Annual Grand Nest Meeting, August 17-20, 1986

The Eightieth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Red Lion Inn, Omaha, Nebraska, August 17-20, 1986, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Lyle C. Johnson presiding.

The first day of our convention opened on Sunday, August 17, 1986, however many of the registrants had arrived earlier to explore the city and its famed steak houses. MLGG Johnson called to order the Grand Nest Officers pre-convention meeting promptly at 8:00am with the following officers and past officers in attendance:

Lyle Johnson, Nebraska, MLGG
 P. J. Simpson, Florida, GSF
 Gordon Crutcher, Ontario, GCG

PMLGG Earl Hannan, St Louis, 1965
 PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota, 1975
 PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford, 1976

Harry M Merrifield, California, GGN
 Timothy F. Holland, Bay State, GKGGE
 J. B. Gravenstine, Wisconsin, GWGQ
 C. I. Palmerton, PMLGG 1979, Washington, JA
 Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG 1972, Kentucky, GNH

PMLGG Al Kregel, Jr., Long Island, 1980
 PMLGG Doug Snyder, Wisconsin, 1981
 PMLGG Bob Rice, Colorado, 1984
 PMLGG David White, National Capital, 1985
 John Zeldam, GKGGE candidate, Michigan
 DMLGG Bruce B. Bolton, Kentucky
 DMLGG Clifford C. Needham, San Diego
 DMLGG John Downie, St Joe Valley
 DMLGG Gordon Crowther, PMLGG, Hartford

Note: The practice of inviting DMLGGs to attend the Pre-convention meeting was established by MLGG Johnson. The Canadian Region DMLGG was not in attendance at this convention.

By noon, most of the registrants had checked in and were prepared to board the buses for an afternoon at the races at the popular AK-SAR-BEN horse race track in Omaha. (AK-SAR-BEN is NEBRASKA spelled backwards) Some won, some lost but all were rewarded when MLGG Lyle Johnson awarded the winning blanket to the winner of the race named in honor of our own Blue Goose. The wives of the Grand Nest Officers and PMLGGs, along with the ladies chairpersons (some 17 in all) enjoyed a brunch at the Oak Hills Country Club prior to joining the fun at AK-SAR-BEN. Those attending the race meet were bused back to the hotel in time to prepare for the opening reception at 6:30pm in the Grand Ballroom of the hotel. The reception was a sumptuous affair with a seemingly continuous buffet and the fellowship known throughout Blue Goose. Finally by midnite most had returned to their rooms for a little rest prior to the next morning's events.

Monday, August 18th, found most of the attendees enjoying a continental breakfast by 7:00am, with Regional conference meeting being held coincidentally from 7:30am to 8:40am. At precisely 8:45am MLGG Johnson stepped to the podium and declared: "Ganders, ladies and gentlemen – I hereby declare the 80th Annual Convention of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International officially open." Convention co-chairman, Jim Inman, PMLG, followed with the invocation. The Offutt Air Force Base color guard presented the colors of the United States and Canada, followed by the singing of "O'Canada" and "America". The color guard then posted the colors and were roundly applauded as they marched from the hall. MLGG Johnson then introduced Virginia Peterson, Social Education and Music teacher at the local West Side High School who presented her bell-ringing group known "The Belles and Beaux", formed from local members of the Special Olympics. They held us all in awe as they performed "Morning Has Broken", "Claire de Lune", a snappy Mexican song, "Chiaponacos", "Chariots of Fire", "Londonderry Air" and closing with the Nebraska Cornhusker fight song "There's No Place Like Nebraska". A tremendous standing ovation filled the hall and continued until MLGG Johnson begged us to stop so he could properly thank the bell ringers and Ms. Peterson. He reminded us that the Blue Goose had voted to support Special Olympics as one of its designated charities.

The wives of the Grand Nest Officers were introduced as follows: Helen Johnson, wife of our MLGG; Annette Simpson, wife of our GSF; Sandra Taylor, bride to be of our GCG; Opal Merrifield, wife of our GGN; Maria Holland, wife of our GKGGE; Dorothy Gravenstine, wife of our GWGQ; Helen Palmerton, wife of our JA; and Lois Bolton, wife of our GNH. This was followed by introduction of the head table: Convention Co-chairman James Inman, Grand Nest Historian Browne Bolton, PMLGG, Grand Wielder Jack Gravenstine, Grand Guardian Harry Merrifield, Grand Supervisor P. J. "Jerry" Simpson, MLGG Lyle Johnson, Guest Speaker, His Honor the Mayor of Omaha, Michael Boyle, MLG Lorin "Ole" Swingen, Nebraska Pond, Grand Custodian Gordon Crutcher, Grand Keeper Timothy Holland, Judge Advocate Charles Palmerton and finally Convention Co-chairman Glenn Carlson. Then introduced were the PMLGGs and their wives who were seated directly behind the Grand Nest wives: 1985 David White, National Capital Pond; 1984 Bob and Lillian Rice, Colorado Pond; 1981 Doug and Mary Ann Snyder, Wisconsin Home Nest; 1980 Al and Pat Kregel, Long Island Pond; 1979 Chuck and Helen Palmerton, Seattle Pond; 1975 Ivar and Lois Awes, Minnesota Pond; and last but not least, the dean of our attending PMLGGs, Earl Hannan and his lovely wife, Dorothy presiding in 1965 from the St Louis Pond.

MLG "Ole" Swingen, Nebraska Pond, welcomed all to Omaha and our annual meeting and wished us all a good time while in Omaha. He was followed by the Honorable Michael Boyle, Mayor of Omaha, who welcomed us to Omaha, promising there was much to see and do in the city and hoped that we would have time to explore the many sights and sounds. Grand Supervisor Simpson followed with the customary response to the words of welcome and again gave special thanks to "The Belles and Beaux". This was followed by a short break in preparation for the Memorial Service.

PMLGG Douglass Snyder, PMLG Phil Houser, PMLG Martin Eiden and MLG Norman King from the Wisconsin Home Nest conducted an excellent and moving service with each of our 65 Ponds represented by an unlit candle. As the names of the departed from each Pond were read, the Pond members stood as their candle was lit. If a Pond had no deceased, its candle remained unlit. The Memorial Service program contained a listing of the departed ganders from each Pond. A special eulogy was given in memory of PMLGG William G Stephens, Jr., 1961-62, Georgia Pond who took his last long flight November 21, 1985.

MLGG Johnson announced that the All Industry Luncheon would begin promptly at noon, while the ladies will meet in the Midland Room for their luncheon and the children will be bused to Peony Park for their outing.

The All Industry Luncheon was held in the Grand Ballroom with good food and presentations by Shelby Jones, President of Continental Western Insurance Company and Richard Brown, CEO, State Auto Insurance Company regarding the state of the industry in a discussion entitled “Where We Were – Where We Are – Where We Are Going”. Their discussion of the soft market and rush for cash flow leading to losses all but crippling our industry with the accompanying aggressive needs of plaintive attorneys has presented difficulties from which to emerge. This was followed by a discussion of present attempts at tort reform, i.e. lawyer fees, joint and several liability, punitive damages, non-economic damages and changes to the Collateral Source Rule.

Following the All Industry Luncheon we reassembled at 1:45pm for the Model Initiation conducted by members of the Iowa Pond during which they actually initiated several venturesome goslings into the Nebraska Pond.

Following a 15 minute break the MLG and Wielders meeting commenced, called to order by Chairman John Zeldam, delegate from the Michigan Pond. The group was broken into three working sessions: Funds chaired by Noel Kott & Robert LaBarge; Membership chaired by John Downie and Bruce Mountjoy; and Proposed new Wielders Manual and forms chaired by Co Cameron and Harold Renn. The results were reported by Gander Zeldam at the business meeting.

The MLG & Wielders meeting closed just in time for all to prepare to board the buses for an outing at Peony Park for a heralded Beef and Buffalo Barbecue with free draft beer all evening. Entertainment was provided by some accomplished square dancers who attempted, generally in vain, to teach us to square dance.....altho there were some ganders, possibly aided by the kegs of beer, who at least thought they were accomplished dancers. A good time was had by all.

Tuesday, August 19: While the ladies, juniors and non-delegate guests prepared for a day of touring the many interesting things to see and do in Omaha – all the way from the SAC Museum to Boys’ Town – the delegates prepared for a day in working sessions. Following a continental breakfast we watched as the juniors departed for the Henry Doorly Zoo with lunch on the grounds.

At 8:00am the delegates assembled for work and following MLGG Johnson’s call to order, GWGQ Gravenstine called the roll. The following Ponds were not represented: Chinook, Empire State, Fredericton, Fresno-San Joaquin, Garden State, Kansas, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Thunder Bay, and Virginia (Thirteen of 64 Ponds). MLGG Johnson introduced the DMLGGs in attendance (listed above) who were greeted by applause. Bruce Bolton, Kentucky, moved and Tom Avery, Alabama, seconded that reading of the minutes of the last Grand Nest meeting be dispensed with because they were published in the Grand Nest Bulletin. Passed by acclamation.

MLGG Lyle Johnson then gave his report on his year in office, thanking all for the honor of serving as their Most Loyal Grand Gander and the hospitality he received from the several Ponds which he visited. He gave special thanks to the Grand Nest officers with whom he served and to the Grand Wielder for his untiring efforts in behalf of Blue Goose. After the congratulations and standing applause subsided, GSF Simpson appointed PMLGGs Doug Snyder, Gordon Crowther and Ivar Awes to study the report and prepare to give their report to the delegates at the closing business meeting on Wednesday. MLGG Johnson then appointed PMLGGs Bob Rice, Al Kregel, Jr. and Earl Hannan to the Resolutions Committee, asking that they also bring their report to the meeting on Wednesday.

GWGQ Jack Gravenstine gave his report, stating that there was a net recorded loss of 153 members during the past year (6/30/85 (corrected) = 8,708; 6/30/86 – 8,555). However, once again several Ponds failed to report timely membership reports with only 30 or our 65 Ponds reporting timely enough to be included in these figures. He implored all to see that their respective wielder submit his final report NLT June 30. He recognized the following Ponds with the most new and reinstated members: Wisconsin Home Nest 23; National Capital and Indiana each with 24, Florida 27, Michigan 29, Edmonton 30, St Louis 35, Chicago 52, Quebec 62 and Fresno 83. It is interesting to note that these ten Ponds took in 389 ganders last year – practically 50% of our total procurement.

Timothy Holland, GKGGE gave his report on the annual audit and budget review meeting in West Bend, WI in July with GWGQ Gravenstine, Bud Osowski, accountant, PMLGG Doug Snyder and PMLG Phil Houser of the Wisconsin Home Nest in attendance. He cautioned all that although we are currently solvent, however we are living on a deficit budget which is insidiously draining our reserves. To help overcome this deficit, he stated that the Grand Nest Officers are proposing a Bylaw change increasing dues payable from the present \$7.00 to \$10.00 which will also increase the maximum delegate expense allowance from \$3.50 to \$5.00. He assured all that the affairs of the Grand Nest were in order and thanked GWGQ Gravenstine and his wife for their kind hospitality during his visit.

PMLGG Charles I. Palmerton, JA followed with his report, setting forth some of the subjects handled during the past year:

1. Editing and reprinting of the ritual manual with PMLGG Doug Snyder handling the setup and printing.
2. Assisted GCG Gordon Crutcher in the manner of amending the Constitution and Bylaws
3. Distribution of a questionnaire to all Ponds determining what, if any, liability insurance, including liquor liability, the Ponds were carrying for review and possible solutions/suggestions by the Grand Nest
4. Concerns regarding refunds of registration fees by the Host Pond to cancelled attendees to the Annual Convention.
5. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws were properly submitted as follows:

- a. Alberta Pond: Change membership eligibility to include Property and Casualty Agents, brokers, their employees, regardless of prior company affiliation
- b. Georgia Pond: Delete word “male” from eligibility rules
- c. Colorado Pond: Change the names of Grand Nest Historian and Judge Advocate
- d. Manitoba Pond: Bylaw change to permit some relief to the Canadian ponds because of the adverse exchange rate between Canadian and US dollars.

PMLGG Browne Bolton rose and made some short remarks regarding his writing of the report of MLGG White’s year in office and placed in distribution a copy of this report sufficient for all delegates. It is hard to describe the effort put forth by PMLGG Bolton in the creation of this report and we will let the report speak for itself. Again entirely at his own expense he prepared, had printed and shipped to the Convention hotel a professionally completed 28 page booklet, outlining all that transpired during David White’s year. He was greeted by a spontaneous standing ovation.

GWGO Gravenstine than reminded all of the services provided by the James Group Service to Blue Goose members at a reduced rate, and for all interested in its Family Term Life Plan to submit the “Request for Information” form contained within the Grand Nest Bulletin for additional information.

P. A. Bienvenu, Louisiana, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee was unable to attend; however the committee was very busy this year with the amendments set forth in the JA report above.

Peter Slocum, British Columbia, chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee was also unable to attend to “defend” himself, however sent a very descriptive and humorous report bringing forth gales of laughter – particularly when he demanded (in jest?) that our Canadian Grand Nest Officer, Gordon Crutcher, be impeached. He then reported that there had been no activity within the committee during the year, which he said was fortunate since he did not learn until very recently that he was a member let alone chairman.

Charles P. Kaltenthaler, Kentucky, chairman of the Publicity Committee gave his report, advising that biographical data on each of the current Grand Nest Officers was submitted to the insurance press in the form of news releases.

John Costello, National Capital Pond, chairman of the Grand Nest Liaison Committee, was unable to attend and PMLGG David White reported in his behalf. He discussed the problems, successes, joys and sorrows of hosting a Grand Nest Convention and that Mr. Costello had written a very complete and detailed report of the National Capital Ponds efforts in hosting last years Convention.

Munro Elder, Alberta Pond, chairman of the Charity Committee was unable to attend and submitted an excellent report which was read by PMLG Darold Jordan, Nebraska. He pointed out that a survey of which 39 out of 65 Ponds responded revealed that 25 had discussed supporting the Special Olympics program which had been adopted by Grand Nest as our “Official Charity” and 15 had decided to support it in some form. Others are supporting other charities of their choice. Apparently some Ponds had sensed some degree of friction in their original contact with Special Olympics people and perhaps a Grand Nest officer should be specifically charged to act as a liaison to erase any difficulties that may arise between personalities in any given area.

There was no report from the Education Committee.

John Orr, Washington Pond, chairman of the Pond Publication Committee presented his worthy report and announced the winners of the Pond Publication Awards as follows:

Michigan Pond’s “MICHIGANDER” is named runner-up for the “Amateur” award

St Louis Pond’s “BLUE NOTES” is named runner up for the “Professional” award

Washington Pond’s “FLIGHTLINE” is named winner of the “Amateur” award

Arizona Pond’s “HONK” is named winner of the “Professional” award

John Zeldam, Michigan Pond, chairman of the Membership Committee gave his report. The committee devoted its efforts to the tabulation and study of 617 personal surveys which were completed by ganders from 59 Ponds and the attempt to create a multi-media presentation of our Order. There findings should be of interest to all members both now and in the future. A multi-media presentation promoting Blue Goose was created by Bruce Mountjoy, PMLG Washington Pond with assistance from Media Works, Olympia, WA. Together they have created a video cassette, 20 minutes in length, which has been shown to attendees at this convention. The cost thus far is \$2500 with an additional \$35,000 required for final production. The Committee recommends that the project be approved and that a one time assessment of \$700/member be made to finance it.

Presentation of Awards were made as follows:

Membership Cup	Fresno-San Joaquin Pond
Pond Publications	see Committee report above
Fellowship Cup	Utah Pond
No Drop Out Cup	A Tie: Alamo, Dakota and Westchester Ponds
Regional Charity Awards	Greater Chicago, Alamo, Florida, Quebec, Fresno, Westchester and National Capital Ponds

John Zeldam, Michigan Pond, gave his report on the MLG, WGQ and Delegates meetings. Discussions involved fundraising, membership, Blue Goose promotional literature, communications, the proposed multi-media

presentation and its attendant costs and the proposed new manual for welders.

Charles Palmerton, JA, presided over the motions for proposed amendments to the Constitution. (see JA report supra for details):

1. Alberta Pond amendment – moved by Wade seconded by Davis, Iowa Pond – passed
2. Georgia Pond amendment – moved by Bob Harwood, seconded by Larry Cooper, St Louis – failed
3. Colorado Pond amendment – moved by PMLG Watson, seconded by Peter Watts, San Diego – failed
4. Manitoba Pond amendment – moved by Ron Genyk seconded by Miles, Ontario Pond – passed
5. GKGGE Holland amendment – to increase GN dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00 – motion to table was seconded

The meeting was then adjourned until Wednesday morning with the balance of the day and evening open to do as we wished.

Wednesday, August 20, 1986. Following a continental breakfast, the Florida Pond gave a presentation offering a glimpse of the events of the next convention to be held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress hotel, Orlando, Florida in August 1987. It was well done and received. The juniors departed for their hospitality rooms and the ladies left to prepare for the luncheon at the Firehouse Dinner Theater. At 9:30am MLGG Johnson called the final session to order and the roll call was taken. Unfinished business was called for and John Zeldam, Michigan Pond, moved for going forward with the multi-media project subject to funding. The motion was seconded by Bill Gates, St Joe Valley Pond. The motion was defeated by a show of hand. Don Cameron, WGQ, Michigan Pond, advised of the progress of the new Welders Manual with final touches being completed during this convention. He will set up the final form and make distribution to all the Ponds.

Nominations for the election of officers as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconder</u>	<u>Closer</u>
MLGG P. J. “Jerry” Simpson	Browne Bolton	Ivar Awes	Louis Chiasson
GSF Gordon Crutcher	David White	Ernest Miles	John Brighton
GCG Harry Merrifield	Chuck Palmerton	Bob Rice	Cliff Needham
GGN Timothy Holland	Gordon Crowther	Al Kregel	Joe Ruzzo
GKGGE John Zeldam	Harold Renn	Don Cameron	John Downie

There were no further nominations from the floor and all were elected by acclamation. PMLGG Browne Bolton , GNH, installed the new officers. Thus followed the usual acceptance speech and presentation of pins, etc. PMLGG Doug Snyder, gave his report in behalf of the committee to report on MLGG Johnson’s year in office, followed by PMLGG Rice’s report of the Resolutions Committee thanking the Nebraska Pond, the Mayor of Omaha, the Offutt AFB color guard, the “Belles and Beaux”, Wisconsin Home Nest, the Iowa Pond, the Red Lion staff, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Nebraska Pond and finally to all that attended this wonderful convention.

The annual Beer and Brat luncheon followed with the Fellowship Banquet and Ball to be held in the Grand Ballroom from 7:00pm to midnite. The Fellowship Banquet and Ball was one to remember with, you guessed it, an entrée of broiled and tender Nebraska strip sirloin steak with all the trimmings.

And now on to next year and to Florida in August.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, Aug 20, 1986

The Post Convention meeting was called to order by newly elected MLLG P. J. Jerry Simpson following the annual Beer and Brat luncheon with the following officers and guests in attendance:

MLGG P. J. Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond	PMLGG Earl Hannan, St Louis Pond
GSF Gordon C. Crutcher, Ontario Pond	PMLGG Ivar H Awes, Minnesota Pond
GCG Harry M. Merrifield, California Pond	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
GGN Timothy Holland, Bay State Pond	PMLGG Alfred Kregel, Long Island Pond
GKGGE John T. Zeldam, Michigan Pond	PMLGG Doug Snyder, Wisconsin Home Nest
GWGQ J. B. Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Robert Rice, Colorado Pond
PMLGG/JA C I Palmerton, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Lyle Johnson, Nebraska Pond
PMLGG/GNH Browne B. Bolton, Kentucky Pond	DMLGG Cliff Needham, San Diego Pond
	DMLGG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond

The following appointments were confirmed by MLGG Simpson:

Judge Advocate	Charles I. Palmerton
Grand Nest Historian	Browne B. Bolton
Grand Welder	J. B. Gravenstine

GSF Crutcher moved that the appointments be approved – seconded by Merrifield and approved by acclamation.

Bank cards and resolutions were executed and signed by MLGG Jerry Simpson and GWGQ Jack Gravenstine.

The Grand Wielder contract was prepared by PMLGG/JA Chuck Palmerton. GGN Tim Holland moved that the contract be extended for one year at the same stipend as last year. Motion was seconded by GCG Merrifield and passed by acclamation. The contract was then signed by all involved persons.

Host Pond Fund: At the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1986, this fund was found to be in the amount of \$3,421.50. The officers approved this amount and requested the Grand Wielder to issue a check in that amount and give to PMLGG Lyle C. Johnson. This has been accomplished.

Officers Expense: GGN Tim Holland moved and GCG Merrifield seconded the motion to approve payment of necessary expense to this convention. Passed by acclamation. It was understood that these expenses were not refundable for the newly elected GKGGE, John T. Zeldam.

1986-1987 Budget: After considerable discussion, particularly on means by which we must try to overcome the “deficit budget” of the last couple years, GCG Merrifield moved for approval of the budget as excellently prepared by GKGGE Holland. Motion was seconded by GSF Crutcher and passed by acclamation.

Committee and Deputy Appointments: Regional officers from the Canadian, Western and Eastern Regions have been completed and given to the Grand Wielder. Central and Southern regions are in process of completion and will be sent to GWGQ shortly.

Assignment of Grand Nest Officer Duties:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. MLGG Jerry Simpson | Executive Committee; Bi-Annual Bulletin; Southern Conference; Constitution and Bylaws; GN Liaison |
| b. GSF Gordon Crutcher | Executive Committee; Canadian Conference; Education and Publicity Committees |
| c. GCG Harry Merrifield | Executive Committee; Western Conference; Membership Committee, Investments |
| d. GGN Timothy Holland | Eastern Conference; Gifts and Bequests; Charities; Jurisprudence Committee |
| e. GKGGE John Zeldam | Central Conference; Advertising; Audit; Pond Publications |
| f. GWGQ J. B. Gravenstine | Office; Bulletin; Delegates Annual Meetings |

Next Mid-Year Executive Meeting: February 13 – 15, 1987, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Grand Nest Stationery: PMLGG Doug Snyder agreed to handle this important function, which he has accomplished for many years.

Annual Budget Meeting: GKGGE Zeldam has agreed to attend this meeting to be held in GN HQ offices, West Bend, Wisconsin on the weekend of July 17 – 19, 1987.

Annual Bulletin Advertising: Officers approved the inclusion of the James Group Services ad and furthermore recommended that we explore the possibilities of securing more ads to help defray the rising cost of running Blue Goose.

Unfinished business and remarks:

1. JA Palmerton ruled that even though the “surrogate” delegates representing both Palmetto and West Virginia Ponds was seated, there will be no Grand Nest delegate allowance to these Ponds.
2. The proposed dues increase for Grand Nest was tabled by the delegates during the recently concluded convention. However, the Grand Wielder will notify the Ponds (but will wait until after the mid year executive meeting) that the increase will again be presented to the delegates in Florida. If passed the increase will be retroactive to July 1, 1987.
3. In an attempt to prepare an updated definition of the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Wielder, all five officers will submit input to JA Chuck Palmerton within the next 30 days. This could assist the next GWGQ, whenever and whoever he may be.
4. PMLGG Al Kregel requested that all winners of charity awards be notified to advise the Grand Wielder of the charities they would like us to issue checks in favor of. He also applauded the soon to be new wielders’ manual complete with new forms, etc. For your information this is being completed by Wielder Don Cameron of Michigan Pond with the assistance of the Grand Nest officer and should soon be sent to each Pond.

5. GSF Crutcher reminds us to be sure to correct our Constitution and By Laws with new pages covering the amendments approving agents and also changing the method by which the Canadian Ponds will pay Grand Nest dues. When printed make sure that all Ponds receive copies.
6. PMLGG David White made the following recommendations:
 - a. Would like Grand Nest to attend the Special Olympics in South Bend, IN to express our overall support of their efforts.
 - b. Wants us to consider preparing a colorful brochure on Blue Goose that could be used everywhere in our development.
 - c. He also admonishes the Grand Nest Officers to acknowledge good committee work.
 - d. David is writing all Ponds for an immediate update of their mailing lists so that our mailing labels will be as accurate as possible.

With that said and time fleeting, MLGG Simpson adjourned the meeting.

1986 – 1987

Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting, February 13 – 15, 1987

The Mid Year meeting was held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The following were present:

Executive Committee:

P. J. Jerry Simpson, MLGG, Florida Pond
Gordon C. Crutcher, GSF, Ontario Pond
Harry M Merrifield, GCG, California Pond
J. B. Gravenstine, GWGQ, Wisconsin Home Nest

Other Officers, PMLGGs and Guests:

Timothy F. Holland, GGN, Bay State Pond
John T Zeldam, GKGGE, Michigan Pond
Charles I Palmerton, PMLGG/JA, Seattle Pond
Browne B Bolton, PMLGG/GNH, Kentucky Pond
Ivar H. Awes, PMLGG, Minnesota Pond
Gordon Crowther, PMLGG, Hartford Pond
King G. Luck, PMLGG, Alabama Pond
David E. White, PMLGG, National Capital Pond

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Simpson and following roll call the following items were discussed:

1. Update of future convention planning and candidates: Future convention plans and fund raising appear to be well in hand and fund raising, although somewhat slow in some instances, are satisfactory. The Florida Pond has raised about \$35,000 thus far and hope to raise an additional \$25,000 prior to the Convention in August. The only committed candidate for future GKGGE is Bruce Bolton of the Kentucky Pond (Southern Region) in 1987 with the Convention to be held in Louisville, KY in 1992.
2. Outstanding Pond Dues for 1986/87 was presented by GWGQ Gravenstine totaling \$16,366.91.
3. Regional Concerns and Comments;
 - a. Southern Region: Texas Pond is down to a handful of active members plus 50 or so life members and they seem unable to recruit new members. They may have to become a puddle of the Alamo Pond.
 - b. Canadian Region: The Chinook Pond, through the assistance of PMLGG Dennis Ellergodt, has been rejuvenated. Regina Pond is somewhat of an enigma. They appear to be active and interested however have failed to pay their Grand Nest dues the past two years. Also the Saskatchewan Pond shows some signs of disinterest.
 - c. Western Region: The Washington Pond has had its share of problems but seems on the way back.
 - d. Eastern Region: The Penn Pond seems to be improving but still needs some "pushing", as does the Garden State Pond. Uncertain of the West Virginia Pond.
 - e. Central Region: Kansas and Ohio Ponds are limping along and need help.
4. Liability Insurance Survey, prepared by JA Palmerton, was sent to all Ponds and 27 Ponds have responded; seven carry no insurance coverage, others carry coverage with limits ranging from \$300,000 to \$1,750,000.00 with all but one carrying liquor liability coverage. Most said they would be interested in participating in a blanket policy covering all Ponds, however it appears that it is impossible for GN to procure such a policy at this time. The JA will prepare a letter with recommendations to be mailed to all Ponds in the May mailing.
5. Grand Wielder Job Description: Judge Advocate Palmerton sought input from past officers and from this, other concerns became apparent. Following discussion, MLGG Simpson assigned a committee of Harry Merrifield, Gordon Crutcher, King Luck and himself to work with GNH Browne Bolton and JA Chuck Palmerton toward restructuring the Order and the Grand Wielder's job.

6. Prospective Advertisers for the Grand Nest Bulletin: GKGGE Zeldam has prepared a packet for presentation to prospective advertisers and will approach prospects in the Central Region for such purposes. He will also provide this material to the other GN officers for their use in their respective region.
7. Recruiting brochure: GSF Crutcher has been working on this with the publicity chairman, Charles Kaltenthaler. They will work with PMLGG Browne Bolton to put something together.
8. Gifts or Bequeaths to Grand Nest: GGN Tim Holland has been working on this possible assist to GN funding. JA Palmerton cautioned that no reference should be made to any “tax exempt” status of any gift or bequeath since this may be contrary to IRS regulation.
9. Ed Overman Retirement: Ed is retiring as head of the American Institute for Property and Liability Underwriters and it was agreed that GN would contribute \$100 to his retirement fund in addition to our regular annual dues and donation to the CPCU and IIA awards.
10. Grand Nest dues increase: The motion to increase dues in Omaha in 1986 was tabled and the executive committee voted to announce that a motion will be made to increase the dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00, with notice being included in the mid year bulletin and also the annual May mailing to all Ponds.
11. GWQ Don Cameron, Michigan Pond, and his committee, has completed the “Wielders Manual”, a copy of which was given to all present. The GWGQ was instructed to make distribution to each of the Pond Wielders.
12. Blue Goose Ritual: The GWGQ will contact PMLGG Doug Snyder to see if the revised printing of the Ritual can be expedited and distribution made to the Ponds.
13. Grand Nest Bulletin Distribution: Bulk mailings to Canadian Ponds for distribution to their respective members is not working. The Ponds make physical distribution to those attending a meeting, but not mailing to the others. Suggested that Grand Nest make individual mailings to all members. Also, Grand Nest has been contacted by International Mailing Systems, Inc, Detroit, MI regarding Canadian mail and further discussion will be made with them regarding cost, service, etc.

Pre-Convention Meeting, August 9, 1987, Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Hotel, Orlando, FL

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Jerry Simpson and roll call was as follows:

P. J. Jerry Simpson, MLGG
 Gordon C. Crutcher, GSF
 Harry Merrifield, GCG
 Timothy Holland, GGN
 J. B. Gravenstine, GWGQ
 Charles I Palmerton, PMLGG/JA
 Browne B Bolton, PMLGG, GNH

Gordon Crowther, PMLGG
 Earl S. Hannan, PMLGG
 Frank L Hunter, PMLGG
 Alfred Kregel, Jr. PMLGG
 King G. Luck, PMLGG
 Douglass G Snyder, PMLGG
 David E. White, PMLGG
 Bruce B. Bolton, DMLGG (GKGGE candidate)

1. Convention Planning: MLGG Simpson advised that attendance will be less than 500, far less than the originally projected 825 range. This has caused other future convention planners to lower their projections for attendance. There appear to be no serious problems however in future host Ponds financials or planning.
2. Regional Concerns: The Mississippi and Texas Ponds are troubling. Virginia Pond is also troubling, however has a stronger/larger base. Chinook and Thunder Bay Ponds are of some concern. Washington Pond is small and many companies have moved their offices from the area. Garden State and Penn Ponds seem to be slowly on the up-turn however the West Virginia Pond appears to be failing. The Kansas and Ohio Ponds are in serious trouble and in need of new blood if they are to survive.
3. Future Convention Sites: The Kentucky Pond is prepared to submit Bruce Bolton as its candidate for GKGGE and hosting the Convention in Louisville, KY in 1992 at the Galt House. Both Quebec and Edmonton Ponds have announced their intention of submitting a candidate for GKGGE (Julien Mongeon and Trevor Newitt respectively) with possibly the Manitoba and British Columbia Ponds also becoming involved. It is hoped that the San Diego Pond will step forward with Cliff Needham and the Westchester Pond may be interested in the Eastern Region.
4. Constitutional Amendments: Elimination of the word “male” from eligibility requirements and dues increase from \$7.00 to \$10.00 was discussed

5. Advertising: GKGGE Zeldam announced he has solicited three advertisers in addition to the James Group for the GN Bulletin. It is hoped that thru advertising, we can defray the costs to Grand Nest.
6. Welders Manual and “new” Ritual: The Grand Welder has mailed the Welders Manual to each Pond and was instructed to have printed and mail the revised Ritual to each Pond as soon as possible.

MLGG Simpson adjourned the meeting shortly before noon, announcing that the Delegates meeting will convene at 2:30pm

81st Anniversary Grand Nest Convention, Aug 9 – 13, 1987, Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida

Sunday, Aug 9, 1987

Many arrived on Saturday, Aug 8, and toured the area, registered early and oriented themselves to their surroundings in anticipation of the upcoming convention. As they “slept in” Sunday morning, the Grand Nest Officers and guests met for their annual Pre-Convention meeting. At 2:30 pm DMLGG Southern Region, Bruce Bolton, called the annual Delegates Meeting to order, attended by Pond Welders, officers and delegates. The Delegates Meeting was adjourned in time for all to prepare for boarding buses for “A Knight to Remember”, and most assuredly it was! Held at what appeared to be a medieval castle we were treated to a feast of chicken, ribs, baked potatoes and dessert and jousting Knights astride Arabian horses. A great show and a good time was had by all.

Monday, Aug 10, 1987

Following a continental breakfast commencing at 7:00 am, MLGG Simpson called the opening ceremonies to order at 8:30 am. The Color Guard from the U.S. Naval Training Station presented the colors, followed by the invocation given by the Rev. Arthur C. Krause. We then sang “America” and were led by John Dore of the Quebec Pond in the singing of “O’Canada”. MLGG Simpson then introduced those seated at the head table, followed by introductions of the spouses of the Grand Nest Officers and the attending PMLGGs and their wives. Words of welcome were given by Tom Grbac, Custodian of the Florida Pond and Bill Gunter, Florida State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner followed by our guest speaker, Robert “Bob” Ross, VP of the Florida Assn of Insurance Agents, who gave his inspiring, interesting and oftentimes humorous Keynote Address.

The Memorial Service was held at 11:00 am and conducted by the Kentucky Pond, specifically by the “Bolton Family”.....PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton; his son, Bruce Bolton, DMLGG/PMLG/candidate for GKGGE; and his grandsons, Gregory Allgeier, MLG, Christopher Allgeier and Jeremy Allgeier. A truly professional and moving service and made even more moving with the presence of Helen Johnson, widow of our late, departed PMLGG Lyle Johnson of Omaha, Nebraska. A moving tribute to Lyle was written by PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond, and read by PMLGG Browne Bolton during the service and included in this history in its entirety:

In Memory of Lyle C. Johnson A Blue Goose Tribute

Lyle C. Johnson, Past Most Loyal Gander of the Nebraska Pond and also Past Most Loyal Grand Gander of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

I site those titles in the order of their importance for Lyle was a Nebraskan and very proud of his affiliation with the Nebraska Pond. I’m sure most of us Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders are prouder of our first attained Pond MLGG status than that of the Grand Nest. It is sad that Lyle took his last long flight before he got to enjoy the more relaxed status of a PMLGG at the Grand Nest Meeting.

Lyle did attain our allotted three score and ten with five to spare. And what an illustrious 75th birthday he was able to celebrate. Not too many of us will celebrate our 75th birthdays with hundreds of friends on hand to wish us well. I thank God that I was able to be among the friends who so honored him.

Lois and I were privileged to have Lyle and Helen as our house guests during his last visit to our Minnesota Pond. We’ll never forget that visit because our piano player got sick and the tape machine wouldn’t work. Fortunately, I recalled my visits to the Nebraska Pond, where Lyle always played for the Initiation. We had the great honor of having MLGG play the piano for our Initiation, and what a magnificent job he did. Later that evening, and at breakfast the next morning, we had that rare privilege that four old friends too seldom get, of just visiting and enjoying each other.

Then, of course, the last time we were together was at Lyle’s Grand Nest Meeting which I consider one of the finest I’ve ever attended. From the moment we drove up the driveway to the time we drove away, it was a delight. Lyle’s scintillating personality permeated the entire Convention making every meeting and social event a happy and worthwhile experience.

When we initiate a Gosling into our Order, we charge him to be firm in character, broad in charity and free in fellowship. These are our Cardinal Principles. I'm certain that there is no one who knew Lyle who will not agree that Lyle lived by those principles. Lyle was a gentleman and a gentle man. He will be sorely missed by old and new friends in the Blue Goose.

Each time that Lyle advanced through the Chairs he asked me to second his nomination. I always happily agreed and each time I'd say here I am nominating a man for Keeper or Guardian or whichever position it was who already is and always has been a Most Loyal Grand Gander.

In the silent halls of memory, Hail Most Loyal Grand Gander Lyle and farewell.

Ivar H. Awes, PMLGG, March 26, 1987

The annual All Industry Luncheon followed at 12:30 pm, with the customary introduction of those seated at the head table, including all current officers as well as the following guests: Rev Krause, Honorable Bill Gunter, Florida Insurance Commissioner; guest speaker, Christopher Armhein, AAI/FAIA; Convention Chairman Hal Beasley; Linda Bemos, Pres Central Florida Underwriters Assn; Ted Burlage, Pres Burlage Adjusters and co-sponsor of the luncheon; L. E. Gene Caruthers, VP Florida Insurance Council; Myron Herndon, Pres Orlando Claim Assn; Judi McBurney, Pres Insurance Women of Orlando; William Moore, Pres Greater Orlando PIA; Hugh E Ray, Pres Florida Assn of Domestic Insurance Companies; Robert Ross, VP FAIA; John Watson, Pres Independent Insurance Agents of Central Florida; and Jerry Webb, VP Crawford & Co and co-sponsor of the luncheon. Following our lunch, Bill Gunter addressed the several hurdles and concerns regarding our industry, particularly in Florida, accompanied by an exodus of several insurers. He was followed by Christopher Amrhein, who kept us "rolling in the aisles" with his humorous anecdotes.

That evening we all boarded buses for Cypress Gardens, where we were treated to a world class water skiing show followed by a sumptuous buffet including alligator tail and dancing under the stars until it was time once again to board the buses for return to our hotel.

Tuesday, August 11, 1987

Following a continental breakfast, the delegates and ganders met at 7:30 am with their respective regions for their annual deliberations. Then promptly at 8:30 am we gathered for the Model Initiation performed by members of the Alabama Pond in the absence of the Georgia Pond, whose members at the last minute had found they were unable to attend the Convention.

We reconvened at 9:45 am, with MLGG Simpson calling the meeting to order and introducing the DMLGGs in attendance following which GWGQ Gravenstine called the role of delegates. All except the following Ponds were represented: Chinook, Fredericton; Kansas; Magic Empire; Mississippi; New Brunswick; Palmetto; Peace Garden; Penn; Virginia; and West Virginia. MLGG Simpson then gave his report in office which follows in its entirety:

Most Loyal Grand Gander's Report

Grand Nest Officers, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and Ganders. In my life I have had many "milemarkers" but within 12 days I passed 3: I was installed as your MLGG, turned 50 and had my 30th wedding anniversary. As I stated in my acceptance speech, my goal was to try and visit every pond in our order. In September we visited Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia Ponds and attended the CPCU awards ceremony in Atlanta, presenting the Blue Goose award there.

The last week in October carried us to the Magic Empire, Oklahoma and Kansas Ponds. November found us at the St Louis, Heart of America, Cedar Rapids, Iowa for their Duck Dinner and Indiana Ponds.

The week before Thanksgiving we left the van behind and took to the air visiting the Arizona, San Diego, Hawaii, San Francisco, Fresno-San Joaquin and California Ponds for the annual Christmas Dinner-Dance on board the Queen Mary; home December 7.

January 9, away we went in our Blue Goose Van to the Alamo, Texas and Louisiana Ponds. Then on to the Palmetto Pond for a special steak cookout honoring Charles E. Koon, WGQ, who was the charter WGQ of the Palmetto Pond, serving for 25 years and retiring from this job. Many good things were said about WGQ Koon with presentations being made by the South Carolina Insurance Commissioner and a certificate from the Blue Goose for his many years of loyal service; good job Charlie, a loyal Blue Goose. Home again, January 19.

Off again January 31 to the Tennessee, St Joe Valley for a gathering of the flock at a restaurant that overlooks "Where the river flows north", Greater Chicago, Wisconsin Home Nest, Minnesota, Dakota and Peace Garden Ponds. Then we headed North and East across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Peninsula crossing the border into Canada. The snow started in Wisconsin and continued all the way to Montreal. We visited with the mayor of Montreal, who is the son of our own PMLG Jean Dore and the Quebec Pond. Onto the Empire State, Ontario Ponds and the mid year executive committee meeting at the

elegant Royal York Hotel. February 15, we started on an 18 hour drive to Corbin, Kentucky stopping for breakfast at Niagara Falls. The ground was covered with fresh snow, and still coming down. Great blocks of ice were going over the falls. "What a beautiful sight". Back home again February 17.

Friday, March 13, we headed up the East Coast, the North Carolina and National Capitol Ponds on Sunday evening. From there on to the Penn and Garden State Ponds. March 17, with a little green, we crossed the river to Manhattan for a St Patty' Lunch with a group from the New York City Pond. They told me if I had a van left after lunch I would be lucky. Well I guess I have the luck of the Irish; our van was still there with all our clothes inside. That evening I attended a joint meeting of the Long Island and Westchester Ponds. We then headed for the Hartford, Bay State Frederickton and Moncton Ponds; for the Annual Maritime Hockey Tournament, my first real live hockey game. I guess we saw more snow here than any place else during our travels. Onward to the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Ponds. Here I took my first ride ever on a Ski Mobile; it was a lot of fun. From St John we came back to DMLGG Speedy and Nancy Bennett's in Annapolis, MD and on to West Virginia and Virginia Ponds enroute home March 29.

We left on our next trip which carried us across the Rockies, into Canada and back, approximately 12,000 miles, with my 72 year old mother and 5 year old grandson. Our first stop was the Kentucky Pond where thanks to Bruce Bolton, I was presented with my Kentucky Colonel Commission. We left Kentucky at 3:00am and drove all the way to Omaha, Nebraska for a 5 o'clock dinner meeting. On to the Colorado and Utah Ponds; then we took 2 days off and stayed at a ranch up in the Grand Teton Mountains walking, riding the Ski Mobile with our family up in the mountains and taking pictures of the elk and moose herd. Then on to Idaho, Seattle, Oregon, British Columbia, Washington, Chinook and Alberta Ponds. We spent an extra day in Calgary with PMLGG Dennis and Joan Ellergodt. On to Edmonton, Alberta where we were hosted by the Edmonton Pond at the site of the old Fort Edmonton where we were served the 1847 Paul Cane dinner. We had 85 Ganders and ladies turn out for this dinner, which was the largest turnout we had for any dinner. Then on to meetings with the Saskatchewan and Regina Ponds, where we toured the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. On to the Manitoba, Thunder Bay, Michigan and Ohio Ponds; which was number 64 and home we came; after three weeks and three days on the road. The rest of the time we spent trying to get ready for the Grand Nest Convention.

My year, I feel, was a very successful one. I want to thank each and every pond for their hospitality during our visits. There were times at the end when I thought we would not make the 100%, but then someone would say, "Hey, we have never had a MLGG visit our Pond. Thanks a lot for coming." With that, who could stop? Many went far beyond what was necessary and we thank you. The memorabilia we received is laid out at our home. Our first order of business when we return is to begin putting it on our walls and preparing a display for the rest. We hope someday to return to your individual areas and visit longer. This year has indeed been a highlight to our life.

Editors note: For the records, Jerry took a 50% cut in pay for 1 year and went on a 50% work schedule in order to have the time he wanted to devote to Grand Nest. He traveled a total of 37,000 miles in his Blue Goose Van and 10,000 miles by air, making good his commitment to visit 100% of the Ponds, a first. This excess travel was done at his own personal expense with none paid by his employer nor out of the Grand Nest funds. This was explained at the Grand Nest Meeting, but for those not present, we feel you should know.

Members to the Committee to Report on the MLGG's report and to the Resolutions Committee were then appointed, followed by the Grand Wielders Report.

GWGQ Gravenstine reported that our membership had increased over the year by 191, bringing membership as of 6/30/87 to 8,574. However, he cautioned that this represented only about half of the Ponds reported. The following Ponds had increased their membership by 30 or more: Edmonton (30), Long Island and Michigan (33), Kentucky (38), Fresno (39), St Louis (40), Peace Garden (43) and Quebec (92).

The Grand Keeper, John Zeldam, followed with his report. He advised that the Grand Nest sustained a budget deficit of \$7,260.89 for the year and recommended approval of the motion to increase Grand Nest dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00/year with a comparable increase in GN payment for delegate expense. He noted that dues had not been increase since 1979, 8 years ago, despite a substantial drop in membership, lower interest rates and increased costs. In addition he suggested transferring \$6,000.00 from the reserve fund to the operating funds for upgrading office equipment.

The Judge Advocate, Charles Palmerton, gave his report, much of which is covered in the Pre-Convention meeting, supra. He advised of the proposed amendment of the Constitution, eliminating "male" from membership eligibility and some concerns regarding a recent US Supreme Court decision concerning discrimination against women involving the Rotary Int'l.

P. Albert Bienvenu, Louisiana Pond, Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, advised that the Georgia Pond was again proposing an amendment to the Constitution opening membership to females.

The Publicity Committee Chairman, Charles Kaltenthaler, gave a slide presentation of a proposed recruiting brochure which was well received. They will continue with its production, impressing on all the fact that we are a men-only fraternity.

Reports were also received from the Grand Nest Historian, James Group Service, Jurisprudence, Grand Nest Liaison, Charity and Education Committees.

The Pond Publication Committee announced the following awards and honorable mention:

- Honorable mention to Heart of America Pond’s “Sky Lines” for most informative legal briefs
- Honorable Mention to New Brunswick Pond’s “Droppings” for attractive appearance
- Honorable Mention to Washington Pond’s “Flightline” for Other Ponds activities section
- Runner up for Amateur Award to Colorado Pond’s “Flyway”
- Runner up for Professional Award to Michigan Pond’s “Michigander”
- Amateur Award Winner to Minnesota Pond’s “Goose Tracks”
- Professional Award Winner to Arizona Pond’s “Arizona Honker”

Wednesday, August 12, 1987

After coffee and rolls, the Grand Nest business session resumed promptly at 9:00am and roll was called by GWGQ Gravenstine.

The following awards were presented:

- Membership cup: Peace Garden Pond with an increase in membership of 63%
- Pond Publication Awards – see above committee reports
- Heart of America Fellowship Cup: Alamo Pond with least percentage drop in membership via drop-outs and resignations
- Kentucky Pond No Drop Out Cup: San Diego Pond, the only pond with no drop outs during the year.
- Regional Charity Award Winners;

Southern Region:	Most New & Reinstated Members	Kentucky	38
	Best Percentage increase	Kentucky	.3521
Canadian Region	Most New & Reinstated Members	Quebec	92
	Best Percentage increase	Quebec	.3826
Western Region	Most New & Reinstated Members	Fresno	39
	Best Percentage increase	Fresno	.2457
Eastern Region	Most New & Reinstated Members	Long Island	33
	Best Percentage increase	New York City	.0614
Central Region	Most New & Reinstated Members	Peace Garden	43
	Best Percentage increase	Peace Garden	.6296

Constitution and Bylaw Amendments were then moved and voted upon as follows:

1. To increase Grand Nest dues by \$3.00 from \$7.00 to \$10.00 was passed with but 8-10 “No”
2. To increase Delegate expense allowance from \$3.50 to \$5.00 was passed similarly
3. To provide “Canadian Dues Relief” as follows:
 - a. Effective Jul 1, 1987 dues for Canadian ganders will be the lesser of \$10.00 US or \$11.50 Canadian
 - b. Effective Jul 1, 1987 delegate expense will be reimbursed not to exceed the lesser of \$5.00 US or \$5.75 Canadian
 - c. Basically this change artificially limits the current Canadian/US exchange rate to 115%. Moreover, whenever the exchange rate exceeds 114.3%, Canadian Pond dues will be Canadian \$11.50 per member.
4. The Georgia Pond delegate moved that the “male only” eligibility requirement be eliminated. After proper second, the vote was taken with 35 in favor and 72 opposed. Motion failed.

This concluded the business session and MLGG called for adjournment until the following morning.

Thursday, August 13, 1987

The Toronto Pond made their presentation of their plans for our Convention in their beautiful city in 1988, following which the election and installation of officers was conducted.

The following Ganders were placed in nomination:

MLGG	Gordon C. Crutcher, Ontario Pond
GSF	Harry Merrifield California Pond

GCG	Timothy Holland, Bay State Pond
GGN	John T. Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GKGGE	Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond

All were elected by acclamation following which they were installed by PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton.

MLGG Gordon Crutcher's Address of Acceptance is reprinted herein in its entirety:

Address of Acceptance

“Thank you for conferring upon me the greatest honour which this Order can bestow, that of being elected your Most Loyal Grand Gander. It is a trust which I accept with much pleasure and humility. I pledge to you that I will endeavor to live up to the challenges which lie ahead. I will serve you and this wonderful Order to the limit of my abilities.

Every Most Loyal Grand Gander begins his term with some very specific aspirations. For example, PMLGG Jerry Simpson had a dream of visiting each of our 64 Ponds and of promoting the strengths of Blue Goose to as many individual Ganders as he could. PMLGG Robert Rice wanted to stimulate the Order to improve its internal communications. PMLGG Dennis Ellergodt was concerned with the effectiveness of our membership activities. PMLGG Douglass Snyder strove to bring about an increase in our charitable and educational endeavors.

All were most commendable aspirations and they continue to be ideals which we ignore at our peril. However, my personal challenge – and one which I hope you will share – differs in its emphasis from these. My concern lies with the industry's perception of our Order, our public image. When we improve our public image, we help resolve some of our major problems. When we devise or refine methods of favorably strengthening our public image, we also help to achieve our basic precepts.

Let us leave the industry with no doubt that we are an Honourable Order, that we fulfill a useful role. Too often outsiders are misled by our name and by the funny titles which identify our officers. Yes, we trace our origins to a humorous idea which occurred to our founders during a time when there was little opportunity for humor. The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 had occurred only sixty days earlier and had stunned the insurance industry with the magnitude of the losses it produced. Many wondered if the industry could live up to its obligation and survive.

In the midst of such gloom and uncertainty, some fun was conceived to entertain an annual meeting of fieldmen. The Order was designed to last only a day but it proved to be a beginning destined for good, and has now endured for more than eight decades. Our basic precepts of character, charity and fellowship have withstood the challenges of time and have helped attract thousands of insurance men to our ranks. Those precepts have proven to provide just as strong a foundation and an appeal today as they did in 1906.

The fun and good fellowship of Blue Goose cannot be denied and is one of its endearing qualities. There is little doubt the industry is well acquainted with our fraternal activities, perhaps even to the exclusion of the other meaningful aspects of Blue Goose.

Nothing would make me prouder than for you to take every opportunity to enlighten your fellow Ganders and business associates about the other side of Blue Goose, to give them an insight into those little-known but significant activities which have added substance and value to our Order over the past 81 years.

Tell the industry how we support Special Olympics – not just with dollars but with vital manpower as well. Tell them that Grand Nest has allocated almost 10% of its dues to charitable and educational activities. Tell how Grand Nest and its Ponds encourage continuing insurance education with donations to various insurance institutions in Canada and the United States. Tell your friends how Minnesota Pond has contributed almost \$20,000 and countless hours of labor to the operation of Camp Friendship, a camp for children and adults with mental retardation.

Tell how Colorado Pond established a Gifted Children's Fund, which assists gifted students of limited financial means to further their education. Tell how Quebec Pond undertakes a massive drive each Christmas to collect over seven tons of food for needy families. Tell them about the useful educational seminars which have been sponsored by Michigan and Ontario Ponds. Tell how an annual Charity Luncheon hosted by National Capital Pond each Christmas has now produced over \$80,000 in donations for their local Children's Hospital.

There are many other examples of our “quiet side” examples where our hearts and our concern for those less fortunate than ourselves have brought others encouragement and happiness. Our Grand Wielder would be delighted to share specific cases with you, as would any other Grand Nest Officer and the members of our Charity and Educational Committees.

Exactly 26 years ago this week, a wall of impenetrable proportions arose to seal off East Berlin from the free world. There should be no such wall between Blue Goose and the industry to which we all belong. Do not withhold our time-tested precepts and our many commendable accomplishments from that industry. Promote our cause freely and frequently. In so doing you will help ensure the Order continues to attract future generations of insurance people....plus help the industry realize that it is the true beneficiary of our efforts.

You have today elected five Grand Nest Officers to serve you and the Order for the next twelve months. There are some additional Grand Nest offices which are filled by appointment. I would like to now share those appointments with you.

PMLGG Browne Bolton has once again consented to serve as your Grand Nest Historian. Browne has been acting in this important capacity since August of 1978. The Order is deeply indebted to this outstanding gentleman from Kentucky and we are grateful that the recording of our history is once again in his capable hands.

PMLGG Charles Palmerton first agreed to assume the responsibilities of Judge Advocate in August of 1979. During the intervening eight years he has expertly guided our legal affairs. In particular, Chuck has impressed many delegates to Grand Nest with his knowledge of parliamentary procedure, wise counsel, diplomacy and competency. We are honoured that Chuck has again consented to be our Judge Advocate for next year.

Many of you will be surprised and saddened by the news that our Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Jack Gravenstine, plans upon retiring in August 1988. At that time Jack will have completed a 27 year term as Grand Wielder – a record that far surpasses that of any of his illustrious predecessors. Jack has become an institution in Blue Goose over the years and is one of our most important assets. He will not be an easy man to replace.

Being the warm and generous person that he is, Jack has consented to add to his responsibilities next year. In addition to his regular duties, Jack has consented to train his successor.

In view of Jack's pending retirement and in order to make the transition as smooth as possible, the Grand Nest is creating a new appointed officer position for 1987-1988, that of Assistant Grand Wielder. It gives me great pleasure to announce that he will be Terry Maloney, the current MLG of Wisconsin Home Nest.

The Grand Nest Committee appointments will be made following this meeting. Each of the Ganders involved will be personally notified of his appointment, which partially recognizes their exceptional dedication and commitment to Blue Goose. However there is one set of Committee appointments that I would like to announce at this time.

Yesterday, you the delegates to this 81st Grand Nest Convention voted not to broaden the membership eligibility requirements of our Order. Until these requirements are changed in the prescribed constitutional manner, I believe Grand Nest has the responsibility to see these membership standards are not circumvented by other means.

We are a male insurance fraternity. The Grand Nest is prepared to vigorously resist any legal challenge to this position. In order that we can respond to any such challenge, I am creating the Contingency Defense Committee.

It will be their duty to explore ways of enlisting both financial and legal assistance from any acceptable source to help defend our position. I will be asking five of our members, each of whom has an extensive legal background, to serve on this committee. They will be PMLGG and JA Chuck Palmerton, PMLGG David White, PMLG Albert Bienvenu, Jr, PMLG Ron Fenerty and MLG Charles Smith.

Once again, I appreciate the honour which you have bestowed upon me. The other Grand Nest Officers and myself look forward to making our contributions this year to the betterment and development of Blue Goose."

The Report on MLGG Jerry Simpson's Report was given by Browne Bolton (the committee comprised of PMLGG's Bolton, Hunter and Luck), who commended our newest PMLGG, Jerry Simpson, on his historical and unprecedented achievement in visiting all Ponds and his personal sacrifice of his time and money. A job well done!

The Resolution Committee (PMLGGs Hannan, White and Kregel) presented appropriate resolutions thanking and commending the many people involved in planning and executing this wonderful 81st Grand Nest Convention.

MLGG Gordon Crutcher after closing remarks, called for adjournment of this, our 81st Grand Nest business meeting.

Our 81st Convention concluded this evening with a fabulous meal followed by the singing of Broadway show tunes by noted singers, Jack and Sally Jenkins and the Big Band Sounds of the Bob Glendon orchestra.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, Thursday Aug 13, 1987

MLGG Gordon Crutcher called the meeting to order with the following in attendance:

MLGG Gordon Crutcher	PMLGG Earl Hannan
GSF Harry Merrifield	PMLGG Gordon Crowther
GCG Timothy Holland	PMLGG Al Kregel
GGN John Zeldam	PMLGG Doug Snyder
GKGGE Bruce Bolton	PMLGG Frank Hunter
GWGQ J. B. Gravenstine	PMLGG David White
AGWGQ Terry Maloney	PMLGG King Luck
PMLGG/JA Chuck Palmerton	PMLGG Jerry Simpson
PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton	

MLGG Crutcher confirmed the following appointments which were passed by acclamation by the Executive Committee:

Judge Advocate	Chuck Palmerton
Grand Nest Historian	Browne Bolton

Grand Wielder	Jack Gravenstinne
Asst Grand Wielder	Terry Maloney

Bank cards and resolutions were executed and signed by MLGG Gordon Crutcher, GWGQ J. B. Gravenstine and AGWGQ Terrence Maloney.

Grand Wielder's contract was prepared by JA Palmerton, moved and approved by the Executive Committee for one year at the previously approved stipend.

The Host Pond Fund was approved at \$3,515.50 and the GWGQ was instructed to issue a check in said amount to the Florida Pond.

The 1987-1988 Budget was approved in the amount of \$77,450.00 which was nearly \$13,000 more than the expenses incurred the previous year. However this budget includes nearly \$20,000 for much needed computer equipment for the Grand Nest Office.

Grand Nest Officer duties were assigned.

The Mid Year meeting will be held Jan 29 – Feb 1, 1988 at the Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, California.

GKGGE Bolton will attend the CPCU/IIA Annual Awards meeting in San Antonio, TX Oct 11-14, 1987.

After considerable discussion, it was decided to drop further efforts to produce a "recruiting brochure".

Following discussion of a few other mundane issues, the meeting was adjourned to prepare for the final banquet and ball.

1987 – 1988**Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting, January 29-31, 1988, Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, California**

The following Officers and Guests were in attendance:

MLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond	GGN John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GSF Harry Merrifield, California Pond	GKGGE Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond
GCG Tim Holland, Bay State Pond	PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton, Kentucky Pond
AGWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG/JA Chuck Palmerton, Seattle Pond
GWGQ J. B. Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
	PMLGG Frank Hunter, Arizona Pond
	PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond
	PMLGG P. J. Simpson, Florida Pond
	PMLGG David White, National Capital Pond
	FL Convention Chrm: Hal Beasley
	CA Convention Chrm: Dick Philippsen

Future Convention Planning:

1989	California Pond	8/5-8/89	Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, CA
1990	Bay State Pond	8/19-22/90	Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA
1991	Michigan Pond	8/18-21/91	Westin Hotel, Detroit, MI
1992	Kentucky Pond	8/16-20-92	Galt House East, Louisville, KY
1993	Edmonton Pond	NA	NA

Scheduled plans are well underway and fund raising is proceeding satisfactorily with each pond.

Potential future host Ponds and candidates:

Canadian Region: Edmonton or Montreal in 1993
 Western Region: San Diego probable in 1994
 Eastern Region: Westchester Pond probable in 1995
 Central: Heart of America possible in 1996
 Southern Region: Louisiana Pond possible in 1997

PMLGG Simpson announced that the 81st Convention in Orlando resulted in a surplus of \$4,092.29 and he produced a check in like amount payable to the Grand Nest, asking that it be placed in the Grand Nest Travel Fund. Thanks, Jerry and the Florida Pond for this most generous gesture.

Regional Concerns and miscellaneous items:

- Various Ponds of concern are: Chinook, Penn, Garden State, West Virginia, Kansas, Ohio, Magic Empire, Mississippi, Virginia, Texas and Palmetto Ponds.
- Grand Nest liability coverage is now with US Fire Insurance Company with \$1,000,000 limits on a CGL form.
- Wielders Gravenstine and Maloney announced that we have changed jewelers from Balfour Co to the Errfmeyer & Company in Milwaukee who have provided lower cost, better selection and promotion of new items.
- Several other miscellaneous, albeit somewhat mundane matters were discussed.

All were then invited to take a tour of the magnificent Queen Mary which will be the site of our 1989 Convention. We then adjourned for a delightful dinner in the elegant Sir Winston's, the liners premier restaurant.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, Saturday, August 27, 1988, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Crutcher at 2:00pm with roll call as follows:

Gordon Crutcher, MLGG, Ontario Pond	PMLGG Robert Wiseman, National Capital Pond
Harry Merrifield, GSF, California Pond	PMLGG Frank Hunter, Arizona Pond
Timothy Holland, GCG, Bay State Pond	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
John Zeldam, GGN, Michigan Pond	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
Bruce Bolton, GKGGE, Kentucky Pond	PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond
J. B. Gravenstine, GWGQ, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Alfred Kregel, Long Island Pond
Terry Maloney, Asst GW, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Doug Snyder, Wisconsin Home Nest
C. I. Palmerton, JA, Seattle Pond	PMLGG King Luck, Alabama Pond

Browne Bolton, GNH, Kentucky Pond

PMLGG Robert Rice, Colorado Pond

PMLGG David White, National Capital Pond

PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond

Also present were Julien Mongeon and Trevor Newitt, DMLGGs from the Quebec and Edmonton Ponds and Barry Robinson, Convention Co-Chair.

This was one of the largest, if not the largest, turnout of Officers, Past and Present, at our Annual Conventions.

Pending and Future Convention Sites: MLGG Gordon Crutcher advised that there were 495 registrants for the Convention, with 60% of the Convention financed through Registration fees. Fund raising by future host ponds are progressing satisfactorily. Tim Holland advised that the Bay State Pond has suffered through some major setbacks however things seem to be turning around. As for potential future sites: Montreal and Edmonton are both in contention. San Diego is probable in the West. Central is looking to Heart of America and the South has received a commitment from the Louisiana Pond.

Regional Concerns: San Francisco Pond has some eligibility questions; West Virginia, Penn, Kansas, Ohio and Texas Ponds need help.

Terry Maloney introduced the new line of jewelry, etc.

The exchange rate between US and Canada is \$1.20 for 1988-89 and will be reviewed annually.

The Prince Edward is now a puddle of the New Brunswick Pond.

The new computer system is near completion.

82nd Anniversary Grand Nest Convention, Aug 27-31, 1988, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

Saturday, Aug 27 was a day for registration and meeting old and new friends arriving for our Convention.

Sunday, Aug 28: This day was reserved for an all day excursion to Niagara Falls. The buses left late morning and the guides upon the buses provided informative information throughout the trip to the Falls. We were all treated to a boat trip on the "Maid of the Mist" allowing us to view the Falls "up close and wet". The evening was topped off with a wonderful meal at either the Minolta or Skylon revolving restaurants in the sky, overlooking the Falls. It was then back on the buses for the trip home.

Monday, Aug 29: Breakfast was sponsored by the Manitoba Pond followed by the Opening Ceremonies called to order at 8:45am by MLGG Crutcher. The Shrine Colour Guard and Pipe Band of Rameses Temple, Toronto performed the presentation of colours of Canada and the United States followed by the singing of "O'Canada" led by Jean Dore, PMLGG or the Quebec Pond and "America" eloquently led by GGN John Zeldam.

Invocation was given by the Rev. Ridley Williams. He has been a member of Blue Goose for 40 years and his father was also a Blue Goose member.

MLGG Crutcher then introduced those seated at the head table, followed by introductions of the spouses of the Grand Nest Officers. He then introduced the PMLGGs and their wives who were in attendance....the largest such gathering in anyone's memory.

Barry Robinson, MLG, Ontario Pond and Co-Chairman of the Convention welcomed all to Toronto and the Convention.

PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton then made a special presentation in behalf of all the current and past Grand Nest Officers to GWGQ J. B. Jack Gravenstine for his many years of service to our Order, serving as GWGQ since 1962, longer than any other former GWGQ.

The Memorial Service followed, conducted by members of the Ontario Pond, accompanied by a Scottish bagpipe.

The Model Initiation was conducted immediately prior to our luncheon by members of the National Capital Pond, dressed in formal attire. Their performance was masterful to say the least.

Promptly at 12:30pm the All Industry Luncheon commenced with the usual introduction of Officers and special guests, followed by a wonderful meal. R. M. Jamieson, Chairman of the Board of Zurich Companies in America was our keynote speaker and spoke of the ever changing cycles within our industry.

Following lunch, the annual MLG, WGQ and Delegates Meeting was held with AGWGQ Terry Maloney introducing the Grand Nest computer system. It is hoped that it will be fully operational by the end of the year. He also introduced our new line of Blue Goose jewelry through our new jeweler, Erffmeyer & Son, Inc.

To cap of the great opening day, we were treated to “Canadian Night” with a bountiful buffet representing the foods from all the Provinces of Canada followed by the comedy team of Malton & Hamilton who had us laughing in the aisles.

Tuesday, Aug 30: The Nova Scotia Pond hosted our breakfast, followed immediately by Regional meetings for Ganders to discuss individual topics of interest.

The Business Meeting reconvened at 8:45am with roll call the first order of business. The following Ponds were absent: Chinook, Dakota, Kansas, Magic Empire, Mississippi, Palmetto, Virginia and West Virginia.

MLGG Crutcher introduced the DMLGGs in attendance and it was then time for our MLGG to give his report of his year in office. It is included herein in its entirety.

Most Loyal Grand Gander’s Report

“Grand Nest Officers, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Delegates and Ganders:

There remain but a few hours in my term as your Most Loyal Grand Gander. This moment is obviously a poignant one for me. Hundreds of impressions, memories of good fellowship and some continuing concerns are all competing for attention.

The year has not lacked for its share of challenges, of satisfactions and of frustrations. I hope you will agree that overall it has been a good year for Blue Goose. Some significant plateaus were reached which pleased us at the Grand Nest level. Let me share some of these highlights, and other thoughts, with you now.

You will shortly learn that membership has again increased, for the second year in a row. May this trend long continue.

The Order finally has its own computer system. All of our hardware is in place. Most of the software we need is being utilized, although it does not have to be paid for until next year. Custom membership programs have been developed for us and we have just completed putting every known member’s records on line.

Despite the considerable expenditure involved for this system, we are leaving Grand Nest in good financial condition. Tight financial controls, plus that most welcome increase in dues last July, helped produce a surplus of some \$10,000. ..enough to pay for the computer hardware. Most of my traveling was done at no expense to the Order, which also helped in a modest way.

Your Grand Nest Officers collectively made a significant number of Pond visitations this year. We made a particular effort to meet with both the Officers and members of a Pond, to give maximum impact to our visits.

The circumstances in Toronto made it necessary for me to assume the Co-Chairmanship of the 1988 Grand Nest Convention, as well as discharging the duties of MLGG. The time demanded by this additional challenge, plus the inevitable business pursuits of one’s avocation, regretfully compelled me to curtail the number of personal Pond visitations to only 20% of the Ponds, in both Canada and the United States. My fellow Officers considerable supplemented this activity, again demonstrating the depth of commitment they share to this Order.

We would like to thank all the Ponds for the many courtesies they extended to us during those visitations. Good fellowship abounds in this Order. We are most appreciative of the gracious and hospitable way you welcomed us into your meetings and your homes.

This has been a year of transitions in the most important of all the Grand Nest offices, the office of Grand Wielder. Every MLG knows his most important Officer is the Wielder. We were doubly blessed this year to have two Wielders working for the Grand Nest. They both discharged their duties so admirably that it is sad to now be losing the services of one of them.

GWQ Jack Gravenstine has left an indelible impression on both the office he held longer than any of his predecessors, and the membership at large. Those of us who have had constant contact with Jack could not help but be enriched by the warmth and character of this most dedicated Gander.

But by the time this Convention is over, the Order will have a new Grand Wielder, Terrence Maloney. This very likeable Irishman offers both a “gift of gab” and the talent to carry out his assigned tasks with distinction. I feel the Grand Nest Officers have chosen wisely. Terry has frequently demonstrated this past year that he is the ideal man for the job.

Earlier I spoke of the concerns I feel for Blue Goose, those challenges yet unresolved but requiring action. The most important of these is our membership eligibility issue...whether or not to expand our ranks to include women. As MLGG my perspective is perhaps different than yours. I must be receptive to the arguments offered by both sides and try to react in the best interests of the Order. For the record, it is my personal belief that we should remove this last major restriction to membership eligibility. While we stated as a male fraternity, the business world has changed in the last 82 years and we should not be ignoring those changes. Our industry can only benefit by having a general insurance fraternity, open to both sexes.

The messenger is not important in this issue....but the message is. This occasion is not the forum to delve into the issue. Just be pleased that our Constitution provides the forum to continue the debate, without any limitation.

Having declared my personal feelings, may I remind you of an obligation that I take most seriously. During the Installation Ceremony in Orlando last August, I solemnly pledged before all members present to obey and support the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. I have done so and will continue to support our Constitution. It provides ample provision for change, which the membership has often utilized in the past.

However, we do not want our Constitution changed for us by outsiders, by non-members. The majority will of our members is our catalyst to effect any changes. This is the democratic way. This is the Blue Goose way.

My strong belief that only WE have the right to change OUR constitution prompted me to create the Contingency Defense Committee. It was my first act as MLGG and perhaps the most misunderstood action any MLGG has taken. The sole purpose of this Committee is to respond to any attempt by an outsider to try and change our Constitution for us. The Committee has no interest whatsoever in any internal proposal for change. Your right as a member to propose changes is enshrined in our Constitution and this right will never be denied you. The Contingency Defense Committee will only respond in case of legal action against us, designed to compel us to act against the majority wish of our members.

I am very proud of the composition and activities of this Committee. They have constantly shared their considerable exchange of information with me, so I am well aware of the time and talent expended. It is unfortunate the Committee needs to exist at all. But it does so to safeguard the Constitutional guarantees we all want to see preserved. We will change our OWN Constitution on the women issue, or any other issue, when you the members vote to do so.

In closing, may I thank all the Grand Nest Officers, past and present, for their valuable guidance and support during the five years I have been involved with Grand Nest. These gentlemen represent everything that is best about our Order. It has been one of life's greatest pleasures to have come to know them and to have worked with them.

Our Judge Advocate, PMLGG Charles Palmerton, and our Grand Historian, Browne Bolton, deserve particular commendation for the outstanding job each has done.

To you the members, thank you again for the honour you bestowed twelve months ago by electing me to the highest office in Blue Goose. I deeply appreciate your confidence and for having made possible one of the most memorable years anyone could ever wish to have. Thank you also for coming to Toronto to be the guests of Ontario Pond at the 82nd Grand Nest Convention. We are delighted to have you with us.”

Following a standing ovation for our MLGG, assignments were made to the Committee on the MLGG's Report and the Resolutions Committee.

GWGQ Gravenstine then gave his annual report, revealing a corrected membership as of 6/30/87 of 8,518 and a membership as of 6/30/88 of 8,605; an increase of 87 members. Once again this is premised upon only about 50% of Ponds reporting, however even with late reporting, it appears we will have an increase of 19 members. He then recognized the top ten Ponds for new and reinstated members as follows: Manitoba (21); Nova Scotia (22); Wisconsin (23); Kentucky (25); New Brunswick (27); Regina (28); Arizona (36); Michigan (38); St Louis (40); and Quebec (66)

GKGGG Bruce Bolton gave the Keepers report, revealing that Grand Nest completed the fiscal year with a surplus of about \$1,450.00. This was a pleasant turn around from deficits of the past, helped by the return by the Florida Pond of Host Pond Fund monies given for its Convention of last year.

Charles Palmerton, JA, followed with his report. He advised there were few problems or concerns submitted to him this past year. A Constitutional amendment will be proposed during this Convention to remove the word “male” from membership eligibility requirements. He mentioned that a report from the Contingency Defense Fund will be given later.

Brief reports were given by the Grand Nest Historian; for the James Group Service; and the Charity Committee. The Constitution and Bylaw Committee advised that the Georgia Pond’s amendment to eliminate the word “male” from our membership eligibility requirements will be proposed in the general business session.

Charles Palmerton, JA and chairman of the Contingency Defense Fund then gave its report, advising that its purpose is to represent and defend if necessary the majority view of the members of Blue Goose and that the majority of members have expressed a desire to remain an all male private organization. The consensus of the committee members (PMLGG Palmerton, White and Fenerty and Charles Smith and P. Albert Bienvenu) in order to reinforce the basic principles upon which Blue Goose was founded we suggest consideration of the following:

1. More private meetings (members only) be held each year
2. Guests be permitted only at social functions
3. Rituals and Pond business meetings be formalized as outlined in the Constitution and By Laws as well as the ritual manual
4. Networking or job placement activities be prohibited during Blue Goose meetings or sponsored activities
5. Limit, if not eliminate HOBGI sponsored functions which are for the benefit of the insurance industry and not Blue Goose
6. Be sure that eligibility requirements for membership be adhered to.

The committee also recommended the Executive Committee consider becoming a member of CONPOR (Conference of Private Organizations) which provides the exchange of information and defenses to private organizations against today’s challenges to the existence of “private” organizations.

Reports were then received from the Education, Grand Nest Liaison, Jurisprudence, Membership and Publicity Committees. The publication awards resulted in:

- Honorable mention for consistent performance the past five years to the Alamo Pond “News Letter”
- Honorable mention for the most aggressive publication started in 1987-88 to the Tennessee Pond “Pond Poop”
- Amateur Award Runner Up: Tennessee “Pond Poop”
- Professional Award Runner Up: California Pond “Flight”
- Amateur Award Winner: Washington Pond “Flightline”
- Professional Award Winner: Seattle Pond “Honk”

Presentation of Awards followed:

Membership Cup	New Brunswick Pond
Pond Publication Winners	Washington and Seattle Ponds
Heart of America Fellowship Cup	Edmonton Pond (least % loss in membership via drop outs and resignation)
Kentucky Pond No Drop Out Cup	No winners
Regional Charity Awards:	
Canadian	Quebec most new and reinstated members
	New Brunswick Best percentage increase
Western	Arizona most new and reinstated members
	Arizona Best percentage increase
Eastern	New York City most new and reinstated members
	Long Island best percentage increase
Central	St Louis most new and reinstated members
	Wisconsin best percentage increase
Southern	Kentucky most new and reinstated members
	Kentucky best percentage increase.

Constitutional Amendments: JA Palmerton advised that it requires two thirds majority to pass a constitutional amendment. The Georgia Pond delegate, seconded by the Minnesota delegate, proposed an amendment to eliminate the word “male” from membership eligibility. Roll call vote was taken, resulting in 36 for and 70 opposed with 2 abstentions. Motion failed.

MLGG Crutcher than called for adjournment until Wednesday morning.

Wednesday, Aug 31:

The Quebec Pond hosted our breakfast following which the California Pond gave their presentation of the upcoming 1989 Convention aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach California.

After a short break, the election of officers was conducted. This years election proved to be an exciting event with two candidates being nominated for the position of GKGGE: Julien Mongeon of the Quebec Pond and Trevor Newitt of the Edmonton Pond. The nominations proceeded accordingly with a secret ballot for the position of GKGGE. The secret ballot produced a vote decidedly in favor of Trevor Newitt resulting in the following slate of officers:

MLGG	Harry Merrifield, California Pond
GSF	Timothy Holland, Bay State Pond
GCG	John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GGN	Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond
GKGGE	Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond

PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond, conducted the installation of officers.

Newly installed MLGG Merrifield then gave his speech of acceptance which follows in its entirety:

Address of Acceptance

“Past Most Loyal Gander Gordon Crutcher, Past Most Loyal Ganders, Grand Nest Officers and fellow Ganders:

I stand here in awe of the position which has been conferred upon me. It imposes a trust which I will endeavor to assume in all humility.

Each of my predecessors has begun their term with some specific goals, however as my immediate predecessor, Gordon Crutcher, has indicated, he was concerned with the insurance industry’s perceptive view of our order of the Honorable Blue Goose International. Hopefully it will be possible to convey the image of a social fraternity and to pursue the growth of the order in the manner that our membership is pursued

We must continue to foster the educational endeavors of the past however, foremost the social aspect. We must recruit on a personal and individual approach. Further, our charitable projects must be continued and increased wherever possible.

The basic precepts of the Blue Goose can be best served by maintaining the social image, which probably has been one of the bulwarks of our survival to this date. Hopefully, in the coming year I will be able to visit a goodly number of the ponds projecting this thinking. If at all possible, in pursuing this thinking, the membership decline can be reversed.

I wish to thank you for conferring upon me this honor and hopefully will not fall short in the performance of the obligations which the office entails.

Thank you.”

Thus followed reports from the Committee on MLGG Crutcher’s year in office (PMLGG Awes, Kregel, Morgan and White) and Resolutions Committee (PMLGG Luck, Rice, Simpson and Snyder), following which the Business meeting was adjourned until next year.

The final luncheon of the Convention was the conventional “Brats & Beans” with a couple unconventional twists, i.e. our spouses were invited to dine with us and this was the appropriate time to “roast” our esteemed GWGQ, Jack Gravenstine as well as extend our appreciation and love for him and the work he has done for our Order. THANK YOU, JACK!

The balance of the afternoon was free for other than the Grand Nest officers who attended the Post Convention Meeting.

The final banquet and ball commenced at 6:00pm with cocktails and a dinner followed by listening and dancing to the Big Band Sounds of Henry Cuesta and his orchestra.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, Aug 31, 1988, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

Roll call was taken and the following officers and guests answered the call:

MLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond	PMLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond
GSF Tim Holland, Bay State Pond	PMLGG David White, National Capital Pond
GCG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
GGN Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond	PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond
GKGGE Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Frank Hunter, Arizona Pond
PMLGG/JA Chuck Palmerton, Seattle Pond	PMLGG King Luck, Alabama Pond

PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton, Kentucky Pond

PMLGG Robert Rice, Colorado Pond

PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond

PMLGG Robert Wiseman, National Capital Pond

PGWGQ J. B. Jack Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest

DMLGG P. Albert Bienvenu, Louisiana Pond

DMLGG Tom Charbonneau, Heart of America Pond

MLGG Merrifield appointed and the Executive Committee confirmed the following appointments:

Judge Advocate

PMLGG Charles Palmerton

Grand Nest Historian

PMLGG Browne Bolton

Grand Wielder

Terrence Maloney

Bank cards and resolutions were executed by the MLGG and GWGQ

Grand Wielder contract was executed by all Officers and the GWGQ

Honorariums were granted by the Executive Committee:

JA Secretary

Diane Wiggins

\$100

PMLGG Crutcher Secretaries:

Diane Arjoon

\$100

Debbie Steffensen

\$100

Host Pond Fund was approved in the amount of \$3,517.00 to the Ontario Pond Convention Fund

Moved and seconded by Merrifield and Holland for approval of officer expenses – passed unanimously

1988-89 Budget was approved reflecting income of \$83,600 and expense of \$81,800 resulting in budgeted surplus of \$1,800

Grand Nest Committees and DMLGG appointments were made and MLGG Merrifield stated he would advise each of their duties

PMLGG Doug Snyder again generously agreed to provide Grand Nest stationary

GCG John Zeldam will be our representative at the annual CPCU/IA Awards meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio

PMLGG Ivar Awes indicated he would look into changing the Constitution to reflect a “one man – one vote” rule

PMLGG David White will determine cost of joining CONPOR

Canadian Ponds will be notified of the fixed exchange rate for 1988-1989 fiscal year of \$1.20

PMLGG King Luck will be updating the “So You Want TO Be A Grand Nest Officer” and “So You Are Now A Grand Nest Officer”

The meeting was adjourned.

1988 – 1989

Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting, Jan 27-29, 1989, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA

MLGG Harry Merrifield called the meeting to order and roll call was taken with the following Executive Committee Members, visiting Officers, PMLGGs and guests in attendance:

MLGG Harry M. Merrifield, California Pond
GSF Tim Holland, Bay State Pond
GCG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest

GGN Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond
GEGGE Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
PMLGG/GA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond
PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton, Kentucky Pond
PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
PMLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond
PMLGG Al Kregel, Long Island Pond
PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond
PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest

Scheduled and Future Conventions: Planning and fundraising for scheduled conventions is proceeding satisfactorily with each Host Pond. The San Diego Pond appears ready to go with its candidate, Clifford Needham, for 1994. In the Eastern Region, Westchester Pond appears interested. Heart of America Pond, Central Region has indicated it no longer is interested in hosting a convention and the search for a candidate goes on. In the Southern Region, DMLGG P. Albert Bienvenu, Louisiana Pond, has indicated his reluctance to his nomination for Grand Nest office due to time constraints, so we may have to look elsewhere. No Ponds in the Canadian Region have expressed interest in hosting a convention to date.

GWGQ Maloney reported that operating expenses are under budget and revenue is ahead of projections to date. The computer software system is on schedule. The new jewelry program with Erffmeyer & Son is running smoothly. Overall, the Grand Nest office is in very good order.

PMLGG Gordon Crutcher advised that the 1988 Convention in Toronto resulted in a surplus and he presented the Grand Nest with a check in the amount of \$3,517.50 representing refund of the Host Pond Fund.

GWGQ Maloney advised that the fixed monetary exchange rate of \$1.20 has been very helpful and recommends continuation of this practice. Some accounting practices are being revised by our CPA.

There was considerable discussion regarding the inclusion of female membership in Blue Goose. The Michigan Pond has indicated that they may amend their own Pond Constitution to enable the initiation of females if the Grand Nest refused to change its position. MLGG Merrifield stated that all Ponds must operate within the Constitution and individual violations may not be allowed to exist. During this discussion, JA Palmerton announced that he was resigning from the Contingency Defense Committee due to a perceived conflict of interest with his service as JA. Most, if not all, attendees expressed their support of female membership. As a result, MLGG Merrifield moved and GCG Zeldam seconded a motion to propose an amendment to Article IV of the Constitution, striking the word "male" from membership eligibility which will be taken up in Long Beach.

The meeting was adjourned.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, Saturday, Aug 5, 1989, Hotel Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Harry Merrifield at 2:00pm with the following in attendance:

MLGG Harry M Merrifield, California Pond
GSF Timothy Holland, Bay State Pond
GCG John T. Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GGN Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond
GKGGGE Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
PGWGQ J. B. Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest
GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond

PMLGG Frank Hunter, Arizona Pond
PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
PMLGG Alfred Kregel, Long Island Pond
PMLGG King Luck, Alabama Pond
PMLGG Robert Rice, Colorado Pond
PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
PMLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond
DMLGG Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond

PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton, Kentucky Pond

Conv Chrm Dick Philippsen, California Pond

It was announced that the San Diego Pond will be nominating DMLGG Clifford Needham for GKGGE.

Budgets for all pending convention sites with the exception of Bay State are in good shape. The Bay State Pond is changing its Convention committee and revising its registration fees and program to meet reduced fund raising projections.

A discussion of Regional concerns and delinquent Pond dues, and general housekeeping duties was held, followed by the assignment of officers for presentation of awards, etc.

The procedures and presentation of the proposed amendment to Article IV of the Constitution, eliminating the word “male” from membership eligibility requirements was discussed and agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned following discussion of some miscellaneous items at 5:00 pm.

83rd Grand Nest Convention, August 6 – 9, 1989, Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, California

Sunday, Aug 6, 1989: The Convention kicked off with a fun filled evening “Hooray For Hollywood” them party with special guest appearances by Charlie Chaplin, Burt Reynolds, Elizabeth Taylor and other prominent Hollywood stars. (OK. So they were impersonators.....but who cares...especially after a few libations!) Great fun and food was shared by all, followed by dancing and musical entertainment and climaxing with a musically synchronized fireworks display off the Queen Mary’s fantail.. Spectacular!

Monday, Aug 7, 1989:

The opening ceremonies of the 83rd Grand Nest Convention was called to order by MLGG Harry Merrifield, followed by the presentation of the National Colors of the United States and Canada by the Long Beach Boy Scout Troop. The singing of the “Star Spangled Banner” and “O’Canada” were led by Richard Anthony, California Pond and Gary Best, Edmonton Pond respectively. Invocation was given by Monsignor Francis M. Osborne of Our Lady of Grace Church, Encino, CA.

MLGG Merrifield proceeded with introductions of those seated at the head table; spouses of the Grand Nest Officers; and PMLGGs and their wives in attendance.

Captain Ritchie of the Queen Mary welcomed all aboard and presented MLGG Merrifield with the “key to the City”.

PMLGs Tom Tanana, Paul Roberts and Gil White of the San Diego Pond conducted a warm and dignified Memorial Service, recognizing those departed ganders over the past year. A special tribute was given by PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton in memory of PMLGG Howard L. Dobbs, herein reprinted in its entirety:

In Memory of PMLGG Howard L. Dobbs

“My first meeting with Howard Dobbs was in Chicago, 1964 at an IIA Seminar honoring Fieldmen of the year (Howard, Ohio and me, Kentucky) where we developed a friendship lasting even until now in the Halls of Memory. Next I recall the 1965 St Louis Convention and the election battle between Howard and our also friend Henry Teicher, the Heart of America Pond; who can forget the “Hello Dobbsie” theme? After Howard’s election and with my own election as GKGGE two years later, we served on Grand Nest together, perhaps as mavericks but dedicated to Blue Goose; Howard was a born leader and as MLGG hosted a wonderful Convention in Toledo, Ohio in August 1970.

Now, I proudly and humbly, with deepest sorrow on behalf of the entire Honorable Order, do offer this loving memorial to Howard who took his last long flight May 11, 1989 from Pueblo, Colorado. He was cremated May 15, and his remains scattered in his beloved mountains.

Son of a pipe fitter, Howard was born October 9, 1920 in Joliet, Illinois. He attended Joliet Public Schools, graduating from Lockport, Illinois High. In 1949 he graduated from the University of Illinois with considerable insurance schooling.

Perhaps because of his insurance education, he joined, also in 1949, the Hicks-Mattson Agency in Joliet. He later became a Field Representative of Crum and Forster for several years before joining the Toledo National Insurance Company as President and CEO, a position held during his Grand Nest tenure of office. During this period (1960s) he was quite active in the Ohio Fire Prevention Association and Field Clubs.

In 1947 Howard married Joan Finch who survives and the union was blessed with three children: son John, an electrical engineer in Washington D.C.; a daughter, Janet, married to an Air Force Captain now in Germany; son Steve, in sales with an insurance general agency. All of the three children did complete college to Howard and Jo’s delight.

After active Grand Nest years, Howard's company was sold (1974) to Credit General Insurance Company and moved eventually in 1976 to Springfield, Ohio, where Howard retained his position until fully retiring in 1982. In 1984, after fishing and traveling for two years, he bought a Pueblo Insurance Agency only to sell same in 1986 and returned to the "good life – retirement". At the time of his death, he was "semi-operating" a one man agency working with banks but mainly enjoying the mountains and the slow pace of life in the west.

In his own biographical letter in 1986, Howard said, "I consider it an honor to have held the highest office of Blue Goose and have many fond memories." Indeed, we all feel the same about Howard and his 19 years with Grand Nest. Hail friend and Farewell."

The Model Initiation was conducted by members of the Seattle Pond, led by MLG Jack Howard. Attired in nautical uniforms, fitting for our occasion aboard the Queen Mary, they blended precision and tradition to the initiation ceremony.

Immediately following the Model Initiation we all boarded a chartered ship for a cruise to Catalina Island for an enchanted afternoon and evening. Arriving at the island, most took one or more of the various tours available and/or visited the numerous shops and sites. As the evening grew near, we moved toward the beach where we enjoyed a private beach party with a wonderful buffet dinner featuring grilled swordfish. As the sun was setting we returned to our ship for the evening cruise home to the Queen Mary.

Tuesday, Aug 8, 1989

Immediately following breakfast, Regional meetings convened for the delegates and ganders, after which MLGG Harry Merrifield called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken by GWGQ Maloney with the following Ponds absent: Chinook, Dakota, Fredericton, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Palmetto, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

MLGG Merrifield introduced the DMLGGs At Large present as follows: PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Eastern Region; PMLG Thomas Charbonneau, Central Region; Albert Bienvenu, Jr., Southern Region; James Sinclair, Canadian Region; Julien Mongeon, Canadian Region; and Clifford Needham, Western Region.

MLGG Harry Merrifield then gave his report of his year in office which follows in its entirety.

Most Loyal Gander's Report
MLGG Harry M. Merrifield

"Fellow Officers, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Delegates, Ganders:

August the 31st, 1988 marked my installation s the Most Loyal Grand Gander and the start of what could be described accurately as a tumultuous year. The vote on the controversial sex issue developed both visual and vocal dissent. This was reflected not only loudly but, near physical resolution.

This honorable order was founded in 1906 as a fun-oriented social fraternity and included a viable constitution. Included in the constitution was a spelled out method of amending same in a fair minded manner. There also followed a means of choosing members, all of which were voluntary.

The voluntary acceptance of membership in this organization did include some obligations. The initiation ritual points up the need to support and adhere to the directions of the constitution.

What has evidenced itself this year is absolutely shameful. Threats of withholding dues, threats of legal attack as well as the poison pen.

It is obvious at this time, that in order to go forward, we must have adult, mature thinking and direction. It is also indicated that under no circumstances is the lowering of the age for membership with this need indicated.

The target primarily was the contingency defense committee. Why this committee should be singled out is not understood, its development primarily being that of making certain that our pursuits were not only legal, but proper. This committee was chaired and peopled by professionals who gave of their time and professional ability. Its purpose was to keep the body politic well informed as to our status and the possible violation of any state or national statutes. Some of the protest activity was

absolutely inane. Probably a good description would be that “Should it be that we cannot be the Queen of the May, we will take our ball and bat and go home.” Unfortunately, and this is the proper term, these people did not take their ball or bat and go home, that is, form their own organization or leave the Blue Goose, indicating that the threats were idle. These are not the supporters of the principals of Blue Goose, and are not now and could not in the future be considered good Blue Geese.

The aforementioned situation, particularly the continuation and vicious nature of the sex amendment issue were the primary topic of the mid year meeting. The mid year meeting usually is one wherein the state of the order is discussed with close attention to the upcoming Grand Nest Convention. It usually involves help and assistance for this particular undertaking. However, in this instance, the formulation of a Grand Nest supported amendment was developed and disseminated.

Despite the fact that the aforementioned situation was not only disturbing and distasteful, my year did find the elements of what can be considered good Blue Goose.

The social aspect was clearly reflected in a visit to the Hawaiian Pond. This is a small Pond, however most enthusiastic. They had present a speaker, or possibly I should call him a huckster, of expensive golfing equipment. It has been said that the insurance industry is in a state of turmoil, however, these gentlemen were considering \$500.00 golf clubs. Do not misunderstand, I am not talking about a set of golf clubs, but one exotic golf club with which one could hit the golf ball 500 yards. As a follow through in their bent and as usual with most ponds, their attendance drawing does not give forth money but one golf ball and three tees.

The family orientation of our Order was reflected in the heartwarming manner by the Arizona Pond. They have an annual function known as the Sweetheart Brunch; on Valentine’s Day. This brunch takes place to honor the wives of the Blue Goose and is what I would consider most desirable. I take this opportunity to thank the Arizona Pond for including me in this function, not only this year but in past times.

Probably the highlight of my year was the attendance in the Bonspiel in Western Canada. If ever the writer attended a function that personified fellowship, this is it. This curling tournament included just short of 200 ganders of 15 Western Canadian Ponds. Despite the fact that the conduct of these ganders in the politest term could be considered uninhibited, I felt pretty much like I had gone home. It’s obvious that the success of this annual tournament is based on the ability to forgo any and all self importance.

Those other Ponds with whom I had shared a luncheon were all concerned with the problem which opened this particular report. The explanations of support were discussed in an intelligent and pragmatic manner.

I would like at this time to express my thanks and appreciation to all the people who worked hard to plan and prepare this annual convention of our order. My thanks extend to the Western Ponds who were near 100% in their support of the convention, particularly the Seattle and Fresno Ponds who individually sponsored a function (this is no mean accomplishment considering the costs that we encounter these days), and to those other ponds whose financial support quietly developed the remaining functions.

Although we did not have a ladies’ auxiliary, Fran Anthony chaired and developed a women’s group whose contribution is most certainly appreciated.

My special thanks to Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Chuck Palmerton for serving through this year as Judge Advocate, for his professional advice and counsel. In this frame the thanks are extended to Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Browne Bolton, our Grand Historian. Both Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders serve as volunteers and both served to limit and direct the emotional approach of myself.

Now in conclusion, let’s band together in fellowship and good will. The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose was and is a fine and dear organization. Discard your petty differences and go forward in the tradition.

And finally my deep appreciation goes to Richard Philippsen, my Convention Chairman, and all of his committee chairpeople. His detailed approach and direction have been priceless.

Thanks to all of you for the privilege of serving you and our order.”

Following the MLGG report, appointments were made to report upon the MLGG’s year in office and the Resolutions Committee.

GWGQ Terry Maloney then gave his report revealing once again a slight increase in membership, with current membership as follows:

Present Dues Paying Members	6,777
Total Life Members	1,277
Dual Members	<u>156</u>
Total Members a/o 6/30/89	8,210

PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton then gave his report. Due to the serious issues of female membership, a portion of his report is included herein:

“This year began as the last year ended with the most compelling issue being the question whether qualified female workers in the Property and Casualty Insurance Industry should be eligible to become members of the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, Int’l.

Many letters have been written and discussions held on the subject and yet the Order has not arrived at a conclusion that seems acceptable to all Ponds.

There is no doubt that this issue has caused more dissension, upheaval and lack of good fellowship than we have seen in the last 35 years. Each of us has the right to express our views and give dissenting opinions, but when the discussion leads to insults, character assassination and degrading remarks, then I believe we have gone too far.

Perhaps we need to revisit the precepts of Character, Charity and Fellowship upon which this Order was first founded.

The Contingent Defense Committee spent a great deal of time trying to determine how Blue Goose might defend itself if someone outside the Order might press for a legal determination of membership eligibility. The Committee was preparing a report to the Grand Nest when the challenge from the State of Michigan was present to us. It was my decision as Chairman of the Committee not to report to you until the Michigan problem was resolved.

The State of Michigan has an “equal opportunity” statute that is very broad covering many types of organizations and businesses. In fact it was this statute and a Michigan Court that ordered the Kiwanis Organization to open its membership to females. There has also been pressure from other regions within Blue Goose because of similar “equal opportunity laws”.

The Michigan Pond has been under extreme pressure from outside Blue Goose as well as from within the Pond for a change in membership eligibility for females. Some of this pressure has been exerted by the employers of members regarding female employees and other business associates.

As Judge Advocate, I was invited to attend the Michigan Pond Semi-Annual meeting to listen and view first hand some of the challenges the Pond was facing. On November 10, 1988 at the Pond meeting it became very aware to me that this issue could not be set aside again. It was apparent that if Blue Goose did not act to solve the eligibility issue in favor of females that a court of competent jurisdiction would act for us and force us to change our membership rules. The Michigan Amendment was proposed and accepted by the Michigan Pond at their mid-year meeting. No one believed that this amendment would solve all the problems, but all hoped that it would allow Blue Goose to continue to exist in all regions of Blue Goose.

The demeanor and the dedication towards the welfare of Blue Goose by the Michigan Ganders was most impressive. I was treated with great hospitality and was able to input to the members the problems we faced internationally with this issue. It was made immediately clear to me by all ganders that the Michigan Pond was fully committed to hosting the 1991 Grand Nest meeting and their commitment to Grand Custodian John Zeldam was very strong. It really makes you wonder why these Michigan Ganders were called “scabs” and renegades after presenting their proposal at the last Grand Nest meeting. I don’t blame them for being angry.

We received two legal opinions from non Blue Goose law firms in Michigan which verified the perils that faced us in Michigan and elsewhere on this issue.

It was at this time that I gave you and the other Grand Nest Officers the opinion that Blue Goose must act within itself to change our membership requirements before some force outside Blue Goose changed it for us.

The Grand Nest Officer’s proposed amendment was adopted at the mid-year meeting and has been submitted to all Ponds for their consideration.....”

Following JA Palmerton’s serious and reflective report, reports were received from the Grand Nest Historian, Charity, Grand Nest Liaison and Pond Publication Committees. The Publication Committee announced the following “winners”:

Honorable Mention for the editorial “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” by PMLGG Frank Hunter in the Arizona Honker

Runner up Amateur category: Washington Pond “Flightline”

Runner up Professional category National Capital Pond “Honker” and Seattle Pond “Honk”

Winner Amateur category Tennessee Pond “Pond Poop”

Winner Professional category St Louis Pond “Blue Notes”

The meeting was then adjourned until Wednesday morning and our annual Beans and Brats Luncheon followed shortly thereafter.

Wednesday, August 9, 1989

Preceding the reconvening of the business meeting, the Bay State Pond presented a video tape production of the upcoming Convention to be held in Boston in 1990.

MLGG Merrifield then called the final business meeting to order and roll call was taken by GWGQ Maloney.

Presentation of Awards followed with presentation of awards to the following Ponds:

Membership Cup	Fresno-San Juaquin Pond
Pond Publications Winners	
Amateur Award	Tennessee Pond
Professional Award	St Louis Pond
Heart Of America Pond Fellowship Cup	Hartford Pond
Kentucky Pond No Drop Out Cup	Greater Chicago and St Joe Valley Ponds
Regional Charity Awards	
Western:	
Most new & reinstated members	Fresno – San Joaquin
Best percentage increase	Fresno – San Joaquin
Eastern:	
Most new & reinstated	Garden State
Best percentage increase	Garden State
Central	
Most new & reinstated	St Louis
Best percentage increase	Greater Chicago
Southern	
Most new & reinstated	Tennessee
Best percentage increase	Tennessee
Canadian	
Most new & reinstated	New Brunswick
Best percentage increase	New Brunswick

Proposed Constitutional Amendments were then taken up with JA Palmerton presiding over the discussion. The first amendment to be considered was that of permitting female membership, and issue long debated and contested. A roll call vote was taken with the issue unresolved until the Westchester Pond cast its two votes in favor of the amendment. The final tally was 74 in favor and 34 opposed. Motion passed.

The Minnesota Pond then moved that rather than each Pond having 2 votes at the convention, each Gander present have one vote. This motion was defeated by voice vote.

The Colorado Pond then moved that the year “1906” be added to our initiation ceremony as an historical reference. This was passed unanimously.

Election of Officers followed with the following results:

MLGG Timothy Holland, Bay State Pond
 GSF John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
 GCG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond
 GGN Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
 GKGGE Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond

PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton conducted the installation of officers.

MLGG Timothy Holland then gave his speech of acceptance, herein included in its entirety:

Address of Acceptance
MLGG Timothy F. Holland

“Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Harry Merrifield, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Grand Nest Offices and fellow Ganders:

Let’s start by asking a question! What is it all about anyway? Where do we want to go from here? As your new Most Loyal Grand Gander I will be called upon to provide some of the answers to the difficult questions that will arise in the coming year, and I want to promise you that I will accept the responsibility of my office by responding to those questions and problems head on. However, I also see my role as the presiding Grand Nest Officer to be somebody who makes sure that the tough questions are raised, and frequently I have found that the question itself sets the tone, establishes a premise and focuses the dialogue.

Maybe I’m getting too general here. Let me give you an example: We could hear somebody ask, “Do we really want to let women in?” To this I would suggest that the question could be restated. Such as, “What have women accomplished at the management and professional levels of the insurance industry? And to what extent could their involvement in Blue Goose activities contribute to the greater good of our order and advance the precepts of Charity, Character and Fellowship?”

I realize that I am stacking the deck here. But my intention is to illustrate that the quality of a discussion can be influenced by the scope of a question and by the assumptions that are implied.

Now, if we take a look at history, we know that the Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln freed some slaves, but it didn’t end racism. The Women’s Suffrage Movement may have entitled women to vote, but it didn’t end sexism. Attitudes and opinions can not be legislated. And it’s impossible to win over the hearts and minds of our fellow ganders with 2/3rds votes or 5 -4 Supreme Court decisions. But I want to ask everyone in this hall and everyone who may read these words later to keep faith with the promises we made when we were first initiated into this honorable order.

Back then we all made a promise to work for the greater good of the Order, and we promised not to let the conventional likes and dislikes that one person may have for another to interfere with the pursuit of our ideals. Let’s remember that we are proud to belong to the Honorable Order of Blue Goose. And since we are Ganders, let’s not act like turkeys.

Turkeys disagree by insulting each other and by trying to outshout each other, and when they are under pressure, they exchange vicious personal attacks. That’s NOT the Blue Goose way.

The true Gander understands that there can be honest differences of opinion where we can still respect the integrity and sincerity of our opposition. That’s the Blue Goose way!

Turkeys will say that if their opinion isn’t upheld, then they will go away MAD and resign. However, a true Gander will recognize that quitting solves nothing. Instead, the good Gander will work even harder to make their local Pond the very best it can be by getting involved and participating in Pond activities.

So, let’s strive for Cooperation, NOT Confrontation. Let’s try for Dialogue, NOT Argument. Let’s find the energy level, the enthusiasm and the ideals to make our own Ponds grow and prosper. And do you know what will happen? We will find that we will bring out the very best in one another. And we will be proud to be active members of the most diverse and most rewarding association in the insurance industry – the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, International.

When you feel good about yourself; when you enjoy your Pond activities; when you have a real sense of satisfaction because of the charitable involvement of your Pond; or when your Pond has worked to contribute to professional insurance education; then, you will see that your Pond membership will be revitalized. And this is contagious – in a very healthy sense.

So, I want to thank PMLGG Harry Merrifield, PMLGG Gordon Crowther who has been my friend and my mentor since my first day in Blue Goose. I want to thank all of the PMLGGs who have helped me over the years. And I want to acknowledge the very strong support I have received from our new Grand Supervisor, John Zeldam, who has been very helpful to me in the last four years.

I accept your nomination to work with you as your Most Loyal Grand Gander, and I pledge to you that I will give all that I have to fulfill my responsibilities to the best of my ability.

And now that I have made my pledge to you, I want to close by asking you one more question. Will you my fellow Ganders also make a pledge to re-dedicate yourselves to working for a successful year in your Pond?

I am asking you right now to silently make that pledge.

Thank you for your attention, and I hope to see you all in Boston in 1990”

The Report on MLGG Harry Merrifield’s year in office was presented by the committee comprised of PMLGGs Browne Bolton, King Luck and Frank Hunter.

The Resolutions Committee of PMLGGs Alfred Kregel, Jr, Jerry Simpson and Gordon Crutcher presented their resolutions thanking the various officers, ganders and other personnel and institutions for their efforts in hosting our Convention

The meeting was then adjourned in anticipation of the Fellowship Banquet and Ball that evening. It was held under the wings of the “Spruce Goose” adjacent to the Queen Mary with dancing to the sounds of the Tracy Wells Orchestra following a dinner fit for a king – or Hollywood star.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, August 9, 1989, Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, CA

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Tim Holland at 2:00pm with all current officers and most of the PMLGGs present.

MLGG Holland appointed and the Executive Committee confirmed the following appointments:

Judge Advocate	Charles I. Palmerton, PMLGG
Grand Nest Historian	Browne B. Bolton, PMLGG
Grand Wielder	Terrence M Maloney

Bank cards and resolution was signed by the MLGG and GWGQ

The Grand Wielder contract was signed by all Officers and the GWGQ

Honorariums were granted by the Executive Committee as follows:

Judge Advocates Secretary	Diane Wiggins	\$100
PMLGG gift	Opal Merrifield	\$100

Grand Nest Host Pond fund was approved in the amount of \$3,404.00. PMLGG Merrifield announced that the Convention was a financial success and therefore the California Pond was returning the amount to the Grand Nest Host Pond Fund.

Approval of Grand Nest Officer expenses was passed unanimously.

The 1989-1990 budget was approved with income budgeted at \$82,950; Expenses budgeted at \$84,500 resulting in a budgeted deficit of \$1,550.

Committee and DMLGG appointments were make. MLGG Holland will notify all of their appointment and duties.

The Mid Year Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for Jan 27-28, 1990 at the Westin Hotel, Detroit, MI

PMLGG Doug Snyder will again provide Grand Nest Stationery

GKGGG Cliff Needham will be our representative at the CPCU/IIA Awards in Anaheim, CA

GWGQ Maloney announced the Canadian relief exchange rate for 1989-90 fiscal year will be \$1.18

Following some miscellaneous discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

1989 – 1990**Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting, Jan 27, 1990, Westin Hotel, Detroit, Michigan**

MLGG Timothy Holland called the meeting to order and the following Officers and Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders were present:

MLGG Tim Holland, Bay State Pond	PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond
GSF John Zeldam, Michigan Pond	GGN Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
GCG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond	GKGGE Cliff Needham, San Diego Pond
GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
	PMLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond
	PMLGG P. J. Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
	PMLGG Frank Hunter, Arizona Pond
	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond

Pending Convention Planning update and possible future conventions:

1990 Tim Holland, Bay State Pond, Eastern Region states they are ready with the Park Plaza Hotel, Boston for Aug 18-22, 1990. Financing is in very good order, program is complete with a two tier registration fee in place. The Westchester Pond with Chris Reith as its candidate appears set for 1995

1991 John Zeldam, Michigan Pond, Central Region advised that they are ready with financing outstanding and program complete. Both Nebraska and Chicago Ponds have expressed interest in hosting the 1996 Convention.

1992 Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond, Southern Region states that fund raising is proceeding well and they are completing plans for hosting the convention at the Galt House East, Louisville, KY. Although earlier the Louisiana Pond with P. Albert Bienvenu, Jr as its candidate appeared probable, it now appears that Pond support is lacking. No other Ponds have expressed interest to date for 1997.

1993 Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond, Canadian Region stated that fund raising was underway and they are negotiating with two hotels. The leading candidate for 1998 appears to be Mark Thurber of the Quebec Pond.

1994 Cliff Needham, San Diego Pond, Western Region advised that plans are being discussed for the San Diego Hilton. Seattle, Oregon and Washington Ponds are all possibilities for 1999.

Grand Wielder's Report was given by Terry Maloney. He advised that financially we appear to ahead of budget, with emblem and pond support sales doing well due to the new computer system. The Wielders Guide has been rewritten to conform to the computer system and will be completed and mailed in the Spring. The newly rewritten Constitution and By-Laws and Ritual will be printed and mailed to all Ponds.

Publicity: The Publicity Committee must be encouraged to utilize the free publicity available through the "National Underwriter" and the "Canadian Insurance" magazines. All must do their part in recruiting new members to the Order.

Membership Size of Ponds: MLGG Holland opened discussion on the size of a Pond's membership in relation to our Constitutional requirements. PMLGG Crowther reminded everyone of the motion, "if membership in a pond has dropped below 50 active members and stays below 50 for a period of 3 consecutive years, then that pond will be reviewed by the Officers of Grand Nest to determine if that pond should be suspended or re-classified as a puddle" which was made in Long Beach on Aug 5 and passed unanimously. Further discussion concluded that size should not be the only factor but that some starting point was necessary to address this problem. The Executive Committee will attempt to pursue a prudent course of action led my MLGG Holland.

Mailing List: We have reduced the undeliverable mail to about 2% which is excellent. This is to the credit of our Ponds.

California Convention: PMLGG Merrifield advised that a full report will be presented in Boston at the Convention, however financially it resulted in a surplus of \$1,763.23.

Convention Financing: Joe Epps, finance chairman for the Michigan Convention 1991 presented a report suggesting alternate ways of funding our conventions, cautioning that the escalating costs of hosting a convention may preclude ponds from

considering hosting future conventions and/or create financial deficits of significance. He addressed his remarks from an accountants view point. He was appropriately thanked for his report and MLGG Holland asked that Epps, GWGQ Maloney and PMLGG Hunter act as a Long Range Planning Committee to study this problem.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, August 18, 1990, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Timothy Holland with the following Officers, PMLGGs and guests present:

- | | |
|--|---|
| MLGG Timothy Holland, Bay State Pond | PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond |
| GSF John T. Zeldam, Michigan Pond | PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond |
| | PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond |
| GGN Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond | PMLGG Alfred Kregel, Long Island Pond |
| GKGGE Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond | PMLGG Doug Snyder, Wisconsin Home Nest |
| PMLGG/JA Charles I Palmerton, Seattle Pond | PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond |
| PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton, Kentucky Pond | PMLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond |
| GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest | PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest |
| | PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond |
| | Chris Reith, Westchester Pond, candidate for GKGGE |
| | Joe Epps, Michigan Pond, Detroit Convention Co-Chairman |

MLGG Holland recognized PMLGG Browne Bolton as the voting representative for the Southern Region due to GCG Bruce Bolton’s inability to attend the meeting due to illness.

Reports regarding pending and future convention sites:

Eastern Region: MLGG Holland stated there will be about 375 registrants for the Convention. The Westchester Pond is prepared to come forward for 1995.

Central Region: The Michigan Pond has raised \$115,646.76 thus far. They plan on keeping registration fees very low and expect attendance in the area of 600. Chicago, Omaha and St Louis have expressed some interest in 1996.

Southern Region: PMLGG Browne Bolton reported that fund raising is at \$31,531.36 and the Galt House will be the convention site for Aug 18-22, 1992. There are no candidate for 1997 to date.

Canadian Region: GGN Newitt reported that fund raising is at \$52,000 to date and the Westin Hotel has been selected for the convention for Aug 1 – 4, 1993. The Quebec Pond has expressed strong interest in 1998.

Western Region: GKGGE Needham has chosen the San Diego Hilton as their hotel site and fund raising is successfully underway. No candidate has come forward for 1999.

GWGQ Maloney advised that the Palmetto and Mississippi Ponds have not paid their dues. The Palmetto Pond is two years in arrears. The Fresno-San Joaquin Pond has advised that they are disbanding due to personal and legal threats made by outside individuals regarding the constitutional amendment on women members. Several Grand Nest Officers are attempting to reverse this intention. Our membership has grown to a total of 8,303 members as follows:

Dues paying members	6817
Life Members	1324
Dual Members	162

Regional Concerns:

- Eastern: Penn and West Virginia Ponds continue to need help. Some positive strides have been made.
- Central: Indiana has some new energetic leaders. Ohio and Dakota Ponds seem to lack leadership. Kansas Pond is a serious concern with but 29 members. Michigan Pond increased its membership by 35 new members.
- Southern: Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia are in need of good leadership.
- Canada: Four Ponds have appointed permanent WGQs which has helped. Quebec Pond has added 46 new members.
- Western: Fresno-San Joaquin mentioned earlier.

The annual budget was conducted July 14, 1990 in Elm Grove, WI with GWGQ Maloney, PMLGG Doug Snyder, GKGGE Cliff Needham and our accountant, Bud Osowski. The report will be published the the Grand Nest Bulletin.

PMLGG Crutcher and GWGQ Maloney will finalize the Canadian relief exchange rate and notice will be sent in October 1990

GWGQ Maloney advised that our computer system can now produce labels available to anyone for use in Blue Goose business

JA Palmerton led a discussion on a proposed amendment by the National Capital Pond extending membership eligibility to spouses of ganders. The amendment would continue require that the spouses are subject to the same membership requirements as other members.

The Grand Nest Bulletin will now be published in a glossy finish with a new look.

The advisability of issuing 15 and 20 year pins was discussed and decided to defer contingent upon increased issuance of the 10 year pin. Efforts to encourage the 10 year pins are continuing.

The committee to study Convention Funding Alternatives appointed at the Mid Year Meeting was asked to continue their study and be prepared to report back at the next Grand Nest meeting.

Further discussion was held regarding Ponds with less than the “required” 50 active members. The consensus was that to “disqualify” such Ponds premised solely upon present membership would be counter productive and that it behooves Grand Nest to offer any and all assistance possible to motivate said Pond and increase its membership.

The meeting was adjourned.

84th Grand Nest Convention, August 19-22, 1990, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA

Sunday, August 19, 1990

The city of Boston, rich in history and tradition, was a perfect site for our 84th Convention and the Boston Park Plaza Hotel turned out to be a great place to introduce us to this city. The hotel had been tastefully re-created to its original décor of the 20's.

Our hosts played this theme out to its culmination with a “Come Back to the Twenties” opening night cocktail party and dinner dance. Everywhere you turned there were old friendships being renewed and many new ones being made. This “ice breaker” was a complete success.

Monday, August 20, 1990

The Grand Ballroom, resplendent with our Pond banners draped from the balconies, provided a perfect setting for our opening ceremonies.

The Aleppo Temple Minuteman Unit of Wilmington, Massachusetts presented the National flags of Canada and the United States, following which Gordon Illusky sang “O’Canada” and “America”.

MLGG Timothy Holland officially welcomed all to Boston and the 84th Annual Convention and then introduced those seated at the head table, followed by the customary introduction of the spouses of the Grand Nest Officers and Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and their wives. In addition to the officers and PMLGGs previously identified, Mrs Helen Johnson, widow of Lyle Johnson, MLGG 1986 was introduced.

Rich Mancuso and his wife, Christine, Convention Chairman and Ladies Program Coordinator respectively, then gave some introductory remarks.

The Cole Porter Singers then gave a rousing musical trip across this great land of ours.

The Memorial Service was conducted by members of the Westchester Pond.

The Nova Scotia Pond, formally attired in their “native” kilts, conducted the Model Initiation Ceremony.

After a short break, the Ganders attended the All Industry Luncheon. Our guest speaker was Mr. Kenneth J. Duffy, President and CEO of the Commercial Union Insurance Companies. His speech addressed the ongoing economic and global changes within our industry.

The afternoon was devoted to “break out” meetings for the WGQ’s and MLG’s.

The evening festivities led to the Zanzibar Club. The food and bars were scattered throughout the 2-story courtyard and as the night grew older the music got hotter.

Tuesday, August 21, 1990

Following breakfast, the delegates met in their respective Regional meetings, discussing those topics of interest to their respective Region.

Upon conclusion of the Regional meetings, the General Business meeting reconvened with MLGG Holland calling the meeting to order. GWGQ Maloney called the roll of delegates, revealing the following Ponds absent: Chinook, Dakota, Fresno-San Joaquin, Greater Chicago, Kansas, Louisiana, Magic Empire, Mississippi, Palmetto, San Francisco, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

MLGG Holland recognized the DMLGG’s present and thanked them for their time and effort in behalf of Blue Goose.

At this time, MLGG Holland gave his report of his year in office, included herein in its entirety:

**MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER’S REPORT
MLGG Timothy Holland**

“Most of us can remember the old “Dragnet” T.V. series that was so popular back in the 50’s. And if you do, I’m sure you can almost hear Jack Webb as Sgt. Joe Friday saying, “Give me the facts, ma’am, just give me the facts!”

And I suppose that the traditional MLGG’s report of his year in office should include a listing of what Ponds I visited and a summary of our membership results expressed in the numbers that reflect a net gain or loss. But I prefer to have our outstanding Grand Wielder give you that information because he has the facts.

I would rather use these few minutes to share with you some of my observations about how those of us that are active in our Ponds can become more effective leaders. I also want to say a few words about Perspective – and about a “sense of perspective”.

The optimist and the pessimist both see the same world. They both look at the same facts. But, they draw opposite conclusions, and they each know they’re “right”.

Well, I believe in self-fulfilling prophecies. I feel that if my perspective is such that nothing can be done to improve my Pond, then nothing will. And likewise, solvable, then I suggest we are much more likely to find solutions.

So our attitudes are reflections in our perspective.

Another influence on our perspective is our philosophy and our ideology. There are some classic debates that are difficult to resolve because of diametrically opposed views.

For example, those who favor “pro choice” and those who support “right to life” can have great difficulty trying to understand the perspective of the other.

There are unfortunately far too many examples of these so-called no win arguments: Gun control versus the N.R.A.; the value or lack of value of the death penalty; the Arab world versus the state of Israel. These are the kind of tough issues where the zealots on both sides are incapable of a “sense of perspective”.

But I want to believe that as Pond officers or Pond leaders we share a common bond that is best expressed and illustrated in the obligation and charge of our initiation ceremony and in our watchword, “Tote Fair”.

If we recognize that as Fellow Ganders we all share an abiding interest in what is best for our Pond, then our different perspectives as individuals and our various philosophies should not interfere with our ability to work together to make both our Pond and the HOBGI stronger and better.

Five years ago at the Grand Banquet of the 79th Annual Grand Nest Meeting held in the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C., I had a chance to make some brief remarks as the newly elected Grand Keeper. At that time, I was a person who respected clichés. Because, I feel that clichés are almost always truisms. So if you will bear with me for just a few more moments, I want to close by offering you some clichés that I would recommend you take to heart.

And I want to suggest to you that if your thought and actions are guided in some way by these clichés that you will achieve a better sense of perspective and as a result you will be a more effective leader in your Pond:

- 1) Let's resolve to have a seriousness of purpose and commitment. But don't take your self too seriously!
- 2) If there is a problem, try to use words that help rather than words that hurt.
- 3) When you don't know what to say, tell the truth.
- 4) If you are unsure about what you should do, then do the right thing.
- 5) No one person regardless of age, experience, or title has a monopoly on good ideas. So listen to the input from others.
- 6) And finally, let's learn to disagree without becoming disagreeable.

My five year journey through the chairs of the Grand Nest has enriched my life, and I want to thank every gander in every Pond for their encouragement and support.”

A warm round of applause was given of both his message and his years of service.

GWGQ Terry Maloney followed with the Grand Wielder's report. Membership once again increased from the prior year with current membership as follows:

Dues paying members	6,817
Total Life Members	1,324
Dual Members	<u>162</u>
Total Membership	8,303

During the year 766 new members were initiated into our Order and an additional 168 reinstatements were received. On the downside, there were 648 members dropped from the rolls due to non-payment of dues. We must do all we can to retain current members.

Judge Advocate Charles Palmerton then gave his report advising there were no major issues confronting Blue Goose and that the female membership issue has been resolved with appropriate compliance and acceptance by all regions.

There have been questions raised regarding the eligibility of agents for membership and some confusion regarding Property and Casualty Insurance Agents eligibility. To be eligible an agent must have been previously employed in a qualified category, as enumerated in Article IV before becoming an agent. An agent is then eligible for membership. If there is a feeling that all agents should be eligible then the Constitution must be amended accordingly.

The National Capital Pond has proposed a Constitutional Amendment concerning eligibility for membership of spouses of Blue Goose members which will be discussed during the business meeting.

Grand Nest Awards were then presented as follows:

Membership Cup	St Joe Valley Pond
Pond Publication Awards	
Amateur Award	Hartford Pond
Professional Award	Long Island Pond
Heart of America Fellowship Cup	Oklahoma Pond
Kentucky Pond No Dropout Cup	Penn and West Virginia Ponds
Regional Charity Awards	
Western Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Oregon Pond
Best percentage increase	Oregon Pond
Eastern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Hartford Pond

Best percentage increase	Garden State Pond
Central Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Michigan Pond
Best percentage increase	St Joe Valley Pond
Southern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Virginia Pond
Best percentage increase	Virginia Pond
Canadian Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Quebec Pond
Best percentage increase	Regina Pond

The proposed Constitutional Amendment suggesting that spouses of Blue Goose members be eligible for membership was then discussed. Shortly thereafter Pat Snyder, delegate from the National Capital Pond, sponsors of the proposed amendment, rose to announce that her Pond was withdrawing the proposed amendment and further discussion ceased.

Following reports from the Grand Historian, PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton, and the Grand Nest Liaison Committee chairman, Richard Philippsen, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday morning. The balance of the afternoon and evening was free with the golfers departing for the annual golf outing.

Wednesday, August 22, 1990

The morning commenced with an excellent presentation by the Michigan Pond of their planned convention in 1991.

The Election of Officers followed with the following nominees elected unanimously:

MLGG	John T. Zeldam	Michigan Pond
GSF	Bruce Bolton	Kentucky Pond
GCG	Trevor Newitt	Edmonton Pond
GGN	Clifford Needham	San Diego Pond
GKGGGE	Chris Reith	Westchester Pond

PMLGG/GNH conducted the installation ceremony following which the new officers were presented with their respective pins of office and PMLGG Holland was presented with his PMLGG pin and Life Membership Plaque.

MLGG John Zeldam followed with his address of acceptance which is reprinted herein in its entirety:

**ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE
MLGG John T Zeldam**

PMLGG Holland, current and past Grand Nest Officers, delegates and Ganders all:

Thank you for bestowing upon me the highest honor of our beloved Order. I accept this mantle of leadership with deep humility and great personal challenge. I will give you my supreme effort, with the expectation that, with your help, the coming year will be a banner one for Blue Goosedom.

My specific goals are two-fold. First, that we rediscover, reemphasize and live out our Cardinal Principles of character, charity and fellowship.

I am increasingly concerned that large numbers of our members only join or keep their Blue Goose affiliation for purely business purposes, often allowing this connection to lapse once it is no longer advantageous to either their employment or financial situation.

Let me be the first to concede that participating and taking an active role in Blue Goose offers obvious business exposure and its accompanying rewards. That is not, however, the primary purpose of Blue Goose membership. I firmly believe that Ponds which allow their clear waters to be polluted by the self-serving business or political interests of some individuals, do themselves and the entire Order a grave disservice.

Therefore, I admonish each of us to reexamine ourselves, to reevaluate our motives and to rededicate ourselves to developing personal character, practicing charity and fostering fellowship. These are the qualities which will bring honor and respect to our industry and all past, present and future Ganders.

Secondly, it is my sincere desire to assist a few Ponds within our ranks in need of special attention and help. This is not to be construed as an attempt to interfere with the present mode of operation of any Pond. Rather it is simply an offer of assistance to those Ponds who truly want help. Obviously, no one person alone can make that much difference. I firmly believe, however, that in taking full advantage of the combined dedication, talents and resources of the individual Pond, regional officers and Grand Nest, much good can be achieved.

I want to share something very personal with you. The men and ladies of the Grand Nest, past and present, are a very special group of genuine and caring people. Peggy and I have been truly enriched these past four years by their love and friendship. We will be forever grateful for the love and support they have given us at times we needed it the most.

Thanks to the unusual and sacrificial commitment of my Convention Chairman and Finance Chairman, Joe Coccia and Joe Epps, I have been set free from the pressures and day to day details of putting together the 85th Grand Nest Convention – “Michigan Fun in ‘91”. Consequently, I am in the enviable position of being able to devote almost undivided attention to my Grand Nest obligations and mandate.

I am grateful too for all members of the Michigan Pond who have steadfastly expressed and demonstrated their support for my Grand Nest candidacy and involvement. This commitment goes back several years now, to 1983, when we went to the annual Duck Dinner in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, declaring our willingness to host the 1991 Grand Nest Convention and seeking the support of the entire Central Region, which was granted, and for which we are thankful. Make no mistake, while at times controversial and agreeing to disagree among ourselves in charity, the Michigan Pond is “true Blue Goose”, alive, purposeful and growing. I am very proud to be a part of the Michigan Pond.

In closing, be assured Ganders that your Grand Nest Officers will work hard this coming year in your best interest and in betterment of our beloved Order.

Thank you again.”

The Resolutions Committee, comprised of PMLGGs Alfred Kregel, Jr, Ed Morgan and Jerry Simpson, gave their report appropriately thanking all the many people and institutions responsible for hosting this wonderful convention.

It was at this time that our newly elected MLGG, John Zeldam, brought down the gavel signaling the end of our 84th Grand Nest Business sessions.

The annual “Brats, Beans and Beer” luncheon followed. Certainly appropriate for the city of Boston. “Gander” Camden Pierce was our guest speaker for the luncheon and presented his unusual and humorous “Blue Goose philosophy”.

The final scene to this memorable meeting was the elegant Grand Ballroom of the Park Plaze Hotel, which had hosted the “rich and famous” in the past during the Big Band era. Although we may not be included within the ranks of those prior “rich and famous”, it is certain that our fellowship was unsurpassed.

Now on to Detroit in 1991.

Grand Nest Officer’s Post Convention Meeting, August 22, 1990, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA

The meeting was called to order by MLGG John Zeldam and roll call found all current Grand Nest Officers and most of the PMLGGs present at the Convention in attendance.

MLGG Zeldam appointed the following officers, which were confirmed by the Executive Committee:

Judge Advocate	PMLGG Charles I Palmerton
Grand Nest Historian	PMLGG Browne B Bolton
Grand Wielder	Terrence Maloney

MLGG Zeldam recognized PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton as proxy for GSF Bruce Bolton who was unable to attend due to illness.

The GWGQ contract was duly executed by MLGG Zeldam and GWGQ Maloney

MLGG Zeldam and GWGQ Maloney executed bank cards and resolutions

Honorariums were granted to the following:

PMLGG Holland's assistants	Pam Murphy	\$100
	Kyle Ellis	\$100
PMLGG/JA Palmerton secty	Diane Wiggins	\$100
PMLGG Bolton's employee	Denise Wilburn	\$100

Current Grand Nest officer expenses were approved

GCG Trevor Newitt moved and GKGGE Chris Reith seconded approval of the 1990-1991 budget. The budget as presented reflects income of \$80,150.00 and expenses of \$84,474.00 resulting in a budget deficit of \$4,597.00. The budget was approved.

The Mid-Year Executive Meeting was set for Feb 8 – 10, 1991 in Louisville, KY at the Galt House East.

GKGGE Chris Reith will be attending the annual budget meeting in Elm Grove, WI in July 1991

A major concern for this year will be the retention of members and recruiting of new members.

Discussion of the "Small Pond" issue (possible loss of charter due to failure to maintain membership of 50 active dues paying members) followed. This had been discussed and approved at last year's convention in Long Beach. Due to apparent loss of support and difficulties with implementation, it was moved and seconded that the prior motion be repealed. The repeal was approved by a vote of 4 to 1, with PMLGG Browne Bolton against repeal.

MLGG Zeldam stated that Grand Nest has an inherent responsibility to assist Host Ponds where possible and acceptable with providing affordable and fiscally sound conventions for the membership. However, this is not to be construed that Grand Nest should interfere with the Host Pond's right to host the convention in a manner they deem appropriate.

Some Ponds have delayed presentation of application to Grand Nest for payment of delegate expense for more than one year, which causes some budgetary problems. Some felt this should be prohibited however the matter was tabled for further discussion at the mid year meeting in Louisville.

A Grand Nest dues increase was discussed resulting in GGN Needham moving and GKGGE Reith seconding a motion to propose an amendment to increase dues by \$2.50. MLGG Zeldam stated that the Executive Committee will study and report at the mid year meeting in Louisville its possible implementation and notice to Ponds, etc.

MLGG Zeldam adjourned the meeting in preparation of the final festivities that evening.

So ended our 84th Grand Nest Convention and we wait in anticipation our 85th in Detroit.

1990 – 1991

Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting, February 9, 1991, Galt House East, Louisville, KY

The meeting was called to order by MLGG John Zeldam with the following GN Officers and PMLGG's in attendance:

MLGG John T. Zeldam	GN Clifford Needham
GSF Bruce B Bolton	GKGG Christopher Reith
GCG Trevor Newitt	PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton
GWGQ Terrence Maloney	PMLGG/GNH Browne Bolton
	PMLGG Gordon Crutcher
	PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine
	PMLGG Jerry Simpson
	PMLGG Gordon Crowther
	PMLGG Bob Rice
	PMLGG Al Kregel
	PMLGG Harry Merrifield
	PMLGG Tim Holland
	PMLGG Ivar Awes

GWGQ Report: GWGQ Maloney advised O/S dues total \$16,487.02 which is a significant improvement from the past. Total membership is up at mid year and we are ahead of budget at this time.

Convention Reports: Fund raising is progressing satisfactorily for all host ponds. Due to a request by Westin Hotel, Detroit for a change in dates which was accepted, the hotel has agreed to reduce food and beverage cost by 25% and pay for a special mailing to all members.

Future Conventions: The Nebraska Pond has been endorsed by the Central Region for hosting the 1996 Convention. Other Regions indicate possible interest by the Tennessee, Quebec, Oregon and New York City Ponds.

Regional Problems: The Fresno and Kansas Ponds have disbanded and all life members will be given an option to continue. The Mississippi Pond has not had a delegate in attendance at the Annual Convention for past two years. Penn and West Virginia Ponds are struggling.

MLGG Report: MLGG Zeldam advised that he had visited or made other contact with the Ohio, Oklahoma, Alamo, Texas, West Virginia, Mississippi, Palmetto and Kansas Ponds, all of which have some varying degrees of problems. Some may be disbanded. JA Palmerton advised that if the Pond(s) were incorporated within their State, they may be required to remit remaining Pond funds/assets to the State. It was suggested that it would be better if these funds were donated to charity. Also, all life members should be encouraged to continue membership.

Joe Epps, Michigan Pond is developing a financial model for use by future convention planners to provide consistency and oversight. Grand Nest Executive Committee is considering alternative means of funding future conventions to assist host ponds.

PMLGG Browne Bolton and King Luck are rewriting "So You Want To Be A Grand Nest Officer" and "So You Now Are A Grand Nest Officer" booklets which hopefully will be ready at the time of the Convention in Detroit.

Committee Reports: Grand Nest Officers will write a comprehensive "job description" for the GN Committee to which they are assigned.

MLGG Zeldam stated that the Michigan Pond will return the GN Host Pond Fund following the Convention.

Annual Audit Meeting: Will be held Jul 12-14, 1991 in Elm Grove, WI

10 Year Pin: Officers are asked to encourage the Ponds to use this award/pin.

MLG Manual: Cliff Needham will update the manual

Dues Increase: Grand Nest will propose dues increase of \$3.00 to take effect 7/1/92 if passed.

GWGQ Maloney will send a letter to each Pond advising that Delegate Expense must be requested within the same year, or may be denied.

Only Ponds hosting future conventions may sell items for fund raising at annual conventions.

JA Palmerton advised that Officers other than the Executive Committee may be allowed to vote at Mid Year Meetings if the MLGG so authorizes (without Constitutional change)

JA Palmerton and GNH Bolton stated they would be willing to continue to serve in their respective positions if requested/appointed.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, Saturday, August 3, 1991, Westin Hotel, Detroit, MI

MLGG John Zeldam called the meeting to order with the following Officers, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and guests present:

- | | |
|--|---|
| MLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond | PMLGG Tim Holland, Bay State Pond |
| GSF Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond | PMLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond |
| GCG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton, Pond | PMLGG Doug Snyder, Wisconsin Home Nest |
| GGN Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond | PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond |
| GKGGE Chris Reith, Westchester Pond | PMLGG Frank Hunter, Arizona Pond |
| GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest | PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond |
| PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond | PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond |
| | PMLGG Al Kregel, Long Island Pond |
| | PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond |
| | PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest |
| | Glenn Carlson, Nebraska Pond, candidate for GKGGE |
| | DMLGG Paul Roberts, San Diego Pond |
| | DMLGG Tom Charbonneau, Heart of America Pond |

Report on Pending Conventions:

South: Kentucky is ready and have decided on a 3 day event (Aug 16-18, 1992). They are projecting registration of 500 and have raised \$26,000 thus far with a commitment of \$15,000 from Bolton and Company Agency.

Canada: Edmonton has set Aug 8 – 11, 1993 with a 4 day convention. \$78,000 has been raised thus far with a projected amount of \$112,000.00 Mid Year Executive Committee meeting is set for Feb 14, 1992.

West: San Diego is planning for 450 registrants with registration fee of \$180/gander; 164/guest. They are projecting fund raising at \$108,000.00 with dates of Aug 9 – 12, 1994

East: Westchester Pond has set Aug 11 -15, 1995 for the Rye Towne Hilton.

Central: Detroit is ready and fully funded. Due to the Hotel's request to change the date of our convention, they have accepted a 25% reduction in room cost and gave a credit of \$50,000 toward food and beverage.

Future Convention Sites:

Central: Nebraska Pond with its candidate, Glenn Carlson, is ready to accept the 1996 Convention

South: The Tennessee Pond will vote in October 1991 whether to accept the 1997 Convention

Canada: Quebec Pond remains a solid commitment

West: Oregon Pond is discussing acceptance of the 1999 Convention

East: GKGGE Reith indicated that the New York City Pond may be interested in 2000.

GWGQ Report: GWGQ Maloney reported that the Fresno-San Joaquin and Kansas Ponds have disbanded. Our fiscal year (1990-1991) ended with a surplus of \$300.00 (contrary to the budgeted deficit of \$4,500.00) and our membership increased by 300 members in spite of losing 2 Ponds. A Regional Challenge Cup has been developed to stimulate membership growth regionally.

Regional Problems and Concerns: The Mississippi and Palmetto Ponds continue to be delinquent in their dues to Grand Nest. The above noted Ponds were disbanded. The West Virginia and Penn Ponds have made substantial improvements to their vitality. The Ohio Pond is still a concern but appear to be improving.

Annual Award Winners will be included in the Grand Nest Convention minutes

Canadian Relief for 1991-1992 will be 0.010 (the current exchange rate is 1.16)

USFG Insurance Company: They had previously ordered all employees to disassociate with any group that could be construed as being involved in collusion within the industry. Since then, its management and our Judge Advocate have clarified that Blue Goose is not on that list, however much damage has already been done.

Grand Nest brochures “So You Want To Be A Grand Nest Officer” and “So You Are A Grand Nest Officer” will be rewritten by PMLGG Gordon Crutcher.

Mid Year Executive Committee Meetings: Discussion of Host Ponds commitment to absorbing (defraying) some of the cost indicated that it was the host ponds decision what, if any, financial support they wished to provide.

Weak and/or Delinquent Ponds: MLGG Zeldam has visited some of our weaker Ponds and wanted to develop some guidelines regarding course(s) of action to take with respect to delinquent dues. It was suggested that letters be sent to all officers of the delinquent Pond with the primary purpose to attempt to rehabilitate rather than punish such pond. GWGQ Maloney will continue to press for payment of outstanding dues.

GKGGE Reith suggested that some of the Grand Nest archives be exhibited at our Annual Conventions.

The meeting was adjourned.

85th Grand Nest Convention, August 3 – 7, 1991, Westin Hotel, Detroit, Michigan

Sunday, August 4, 1991: The Renaissance Center provided an elegant setting for our Convention’s first return to Detroit since 1960. One could sense early on that this was to prove a most enjoyable and productive Convention.

During the afternoon, buses arrived to take us to the historic Greenfield Village featuring Henry Ford’s home, the Firestone Farm and even Thomas Edison’s lab from Menlo Park which had been moved piece by piece to this location.

After the park closed to the public, we had the premises with all its amenities to ourselves in addition to enjoying a catered barbeque dinner, a Dixieland Band and the fellowship we all enjoy at our annual Conventions.

Monday, August 5, 1991:

Following the first of three super breakfasts, MLGG John Zeldam called the 85th Grand Nest Convention to order. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 255 posted the colors and Detroit’s own Bob Taylor led us in singing the National Anthems of Canada and the United States.

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Smith delivered a warm and thought provoking invocation

MLGG Zeldam proceeded to introduce those seated at the head table, followed by introductions of the wives of the current Grand Nest Officers. He then introduced those PMLGGs in attendance and their spouses.

Joe Coccia, Convention Chairman, and his lovely wife, Courtney then welcomed us all to Detroit and our Convention.

The Memorial Service and the Model Initiation were conducted by members of the St Joe Valley and Ontario Ponds respectively. The Ontario Pond was attired in Royal Mounted Police uniforms for the Initiation Ceremony. An excellent performance by both Ponds.

The afternoon was basically “free, with a trip to the zoo for the kids, a Birmingham, MI shopping trip for the ladies and golf for the men.

The evening highlight was an optional trip to historic Tiger Stadium for the Tiger’s baseball game.

Tuesday, August 6, 1991

The morning commenced (after breakfast of course) with the Regional meetings for the delegates and ganders, following which the first session of the Convention business meeting commenced.

MLGG Zeldam called the business meeting to order and GWGQ Maloney conducted the roll call. The following Ponds were absent: Chinook, Dakota, Fredericton, Magic Empire, Mississippi, Palmetto, Prince Edward Island, San Francisco, Texas and West Virginia.

MLGG Zeldam then introduced the DMLGG’s in attendance and thanked them for their efforts in behalf of Blue Goose.

MLGG Zeldam followed with his Report which is included herein in its entirety:

MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER’S REPORT
MLGG John T. Zeldam

“Grand Supervisor Bolton, current and past Grand Nest Officers, delegates and Ganders all:

I am happy to report that our beloved Order is, for the most part, alive and well. Overall membership and activity are on the increase and the future is bright.

You may ask, “How can you be so optimistic, when my Pond is close to death?” Let me share with you some of the reasons, based upon my experiences this past year.

First, some Ponds refuse to die. They are determined to enjoy good health. They are discarding some old traditions that were an impediment to growth. They are open, rather than resistant to change. They are becoming imaginative, rather than predictable in programming. They are cultivating a deeper sense of purpose and are multiplying, rather than scaling back, their efforts. They are no longer satisfied with mediocrity.

Secondly, large numbers of our membership have rediscovered and are living out our Cardinal Principles of character, charity and fellowship. This is clearly evident in the host of worthy charities supported by our member Ponds and the unabashed camaraderie and friendship that characterizes many of our Pond gatherings. With this in mind, let me share with you some remarks of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander William T. “Ben” Bennallack in his Christmas message of December, 1911. He, by the way, was a charter member and one of the first officers of the Michigan Pond.

“Our Order is secret, not that it has anything to conceal, but that it may choose its own associates and have ways and means of distinguishing them. It is my opinion that too much has been expected of our good bird Some of the happiest occasions that have taken place in this world of competitive strife have been given under the auspices of the Blue Goose.

Our mission, which has been demonstrated in many cases, is to help those in need; cause men to forget the many cares and worries incident to our business; to put aside the troubles and cares of life; to cultivate the bright side, giving them somewhat of hope and joy, and send them out into the world better prepared to meet its rebuffs and disappointments.

It is the intent of the Blue Goose to be happy rather than sorrowful, mirthful rather than miserable, and with such cardinal principles, together with the fact that you should help to promote the interest and welfare of the order, it cannot help but have a future.”

And also of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Merritt M. Hawxhurst, who was present in the Club House at Green Lake, Wisconsin the night of Tuesday, June 19, 1906, and the third of the charter members of our beloved Order to serve as MLGG.

“Your business, gentlemen, is a most honorable one, and I dare say that there is no other profession or business, the members of which are more trusted by those they serve or where fewer instances of betrayal of trust can be found. The fundamental principle upon which the Blue Goose was founded is the Golden Rule, and the highest accomplishment our Ancient and Honorable Order can attain is in the promotion of the principles of Toleration, Kindness and Loyal Friendship. On the banks of our Ponds it is expected that the Ganders of every sect and clan may meet in harmony and generous good fellowship. There are worries and annoyances, the competitions and disappointments and the struggles of our daily life are laid aside, and for a few hours forgotten, while we enjoy the restful influence of fraternity and harmless fun.”

Today, in 1991, I simply echo the sentiment of those two PMLGG’s from the Michigan Pond, who long ago took flight to the other Bank, and whose words still ring true for us today.

Thirdly, the diversity of our Ponds is a great strength of our Order. A major highlight of my year has been the experience of observing and learning firsthand how Blue Goose plays out in the various regions of our Order. Some Ponds are extremely fraternal in nature, while others are highly visible and actively involved in the insurance industry. Blue Goose isn’t the same everywhere and that’s okay. Our uniqueness and pluralism is an asset, not a detriment, to our continued growth.

Fourth, membership eligibility and the involvement of female professionals has breathed new life and vitality into many of our Ponds. These Ponds report of new enthusiasm, better planned and interesting programs and renewed Company support. The decision to welcome qualified women will, in my opinion, prove to be the salvation of our Order for years to come. And, I’m so glad this came about through constitutional change and not by undesirable means.

Fifth, and lastly, thanks largely to the efforts of our Grand Wielder, our office systems and record keeping has been greatly improved and modernized. We are now in a position to offer increased assistance to our member Ponds. Our forms and manuals have been improved and made more attractive. Jewelry items have been added, making the Blue Goose more meaningful to our members, while increasing the visibility of our Order throughout our industry. And, simply by the quality of their lives, Terry and Lynn Maloney are as were their predecessors, Jack and Dottie Gravenstine, wonderful ambassadors for Blue Goose.

I deeply appreciate the support and encouragement of my fellow present and past Grand Nest officers and their spouses. They are a very special group of people, and have given Peggy and I a significant gift, their friendship. Our lives have been forever enriched because of them.

At the close of his outgoing report as MLGG in 1960, E. C. “Gene” Saulcy shared the following:

“It is with no embarrassment that I report on the activity of the Michigan Pond. This has been a group of people who have always been most loyal members of Blue Goose and on whom responsibilities are a matter of routine.”

This praise of our Michiganders is just as appropriate today. Balancing Blue Goose with the demands of a heavy workload left me no time to raise funds and plan what we hope is a first class Grand Nest Convention. This was strictly the achievement of Joe Coccia, Joe Epps and countless other Michigan Pond Ganders.

In closing, May I say that Peggy and I are still living together, happily, I think. Throughout our “ups and downs” of the past five years we have never lost our enthusiasm for Blue Goose or ceased being thankful for our wonderful friends in this Grand Order.”

Following this well received address, Grand Wielder Maloney gave his report revealing current membership as follows:

Dues paying members	6,730
Life Members	1,334
Dual Memberships	<u>169</u>
Total membership	8,233

Although the “bottom line” reveals a slight drop in membership, it is somewhat misleading, recognizing that two Ponds (Fresno-San Joaquin and Kansas) disbanded. Excluding those two Ponds, our analysis reveals that “drops and resignations” are down 50% from the previous year.

The Financial Report followed, presented by our GKGGE Chris Reith. He advised that although the budget for this past fiscal year had projected a deficit of over \$4000.00, the actual results came in with a surplus of \$329.15. One of the main reasons for the surplus was the reimbursement of “Host Pond Funds” paid to the Bay State and Michigan Ponds. One of the primary reasons for increased expense has to do with the spiraling Grand Nest printing costs. He recommended adoption of the amendment increasing Grand Nest dues from \$10 to \$13 per year. 50% of that amount would be returned to the Ponds in the form of delegate expense reimbursement.

PMLGG Charles Palmerton, Judge Advocate, gave his report advising that all in all it has been a quiet year for the Judge Advocate. Membership eligibility continues to present frequent questions and he reminded all that the Committee on Jurisprudence has jurisdiction over the interpretation of the Constitution and By-laws on eligibility of candidates for membership and he encouraged all Ponds to submit such questions to this Committee accordingly. Although no amendments to the Constitution have been proposed, an amendment to the Bylaws concerning Grand Nest dues will be proposed to the delegates.

The Grand Nest Historian’s and Grand Nest Liaison Committee’s reports were given. Gratitude was expressed to Bruce Bolton, the Bolton family and Bolton and Company for their efforts with publication of the History during the illness of our beloved PMLGG and Grand Nest Historian, Browne Bolton.

Constitutional Amendment: Florida delegate, George Harwood moved and Converse Griffith, Ohio delegate seconded, a motion to increase Grand Nest dues by \$3.00 from \$10.00 to \$13.00. The motion passed with but 3 “Nays”.

The meeting was then adjourned for the All Industry Luncheon, which followed.

All Industry Luncheon provide all with a delicious meal and some interesting conversation and light hearted humor gby the keynote speaker, Bob Talbert, who is a well known columnist with the Detroit newspaper.

The afternoon was set aside for breakout meetings: Welders; membership; Pond Publications; and future convention planning. They were well attended and provided interesting and important information of the various topics for the attendees.

Shortly before 6:00pm we were again aboard buses, this time to the river where we boarded the beautifully restored Stroh’s River Palace for our “Party on the River”. A riverboat cruise, lively music, a never ending buffet, a variety of beverages, wonderful weather and great friends.....what more could you ask for!

Wednesday, August 7, 1991

Following our third and last great breakfast, the Kentucky Pond made its presentation of what to look forward to next year in Louisville. The Galt House will be our Convention headquarters, with each room a suite!

The Business meeting then reconvened, with MLGG Zeldam calling the meeting to order.

Presentation of the Annual Awards were then given:

Membership Cup	Bay State Pond
Pond Publication Winners	
Amateur Award	Hartford Pond
Professional Award	Long Island Pond
Heart of America Pond Fellowship Cup	Garden State Pond
Kentucky Pond No Drop Out Cup	Alamo Pond
Regional Challenge Cup	Canadian Region
Regional Charity Awards	
Central Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Michigan Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Heart of America Pond

Southern Region		
Most New & Reinstated Members		Kentucky Pond
Best Percentage Increase		Kentucky Pond
Canadian Region		
Most New & Reinstated Members		Quebec and Ontario Ponds
Best Percentage Increase		Regina Pond
Western Region		
Most New & Reinstated Members		Arizona and California Ponds
Best Percentage Increase		California Pond
Eastern Region		
Most New & Reinstated Members		Hartford Pond
Best Percentage Increase		Bay State Pond

Then without further adieu, nominations were made for our new slate of Grand Nest Officers. They were unanimously elected as follows:

MLGG	Bruce Bolton	Kentucky Pond
GSF	Trevor Newitt	Edmonton Pond
GCG	Clifford Needham	San Diego Pond
GGN	Chris Reith	Westchester Pond
KKGGE	Glenn Carlson	Nebraska Pond

PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton conducted the installation ceremony, following which the newly elected officers were presented with their pins of office and PMLGG Zeldam received his PMLGG pin and Life Membership Plaque.

Newly elected Most Loyal Grand Gander Bruce Bolton then delivered his speech of acceptance, which is included herein in its entirety:

**ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE
MLGG Bruce Bolton**

“Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Zeldam, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Current Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Ganders. I stand before you with great pride and humility. Pride in being elected to the highest office of this Order, and Humility in the giant footsteps that I will try to fill. I wish to thank the Southern Conference of Ponds, the Kentucky Pond whose membership in this Order made this possible and to my wife, Adele who has stood beside me for the past eleven years.

Each incoming Most Loyal Grand Gander has his or her ideas on how to run the Order during the next twelve months. We have seen a lot of change in the membership requirements including acceptance of agents and women to the Order. With these broad rules, more persons are permitted membership in the Order. This year I have dedicated my time and resources to the recruitment of more members. If each member asked one person to join, we would see a doubling of our membership roster. We would see a more active organization whose commitment would be for a better understanding of our Order in the Insurance Industry. We need younger blood in our Ponds if they are to remain an active ingredient of our organization. The time has come to ask our friends and associates to join. Many of the Ponds have let this opportunity slide by and we must encourage them to become healthy and active once again. To quote American Express, “MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES.” We must recruit members if we are to remain a viable organization in the industry.

Once we have recruited new members, we should have them serve on committees to keep their interest alive and active. We should encourage them to become Pond Officers, give them a chance to show others how they have matured in our Order. Let’s get active in recruitment and bring new life to the Order.

Communication is needed between the Ponds and our Grand Wielder. Without your help, Grand Nest does not have a clear picture as to what is going on in each Pond. Please help us help you, answer our requests and correspondence when we have questions about dues and membership in your Pond. Only with your help can we move the Order forward and increase our support of the Insurance Industry. Let’s all work together for a better organization.

I again wish to thank all of you for your support, and hopefully we can look to a very active year of progress and renewed dedication to our beloved Order.”

The Committee to Report on MLGG John Zeldam’s year in office, comprised of PMLGGs Ivar Awes, Harry Merrifield, Douglass Snyder and Gordon Crutcher, was presented by Chairman Crutcher, praising him for his work and accomplishments during his term in office and welcoming him into the fraternity of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders.

The Resolutions Committee (PMLGGs Alfred Kregel, Jr. and Gordon Crowther and PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine) presented their resolutions thanking and commending the many ganders and guests who made this Convention one to long remember as one of the best and the Westin Hotel for providing the elegant quarters for hosting it.

Thereafter, MLGG Bruce Bolton called for adjournment, bringing down the gavel for the final Grand Nest business meeting for the year 1990-1991.

The Westin Hotel Grand Ballroom was the site of our final Banquet and Ball with a “Motown” theme, fitting for this occasion and venue. It was indeed another in a long line of wonderful Conventions and fellowship. Thank you, Michigan Pond!

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, August 7, 1991, Westin Hotel, Detroit, Michigan

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Bruce Bolton with the following officers, PMLGGs and guest present:

MLGG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GSF Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
GCG Cliff Needham, San Diego Pond	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
GGN Chris Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG Al Kregel, Long Island Pond
GKGGE Glenn Carlson, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Tim Holland, Bay State Pond
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Gordon Crutcher, Ontario Pond
	PMLGG Doug Snyder, Wisconsin Home Nest
	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
	PMLGG Frank Hunter, Arizona Pond
	PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest
	DMLGG Paul Roberts, San Diego Pond

MLGG Bolton reappointed PMLGG Charles Palmerton as Judge Advocate and PMLGG Browne Bolton as Grand Nest Historian.

MLGG Bolton reappointed GWGQ Terrence Maloney as Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill and requisite contract was duly executed by MLGG Bolton and GWGQ Maloney.

Bank cards and resolutions were signed by MLGG Bolton and GWGQ Maloney

Honorariums were presented to the following:

Diane Wiggin, secretary to JA Palmerton	\$100
Cathi Abell, secretary to JA Palmerton	\$100
Janice Contella, secretary to PMLGG Zeldam	\$100
Peggy Zeldam, wife of PMLGG Zeldam	\$100

Approval of Grand Nest officer expenses was made following motion and second by GCG Needham and GSF Newitt respectively.

The 1991-1992 budget was approved with a budgeted fiscal deficit of \$7,719 projected.

The mid year Executive Committee meeting was set for Feb 14-15, 1992 in Edmonton, Alberta at the Westin Hotel

The annual budget meeting was set for mid July, 1992 in Elm Grove, WI with GKGGE Carlson in attendance.

MLGG Bolton has agreed to attend the CPCU/IIA Awards meeting in New Orleans for HOBGI.

It was agreed the WGQ, Future Convention, Publication and Membership meetings were well attended and fruitful.

Grand Nest Officers were asked to make appointments to their respective committees ASAP after which all will be notified of their respective duties. Automatic appointment/reappointment of DMLGGs will cease and careful selection of those willing to actively work for the good of the Order within their respective region will be appointed in the future.

PGWGQ Gravenstine and PMLGG Simpson will work with the Palmetto and Mississippi Ponds regarding the serious problems and delinquent dues with each. MLGG Bolton will work with the Magic Empire Pond. GKGGE Carlson will work with the Dakota Pond.

The meeting was then adjourned.

1991 – 1992

Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting, February 14-15, 1992, Westin Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta

MLGG Bruce Bolton called the meeting to order with the following Officers and Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders in attendance:

MLGG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond	GGN Chris Reith, Westchester Pond
GSF Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond	PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond
GCG Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond

GWGQ Maloney provided detailed reports regarding membership revealing that to date there has been a net increase in membership of 42 members. We have dues outstanding of \$27,349.02 with all other accounts receivable in excellent shape. He advised of continuing concerns regarding the Palmetto, Mississippi, Washington, Dakota, West Virginia and Penn Ponds.

Regional Concerns:

Western: GCG Needham will contact the San Francisco Pond to encourage better communications with Grand Nest. PMLGG/JA Palmerton is directly involved with revitalizing the Washington Pond

Eastern: Penn and West Virginia Ponds need close assistance and support.

Central: Dakota Pond needs help. PMLGG Ivar Awes and his son, DMLGG Todd Awes will contact them to offer any assistance needed. The Ohio Pond is growing slightly but still in need of support.

Canadian: The Region is doing well overall.

Southern: Palmetto and Mississippi Ponds continue to be a major concern. GWGQ Maloney was directed to send a letter to each member of these Ponds, asking that they do all possible to assist in reinvigorating their Pond and, lacking same, offering them the opportunity to transfer to another Pond to remain a gander in good standing.

Pending Convention Updates

Canada: The Edmonton Pond appears ready for hosting the 1993 Convention with a budget of \$222,000.00 and registration fee of \$150.00 US

Western: San Diego Pond fund raising currently stands at \$22,000. They are anticipating 500 registrants with registration fee to be \$180 and rooms at \$120. They have set dates of August 10 – 13 with the 13th being a Saturday in hopes that this will increase attendance at the final banquet.

Eastern: Westchester Pond fund raising to date is \$15,000.00 with projected revenue to be over \$60,000.00.

Central: The Red Lion Inn, Omaha, Nebraska will be Convention headquarters.

Southern: MLGG Bolton advised that fund raising currently stands at \$30,000.00 and it is anticipated that this will be doubled prior to Convention. Registration is expected to total about \$75,000.00. They are still working on Convention activity planning. Discussion centered around children's programs and security and the importance thereof to the membership.

MLGG Bolton advised that he has visited three Ponds thus far with four additional visits scheduled. Visitations have been hindered considerably due to the illness and death of his father, PMLGG Browne Bolton.

Convention Survey: 47% of the registrants at last year's convention in Detroit responded which will be of assistance to future Host Ponds in their convention planning

Liaison Report on the 1991 Convention in Detroit, MI: PMLGG Zeldam advised that the Convention resulted in a surplus of \$43,068.05. A video is being produced of the Convention which will be available to any who wish.

Grand Nest Bulletin: Color has been added to the Bulletin format making it more attractive with more photos. Concern was expressed that the Fall Bulletin be issued within 60 days of the Convention and GWGQ Maloney stated that this will be done. Delays have been primarily the result of awaiting registration information for the following year's Convention and this information will be excluded from next year's Fall Bulletin.

Grand Nest Officer's Guide will hopefully be available at the Convention in Louisville this year. PMLGG Crutcher is completing this project.

Annual Audit Meeting: The meeting will be held in Elm Grove, WI on or around the 2nd weekend in July with GKGGE Glenn Carlson in attendance.

Grand Nest Committees: GWGQ Maloney was instructed to produce a booklet setting forth the responsibilities of the several Grand Nest Committees.

Honorary Membership: The following individuals were approved by the Executive Committee for honorary membership in the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, International:

Bob Pullar, Alberta Pond
John Brighton, Ontario Pond

Judge Advocate Charles Palmerton advised that our Constitution requires that Honorary Members must pay Grand Nest dues, even if they would be considered a "Life Honorary Member".

The meeting was adjourned.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, August 15, 1992, Galt House, Louisville, KY

MLGG Bruce Bolton called the meeting to order with the following Officers and Past Officers in attendance:

MLGG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
GSF Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
GCG Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GGN Chris Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond
GWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Al Kregel, Long Island Pond
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond
	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond

Reports on Pending Conventions:

Western: The San Diego Pond has raised \$24,094 with projected fund raising to total \$63,726.00. Registration fees are expected to total \$87,100.00 with a total budget of \$150,000.00. Convention dates have been set for Aug 9 – 13, 1994, starting mid week and ending on Saturday nite.

Canadian: Edmonton Pond had budgeted \$220,000.00 Canadian dollars for the 1993 Convention with current cash on hand from fund raising of \$90,689.00. The Alberta Motor Assn is coordinating discounted airfare with free ground transportation from the airport to the Convention hotel, Westin Hotel, Edmonton.

Eastern: Westchester Pond has raised \$18,000.00 to date with a goal of \$75,000.00. Convention co-chairs are Chip Dale and Charlie Cohen. The Executive Committee mid year meeting will be held in conjunction with the Ponds regional Valentine's Day fund raising party.

Central: Due to the absence of GKGGE Glenn Carlson, Nebraska Pond, at this meeting, report is deferred until the post-convention meeting.

Southern: There are 377 registrants for the Convention. The Kentucky Pond is well prepared for our Convention with budgeted expenses of \$90,222 and total income at \$87,000.00.

Potential Future Convention Sites:

Canada: The Quebec Pond with candidate Marc Thurber are set to host the 1998 Convention

Western: Oregon Pond is considering hosting the 1999 Convention

Eastern: New York City Pond is a possibility but this is very tentative at this early date.

Central: No candidate

Southern: Georgia Pond with George Harwood as its candidate is set to host the 1997 Convention.

Grand Wielders Report: GWGQ Maloney advised that the Grand Nest Bulletin format would be changed with the Fall Bulletin no longer providing Convention Registration information and the mid year Bulletin being used primarily for Convention Registration and promotion.

The Mississippi Pond has been dropped from the Grand Nest computer system pending approval of Grand Nest in rescinding its Charter. Palmetto Pond has expressed interest in retaining its Charter and is presently in process of restructuring.

Grand Nest Budget: The budget deficit was significantly reduced partially due to the location of the 1991 Convention (Westin Hotel, Detroit, MI) and unexpected financial help.

Grand Nest Committee Guide: A manual has been developed to provide guidance to Grand Nest Committees

The 10, 25 and 50 year anniversary report for each Pond is set in the computer and will be sent out shortly. Also, Grand Nest History has been computerized and will lend assistance to the Grand Nest Historian

Membership: 1991 – 1992 has resulted in a decrease in membership, due primarily to major adjustments to the Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee Ponds

Regional Concerns:

Southern: It was moved and seconded that Grand Nest rescind the Mississippi Pond Charter; passed unanimously. The Ganders will be offered the opportunity to transfer to another Pond. Any funds remaining with the Mississippi Pond will be asked to be transferred to Grand Nest for distribution to charity. The Palmetto Pond remains a concern and will be monitored closely. Magic Empire Pond is now two years in arrears in payment of Grand Nest dues and will be asked to respond with a positive plan for recovery or face removal of its charter.

Eastern: West Virginia Pond's Grand Nest dues are past due and requires attention.

Central: Dakota Pond has failed to communicate this year and PMLGG Ivar Awes, GKGGE Glenn Carlson and DMLGG Todd Awes will concentrate their efforts to initiate communication.

Canadian and Western: Both appear to have no serious concerns.

The Annual Award winners will be printed in the Bulletin. The Audit report has been delayed due to the absence of GKGGE Carlson. The Canadian Relief exchange rate is set at 1.22 for the fiscal year 1992-1993. PMLGG Crutcher advised that the Grand Nest Officer's Guide is not ready and hopefully will have this available shortly.

PMLGG Awes discussed the possibility of providing a Constitutional remedy for waiving/deferring a Regions obligation to host a future Convention. This will be discussed further at the Mid Year meeting in San Diego.

Meeting was adjourned.

86th Grand Nest Convention, August 16 – 19, 1992, Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky

Sunday, August 16, 1992: The Galt House East, where each gander had his own suite, was the site of the 86th Grand Nest Convention. As has been the custom lately, The Kentucky Pond hosted a "Welcome Y'all" party that allowed everyone to renew old friendships and make new ones. There was a southern country buffet dinner with all the "fixins" and country music to provide a background for the evening.

Monday, August 17, 1992:

Following breakfast, MLGG Bruce Bolton called the 86th Grand Nest Convention to order, with the presentation of the National Colors of Canada and the United States and the singing of "America" and "O'Canada" let by PMLG's Charles Kaltenthaler, Kentucky Pond and Neil Miller respectively.

MLGG Bolton followed with introductions of those seated at the head table, the current Grand Nest Officer's wives and the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders in attendance and their wives. Then Convention Chairman Greg Allgeier of the Kentucky Pond welcomed everyone to the South and our Convention.

The Memorial Service was conducted with appropriate solemnity by the Florida Pond. We are especially saddened by the death of two of our Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Browne Bolton and Frank Hunter, took their last flight on January 22, 1992 and March 24, 1992 respectively. PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton and GCG Clifford Needham reverently eulogized Browne and Frank accordingly. They will be sorely missed and to all whom we recognized in this Service, we say "Hail, Friends and Farewell".

The Tennessee Pond attired in white tuxedos performed a flawless and memorable initiation ceremony.

The opening ceremonies concluded in time for us to gather for the "All Industry Luncheon" that highlighted an in-depth presentation on Lloyd's of London's past, present and future.

Immediately following the All Industry Luncheon, the breakout meetings for delegates and ganders commenced, with WGQ George Harwood, Georgia Pond and GWGQ Terry Maloney moderating the WGQ meeting.

That evening all attendees were taken to the shores of the Ohio River where we boarded the "Belle of Louisville" for an dinner cruise upon the river, complete with a ragtime band for our entertainment and dancing. The weather was wonderful and a fun filled evening was had by all.

Tuesday, August 18, 1992

After a hearty breakfast, the day commenced with Regional meetings to discuss specific concerns to the respective Regions.

Following the Regional Meetings, MLGG Bolton called the Business Meeting to order followed by the roll call by GWGQ Maloney.

Following the usual introductions of those seated at the head table the MLGG delivered his report on his year in office, which is herein printed in its entirety:

MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER'S REPORT
MLGG Bruce B Bolton

“Grand Supervisor Newitt, Current and Past Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Ganders all:

I am pleased to report that the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose is alive and well. Membership is on the rise and there appears to be a revived interest in our Order. We have been saddened by the loss of one of our Ponds this year, however, their members will be classed as a puddle of another Pond. We hope to renew this Pond and have them once again be active. Our Ponds are of vital interest to our Order and without them we could not survive as we have today. We must always be as helpful as possible to them.

In my travels this year which are few in numbers, I was quite encouraged to find that all the Ponds were doing their best to bring in new members. My own Pond lost several this year due to the fact that we did not try as hard as possible to recruit, however, this next year will be quite different as we have several plans on the table including young and more active officers, and we are starting to become more active in all facets of the industry. Our goal is to increase membership and to win back the KY no dropout cup next year.

People often ask why belong to the Blue Goose. I have several answers that I can come up with. I was brought up in the Order and have found out that we do a lot of good for our industry. We sponsor education courses, the CPCU, the IIA and several other insurance classes. We are proud to give of our time to help others who might wish to become professionals in the industry. We all work for a common cause and a better understanding of what we do. Several years ago I was asked to join the Elks Association and my first question was why. I found that the Elks were willing to help strangers and invite them into the community where they did not know anyone. Blue Goose does the same thing and know that we are there when you travel into a new area. You will always have friends willing to show you around, both Adele and myself found this out first hand this year. When we traveled to different cities, people would go out of their way to pick us up at the airports, take us out to dinner, ut us up in a hotel and then drive us back to the airport when we left. One Pond even went out of their way to change our plane tickets so we would not have to spend several hours at the airport. Where else can you venture and find this type of support, or find a hand of friendship extended to you?

We need to renew the faith in us from the company standpoint. Too often I hear that because of thoughts of collusion, people withdraw their support and in several cases members are told to drop out of the organization in lieu of showing why. We need to show that we are truly an active social Order that supports the Special Olympics and other worthwhile charities in our areas. We can be of great service to the charities with our time and money, and help the community grow. Let's approach the companies again and help them to understand our commitments to the industry. We must explain to the companies and service bureaus that we have changed over the years, that we allow more persons membership than several years ago. We need this support and commitment of the industry if we are to move forward. In all of my years of traveling not only in Kentucky but the United States and abroad, I have found that this special friendship in the Blue Goose means so much to me and I hope that it means the same to all of you.

This year has been very trying on my family. My father passed away in January after an illness that sent him to the hospital in Florida and in Kentucky. I know that he looked forward to being here with all of you as he had for thirty straight years. Missing last year's Convention in Detroit was hard on him and his last thoughts were of the Blue Goose that he loved so much and meant so much to him. What started out as a commitment to increased membership soon became a dedication to him. It seems that only yesterday I was telling him of all the fun Adele and I had last year. It is not often that you find a person that you can look up to and be very honest with. We also found out that I will need a liver transplant within two years. I have been told not to leave the Louisville area for the doctors believe that I will need to have this done soon. To top this off we also lost my father-in-law last month. One can only hope that next year will be better for our family.

In closing let me say that I wish I could have visited more Ponds this year, and I am grateful for the ones I did see. It is not easy to visit everyone, but I know that if we work hard the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose will continue to show increases in membership and more respect in our industry. Let's all work toward this goal. I will be forever grateful for the honor you gave me to serve as Most Loyal Grand Gander and will always be willing to help in any way I can. I leave office now and turn the reins over to Trevor Newitt with an increase in membership and a better understanding of the goals and purposes of our great Order. With a new love, and a renewed commitment to help our Order to become alive and active again. Once again, thank you and now we look forward to Edmonton in '93.”

GWGQ Maloney followed with the Grand Wielder's Report.

Active/Dues paying Members	6,560
Total Life Members	1,341
Dual Memberships	<u>169</u>
Total Membership	8,070

Although this reflects a slight reduction in membership from last year, it is primarily due to the disbanding of the Mississippi Pond and corrections to membership in the Kentucky and Tennessee Ponds. He gave special recognition to the Eastern and Central Regions which had net increases in membership of 66 and 52 members respectively.

GKGGG Glenn Carlson gave the Audit Report, advising the audit revealed income for the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1992 totaled \$74,401.13 with expenses of \$75,177.90 resulting in a deficit of \$776.77. He also advised that total monetary assets currently is positioned in a money market account of \$41,000 and a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$45,000.00.

This was followed by the Judge Advocates Report by PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton. He advised that he continues to receive queries for various Ponds regarding membership eligibility under Article IV of the Constitution and again stated that the proper venue for such questions lies with the Grand Nest Committee on Jurisprudence. He also has been consulted regarding individual Pond incorporation, which he considers a good idea, and suggests incorporation as a 501(c)3 charitable/educational non-profit corporation; or a 501(c)6 business league classification. He is of the personal opinion that 501(c)3 is the appropriate classification under the IRS code. ***(Editor's note: This is incorrect. The HOBGI and its Ponds are not, nor ever have been, qualified as a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization under the IRS Regulations. The HOBGI and its Ponds are classified as "tax exempt non-profit organizations" under the IRS Regulations and appropriately considered 501(c)10 Domestic Fraternal Society. Reference IRS Publication 557 "Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization")***

Ray Richardson, secretary of the Pond Publication Committee presented a detailed and excellent report and the winners of the Annual Pond Publication Awards will be announced during the Award Ceremony tomorrow.

Joe Coccia, Convention Co-Chair for the 1991 Convention in Detroit, MI gave an excellent report of the results of their Convention and presented GWGQ Maloney with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the purchase of a FAX machine for the Grand Nest office. Some of their surplus funds from their Convention was used to purchase computer systems for interface with the Grand Nest office, however most of the surplus was placed in a fund for the support of charities.

With that report, the meeting was adjourned with the afternoon and evening free for the ganders and guests. The golfers left for the annual golf outing.

Wednesday, August 19, 1992

MLGG Bolton called the final business meeting to order.

The Annual Pond Award Presentations followed with the following awards presented:

Membership Cup	Garden State Pond
Pond Publication Winners	
Amateur Award	Seattle Pond
Professional Award	Michigan Pond
Heart of America Pond's Fellowship Cup	Oregon Pond
Kentucky Pond's No Drop Out Cup	Alamo, Penn and Westchester Ponds tied
Regional Challenge Cup	Eastern Region
Regional Charity Awards	
Central Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Michigan Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Indiana Pond
Southern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Georgia Pond

Best Percentage Increase	Georgia Pond
Canadian Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Alberta Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Moncton Pond
Western Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Utah Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Utah Pond
Eastern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Garden State Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Garden State Pond

It was now time for our election of Grand Nest Officers for the coming year. The following Grand Nest Officers were nominated and elected to office for the year 1992 – 1993:

MLGG	Trevor Newitt	Edmonton, Alberta Pond
GSF	Clifford Needham	San Diego Pond
GCG	Chris Reith	Westchester Pond
GGN	Glenn Carlson	Nebraska Pond
GKGGE	George Harwood	Georgia Pond

Following the installation of the newly elected officers, the Pins of Office were presented to each and the Past Most Loyal Grand Pin and Life Membership Plaque were presented to PMLGG Bruce Bolton.

Newly elected MLGG Trevor Newitt followed with his Address of Acceptance, printed herein in its entirety.

**ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE
MLGG Trevor Newitt**

“Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Bruce Bolton, current and past Grand Nest Officers, delegates and fellow Ganders.

Election to the office of Most Loyal Grand Gander brings mixed emotions of humility and pride. Humility in that I am acutely aware of the challenge of attempting to match the accomplishments of my predecessors. And pride in the members of my own Pond.

WE are all aware that election to Grand Nest is limited to members of a Pond prepared to assume responsibility for hosting a convention; therefore, each and every member of Edmonton Pond shares the honor this office bestows.

Five years ago, my predecessor from Canadian Region, Gordon Crutcher, urged us each to work toward an improved image of Blue Goose. Considerable progress has been made in that regard; the valuable community and educational work being done by many Ponds is, at least in part, responsible for our favorable public recognition. A continued effort to further improve our public image is a worthy objective.

Membership and active participation in this great Order brings many benefits and rewards. To me, fellowship is the most significant benefit. The valued friendships I have made through Blue Goose activities are highly cherished. In recent years, Dorothy and I both have sincerely appreciated, and valued, the fellowship of the current and past Grand Nest Officers and their ladies and, equally, that of the many other wonderful people we have met through Pond visitations and convention attendance.

Fellowship is, of course, only attainable through active attendance and participation in Pond meetings and social activities. Encourage all members of your Pond to participate and you will provide them the opportunity to reap the reward of fellowship.

Fellowship certainly includes visiting with old friends. Unfortunately, too often this takes priority over extending our fellowship to new members and to infrequent attenders. Is either likely to return if not made to feel welcome? On joining Blue Goose, we each solemnly promised to give welcome and encouragement to the stranger in our midst. Let us reaffirm that promise and regularly resolve to continually extend a warm hand of fellowship to every fellow Gander.

Increasing and retaining membership is vital and our new Grand Nest membership chairman has some exciting plans to assist Ponds in that regard. However, it is my conviction that a strong focus on fellowship will materially help achieve positive membership development.

My fellow Grand Nest Officers and I are anxious to serve you to the best of our capabilities. But, sometimes, we receive mixed signals varying from “please tell us what to do” to “keep out of our affairs”. Please communicate your expectations to us and we will endeavor to meet your requirements.

Again, thank you. And, on behalf of the enthusiastic and dedicated members of the Edmonton Pond, you and your friends are encouraged to attend the 87th Anniversary Grand Nest Convention, August 8 – 11, 1993.”

MLGG Newitt then called upon the Committee to Report on PMLGG Bruce Bolton’s year in Office. The Committee was comprised of PMLGGs John Zeldam, Chairman, Al Kregel and Jerry Simpson and the report was given by PMLGG Zeldam commending PMLGG Bolton for his efforts in behalf of Blue Goose during his tenure as MLGG and for his many years of service to the Order.

This report was followed by the Resolutions read into session by PMLGG Harry Merrifield, Chairman in behalf of the other members, PMLGGs King Luck and Gordon Crowther, thanking all the individuals, Ganders, Ponds and institutions responsible for providing another in a long line of outstanding Conventions.

MLGG Trevor Newitt then brought the gavel down, signaling the adjournment of our final business meeting of the 86th Grand Nest Convention.

The Annual “Brats, Beans and Beaux Luncheon” followed with the afternoon free to prepare for the Grand Fellowship Banquet and Ball that evening. Our gratitude is extended to the entire Kentucky Pond and the Bolton family for their warm Southern hospitality.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, August 19, 1992, Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky

MLGG Trevor Newitt called the meeting to order with the following Officers, PMLGGs and guests in attendance:

MLGG Trevor Newitt	PMLGG Harry Merrifield
GSF Cliff Needham	PMLGG Jerry Simpson
GCG Chris Reith	PMLGG Al Kregel
GGN Glenn Carlson	PMLGG Ivar Awes
GKGGE George Harwood	PMLGG John Zeldam
GWGQ Terry Maloney	PMLGG Bruce Bolton
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton	PMLGG King Luck
PMLGG/GNH Gordon Crowther	PMLGG Ed Morgan
	DMLGG Paul Roberts
	DMLGG Marc Thurber
	DMLGG Todd Awes

MLGG Trevor Newitt confirmed reappointment of Charles Palmerton as Judge Advocate and PMLGG Gordon Crowther was appointed Grand Nest Historian.

MLGG Newitt reappointed Terrence Maloney as Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill and requisite contracts were executed.

Bank cards and Resolutions were signed by MLGG Newitt

Honorariums were granted to Diane Wiggins, secretary to JA Palmerton and Kathy Drake, secretary to Bruce Bolton in the amount of \$100 each.

Grand Nest officer convention expenses were approved.

The 1991-1992 budget was approved with a budgeted surplus of \$1,801.00

The Mid Year Meeting was set for Feb 12 – 14, 1993 at the San Diego Hilton Hotel. There will be a registration cost of \$120/couple for attendees other than the Grand Nest Executive Committee members.

The Annual Budget meeting will take place mid July 1993 in Elm Grove, WI with GKGGE in attendance

MLGG Newitt requested that Gander Scott Ratterman, San Francisco Pond, represent the HOBGI at the annual CPCU/IIA Awards meeting in San Francisco, CA. GKGGE George Harwood will be in attendance as a recipient of his designation as a CPCU.

MLGG Newitt will assign Grand Nest Officers to the various Grand Nest Committees and asked that the respective GN Officers make their committee appointments ASAP. Discussion regarding the advisability of having all members of certain committees be appointed from a single Pond.

GWGQ Maloney submitted a proposed computer assisted standardized financial model for Host Pond Convention Budgets

GGN Glenn Carlson gave his convention report, advising that the Red Lion Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska will be the Convention headquarters with room charges of about \$60.00. Fund raising to date is about \$1500.00. Tentative dates are Aug 3 – 7, 1996

PMLGG Morgan advised that some in the Canadian Region have expressed interest in splitting it into two regions, thereby enabling Canada to host Conventions more often. Again, PMLGG Ivar Awes suggestion on dropping/waiving strict regional rotation was discussed. These issues will be further explored at the Mid Year Meeting.

MLGG Newitt suggested that consideration be given to setting a “term limit” of not more than 3 to 5 years be set for the Grand Historian, to enable this honor to be shared by others. PMLGG/JA Palmerton reminded all that the Constitution provides that this position carries a one year term in office.

The meeting was adjourned.

1992 – 1993**Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting, Feb 13, 1993, San Diego Hilton, San Diego, California**

MLGG Trevor Newitt called the meeting to order with the following Officers, Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and Guests present:

MLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond	GGN Glenn Carlson, Nebraska Pond
GSF Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond	GKGGE George Harwood, Georgia Pond
GCG Christopher Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond
GWGQ Terrence Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
	Paul Roberts, San Diego Pond, Convention Co-Chair
	Gil White, San Diego Pond, Convention Co-Chair

GSF Needham welcomed all to San Diego. 1994 Convention Co-Chair Roberts of the San Diego Pond stated that although their current fund raising is insufficient to “balance the convention budget” he was certain that they would be ready in 1994.

GWGQ Maloney reported that the previously announced “Convention Financial Budget Model” is now being utilized by the Host Ponds. Membership is up slightly to date and outstanding dues and accounts receivables are within normal ranges. The Grand Nest Bulletin continues to receive attention regarding cost and quality.

JA Palmerton advised that a national organization, BMI, acts in behalf of music copyrighters and our Ponds must ensure when contracting with musicians and entertainers that they adhere to any copyright laws and are responsible for any fees therewith. He will confirm this in writing to our officers.

Regional Concerns:

Southern: The Texas Pond has disbanded, however the Virginia Pond is improving. Kentucky Pond has a new WGQ and it appears there will be some downward adjustments regarding their membership. The Palmetto Pond is still struggling.

Eastern: Penn Pond remains stable but stagnant. West Virginia Pond continues to be a serious concern.

Western: San Francisco Pond has improved its communication with Grand Nest. Arizona Pond is having some officer problems and the California Pond is finding it necessary to “recycle” its officers.

Central: Dakota Pond remains a serious concern. Greater Chicago Pond is hosting the Central Region meeting in February.

Canadian: Ontario Pond has had a decrease in membership. New Brunswick Pond is struggling with some problems arising from membership eligibility.

Pending Conventions:

1995 Eastern Region: Westchester Pond has raised \$30,000 to date. They recently lost a co-chairman but the Pond is actively involved and they anticipate no problems. Projected registration fee is somewhat higher than average but may be adjusted downward as fund raising progresses.

1996 Central Region: Nebraska Pond has raised \$11,960 to date and projected budget is balanced. The Pond is strongly in support of hosting the Convention.

1997 Southern Region: Georgia Pond has raised \$8,365 to date. The current projected registration fee is higher than average, however as fund raising continues, it will be reduced accordingly.

1993 Canadian Region: Edmonton Pond is fully prepared to host the Convention this year. A balanced budget is forecast with total expense of \$250,000 Canadian dollars.

1994 Western Region: San Diego Pond has raised all but about \$2,000 of its projected fund raising budget and believes they will have no trouble reaching budget. The project average or lower registration fees.

Future Convention Sites:

Canada: Quebec Pond is definitely set for 1997

Western: Oregon Pond is tentatively set for 1998

Eastern: Long Island Pond has expressed some interest and are considering the matter

Central: No commitments

Souther: No Commitments.

MLGG Newitt advised that his Pond visitations indicate a need for emphasis on member retention and feels some guidelines and programs should be developed for this purpose.

Host Pond Fund: The 1992 Convention in Louisville resulted in a surplus of over \$10,000 and the Kentucky Pond has reimbursed the Grand Nest the amount of the Host Pond Fund.

GSF Needham moved and GCG Reith seconded a motion to amend the Host Pond Fund by-law, increasing the amount from 50 cents to 75 cents per dues paying member. The motion passed. JA Palmerton will draft the language for this proposal for distribution to the Ponds for voting at the 1993 Convention in Edmonton.

MLGG Newitt stated that PMLGG Gordon Crutcher will have the new Grand Nest Officer Guides completed and available for distribution at the 1993 Convention in Edmonton.

Grand Nest Committee Reports were for the most part non-existent at this time. Follow up is necessary.

PMLGG King Luck has requested that HOBGI consider participating in the Insurance Hall of Fame located at the University of Alabama. PMLGG Simpson will discuss this further with PMLGG Luck for further consideration later.

The New Brunswick Pond has recommended that the voting procedures for membership be changed from the current “3 black balls and your out” to a simple majority vote. The Grand Nest Officers discussed and the consensus was that this change was undesirable. MLGG Newitt will advise the New Brunswick Pond accordingly.

Grand Nest Officer Expenses: A discussion of reimbursable expenses was held and the following clarification given:

Mid Year Meeting Expense: (ref Section 3, By-Laws) Restricted solely to the Executive Committee and the GWGQ (Most Loyal Grand Gander; Grand Supervisor of the Flock; Grand Custodian of the Goslings and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill). This DOES NOT include spousal expenses. This includes reasonable airfare and lodging, if not assumed by the Host Pond. The Host Ponds are encouraged to seek complementary rooms from the hotel and/or absorb these room charges.

Annual Grand Nest Conventions: (ref Section 3, By-Laws) All Grand Nest Officers, including the GWGQ, Judge Advocate and Grand Nest Historian and their spouses are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable travel (airfare) expense, lodging and convention registration fees. The Host Pond has traditionally waived registration fees for the officers and their spouses as well as absorbed the cost for lodging if not provided complementary by the hotel. Additionally, the Convention registration fee for PMLGG (excluding their spouse) has traditionally been shared equally by the Host Pond and Grand Nest.

Others: (ref Section 3, By-Laws) The MLGG is authorized by the Constitution to authorize expenses incurred by others that he requests to travel on behalf of the Grand Nest.

Honorary Membership: Honorary membership was approved for Ganders Shognen, Minnesota Pond and Schonberg, Nebraska Pond.

Constitutional and Miscellaneous concerns:

Host Pond Fund: It was agreed that the Host Pond Fund, once given by Grand Nest to the Host Pond, the Host Pond has exclusive discretionary control and use of the money to use and/or return as they see fit.

The Host Pond is granted the flexibility to set the programs, dates and times, within reason, as they choose and are not committed to a specific date and time for meeting, etc.

Grand Nest Officer candidates vs Host Ponds and/or Convention Site: The delegates elect a Grand Nest Officer, not the Host Pond nor Convention site. The Officer must be selected from specific Region(s) but the convention site is not required to be at that Officer's residence or Pond. This is IAW the current Constitution.

Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill: Discussion on amending the Constitutional provision requiring the GWGQ be a member of Wisconsin Home Nest. Matter was table for subsequent discussion.

Judge Advocate: JA Palmerton advised that he wished to "retire" from his position as Judge Advocate and would be willing to continue in officer through the Westchester Convention (1995) is requested. He suggested that a successor be solicited and appointed to an interim adjunct position of "Assistance Judge Advocate" to work with him in a transitory period.

Following miscellaneous discussions, the meeting was adjourned.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, August 7, 1993, Westin Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta

MLGG Trevor Newitt called the meeting to order with the following Grand Nest and Past Grand Nest officers present:

MLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GSF Cliff Needham, San Diego Pond	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
GCG Christopher Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
GGN Glenn Carlson, Nebraska Pond	PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest
GKGGE George Harwood, Georgia Pond	DMLGG Roger Dickey, Nova Scotia Pond
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond	
GWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	

Pending Convention Reports:

1994 San Diego Pond: Well prepared with projected income of \$133,000 and expenses of \$113,000. The San Diego Hilton Hotel has made some financial concession due to delays in construction.

1995 Westchester Pond: Budget is on target. Mid Year Meeting is scheduled for Feb 12, 1994 in conjunction with the Eastern Region fund raising dinner dance with anticipated attendance of 500.

1996 Nebraska Pond: The budget is on target with projected expense of \$144,000 for forecasted 440 registrants.

1997 Georgia Pond: Convention scheduled to commence Aug 10, 1997 at the Gwinnett Marriott Hotel with room charge of \$80/day anticipated. They are hoping to increase fund raising to lower registration fee.

Future Convention Sites:

Western Region: Oregon Pond has bowed out of contention. Arizona Pond has expressed some interest, however the Seattle Pond has voted to host the convention in 1999 if elected.

Eastern Region: The Long Island Pond with Jim Kregel as candidate for 2000 is 90% certain

Central Region: Greater Chicago is possible. St Louis Pond is seriously considering entering the ring.

Southern Region: No candidates to date

Canadian Region: Quebec Pond is set for 1998. Calgary and Nova Scotia are both considering 2003.

Regional Concerns:

Southern Region: The Texas Pond has disbanded. The Alamo Pond is considering moving to another location to encourage growth. Palmetto Pond is struggling.

Central Region: Ohio Pond is stagnant and the Dakota Pond's growth and communication is minimal

Eastern Region: West Virginia Pond is rebounding. The Penn and Empire State Ponds are stagnant and membership is decreasing.

Western Region: Generally O.K. however the economy has taken a hit on the membership.

Canadian Region: British Columbia Pond is unstable. The Thunder Bay and Fredericton Ponds continue to struggle, however the New Brunswick Pond seems to be turning the corner.

Annual Grand Nest Awards: MLGG Newitt assigned "presenters" for the awards which will be printed in the Bulletin

PMLGGs Zeldam, Merrifield and Rice were appointed to report on MLGG Newitt's year in office and PMLGGs Awes, Simpson and Kregel to serve on the Resolutions Committee.

PMLGG Zeldam will conduct the Installation of Officers elected during the Convention

Canadian Relief Exchange Rate was set at 1.30 for 1993-1994

Constitutional Amendment proposed by PMLGG Ivar Awes enabling Ponds to host the Annual Grand Nest Convention out of the normal regional order was discussed, with JA Palmerton recommending the PMLGG Awes withdraw the proposed amendment, feeling that the proposed wording would not meet the purpose intended.

87th Grand Nest Convention, August 8 – 11, 1993, Westin Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta

Sunday, August 8, 1993: "Shop Til You Drop" was the challenge for the day made by our Edmonton hosts. The buses were available the whole day to take you to the famous Edmonton mall; the largest mall in the world. Those who wanted to play were given access to the indoor water park.

In the evening we were given exclusive use of the water park for a beachside buffet and cocktails followed by a rock and roll group that had the whole flock singing along.

Monday, August 9, 1993:

MLGG Trevor Newitt called the 87th Grand Nest Convention to order, following which the City of Edmonton Police Pipe Band presented the National Colors of the United States and Canada. Thereafter, Paul Lorieau led us in the singing of our National Anthems.

Rev Blair Couch gave an inspiring invocation and the Mayor of Edmonton and a representative of Alberta Province welcomed us to their City and Province.

We then left the hotel proper for a short walk to the Citadel Theatre for our Memorial Service and Model Initiation Ceremony. The small semi-circular setting allowed us to look down upon the spot-lighted stage, lending an atmosphere of solemnity to the service recognizing our departed Ganders and conducted by members of the Edmonton Pond.

Members of the Quebec Pond performed our Model Initiation Ceremony, uniquely performed in both French and English while attired in beautiful costumes native to the Province of Quebec. We say "Thank you and Merci Beaucoup".

Next was the All Industry Luncheon where good food and fellowship always exists. Ron Lancaster, coach of the Edmonton Eskimos football club was our guest speaker, entertaining us with his explanation of Canadian style football.

The breakout meetings for Welders, Membership, Future Conventions and Publications followed in the afternoon, prior to our evenings events.

All were bused to the E.O.T. Park for an old-fashioned Bar-B-Q steak fry and dance. The food and drinks were continuously served throughout the evening, with entertainment and athletics in the form of horseshoes and softball for those athletes amongst us. A great party.

Tuesday, August 10, 1993

Following a continental breakfast the ganders departed for their respective Regional meetings which were well attended.

After the Regional Meetings we reconvened for our Business Meeting with MLGG Newitt calling the meeting to order following roll call of the delegates by GWGQ Maloney.

MLGG Trevor Newitt gave his report of his year in office which is reprinted herein in its entirety:

MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER'S REPORT
MLGG Trevor E. Newitt

“During my forty-year membership in this great Order, there has never been any doubt in my mind that Blue Goose is the most valuable and important organization in the property and casualty insurance industry. The honor, privilege and experience of serving as a Grand Nest Officer has reinforced that conviction.

At the commencement of my term as MLGG, I wrote each pond advising that I would be pleased to attend any meeting or function for which I received a request or invitation. I now report that I fulfilled that undertaking and that it was a most gratifying experience to participate in meetings and functions which had total attendance of well over 3,000 members and guests. The opportunity to renew acquaintances and friendships, and meet many additional fine members, will provide a lifetime of very positive memories.

Just as each individual is special, each function was a special experience. With attendance of 400 – 700, events such as the National Capital and Detroit puddle charity lunches and the Garden State Pond St Patrick party were both outstanding and impressive; equally enjoyable were the Alamo and Penn Pond meetings with 10 – 12 members. It was very enjoyable for Dorothy and me to attend the 75th Anniversary of British Columbia's Pond in our previous “home town” and the Alberta Pond dinner dance in Calgary.

The Central Region duck dinner, Hands Across the Border, Tri-Pond meeting of Long Island, New York and Westchester; the combined Bay State & Hartford Pond meeting was certainly memorable; as were the Seattle and California Pond “old timers” meetings. Hospitality was abundant at the Chinook and Kentucky Pond meetings. A major highlight of the year was the initiation of 29 goslings at the April Oregon Pond meeting.

Other special events were the “infamous” bonspiel at Banff, Alberta with attendance of nearly 200 members from the various Canadian Region ponds; the mid-year meeting where San Diego pond demonstrated what fine hosts they will be in 1994 and the very enjoyable Arizona Pond convention at Sedona.

It was also my privilege to attend the annual meetings of Wisconsin Home Nest, Peace Garden, Minnesota, Virginia and Quebec Ponds.

Wholehearted fellowship and hospitality was abundant from all members, but several do merit special thanks. These include John and Peggy Zeldam, Don and Anna Aukamp, Ivar and Lois Awes, Barry & Patricia Snyder, Joe & Sue Grandacher, Harry & Opal Merrifield, California pond “grey geese”, Jim Kregel, Gordon Crowther, Don and Kerry Greeno, Bruce and Adele Bolton, Bruce Mountjoy, Ken and Mavis Myer, Cliff and Berdie Needham, Terry & Lynn Maloney.

One could not ask for greater support than that provided by both the current and past Grand Nest Officers. The lives of Dorothy and I have been enriched from the friendships formed with these fine Officers and their ladies.

I express special gratitude to the Grand Nest Committee Chairmen for their valuable contributions and I urge their successors to also aim for a high standard in this important work.

The increasingly important contribution of the DMLGGs A/L is also recognized and appreciated. As just one example, during my five years as a Grand Nest Officer, Roger Dickey has been DMLGG A/L for Canada East and his assistance and contributions have been invaluable.

The ponds in the Canadian Region have provided significant financial support toward the 1993 convention and on behalf of Edmonton Pond and Grand Nest, a sincere thank you for your support. Special thanks to Alberta Pond for their valued

sponsorship of the barbecue and dance Monday evening. The generous financial support of industry friends is also very sincerely appreciated.

To all members of Edmonton Pond, sincere thanks and congratulations, particularly the convention committee members for your enthusiastic and dedicated effort to host a convention for which you can take pride for many years to come.

In conclusion, each of us can be justifiably proud of our membership in this great Order and I urge each of you to do your utmost to ensure its continued success and foster our cardinal principles of character, charity and fellowship.

Again, thank you for affording me the privilege of serving as your MLGG.”

After announcing the appointment of members of the Committees to report on MLGG Newitt’s year in office and Resolutions, MLGG Newitt called for the Audit Report from our GKGGE.

GKGGE George Harwood reported that the annual financial audit was conducted in Elm Grove, WI on July 10, 1993 in the presence of GWGQ Terry Maloney, PMLGG Doug Snyder and our accountant, Bud Osowski in addition to himself. He found the records to be in order and that the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993 resulted in a surplus of \$4,331.05. The budget was formulated for fiscal year 1993-1994 with a budgeted surplus of \$2,308.00.

Judge Advocate Charles Palmerton followed with his report. He advised that for the third year in a row, things have been relatively quiet in the realm of Judge Advocate. He advised that two amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws have been proposed and submitted to the Ponds for their deliberation and will be considered later at this Convention. He recommended adoption of the By-Law amendment relating to an increase in the amount paid to host ponds in the form of the Host Pond Fund but cautioned against the Constitutional Amendment relating to a possible change in the cycle of officers from each Region. He recognized a concern regarding the financing of Grand Nest Conventions and perhaps considering reconfiguration of the five Regions and feels these should and must be discussed and deliberated in an attempt to resolve any current problems. In closing he announced his planned retirement from the position of Judge Advocate no later than the 1995-1996 year.

The Grand Nest Historian, PMLGG Gordon Crowther was unable to be present due to illness however his written report is available for distribution during the Convention.

The various committee reports were received, following which the annual presentation of Awards was conducted with winners as follows:

Membership Cup	San Francisco Pond
Pond Publication Awards	
Amateur Award	Ontario Pond
Professional Award	San Diego Pond
Heart of America Pond Fellowship Cup	Minnesota Pond
Kentucky Pond No Drop Out Cup	Tie: Alamo, Indiana, National Capital and Seattle Ponds
Regional Challenge Cup	Tie: Eastern and Western Regions
Regional Charity Award	
Central Region	
Most new & reinstated members	Michigan Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Dakota
Southern Region	
Most new & reinstated members	Virginia
Best Percentage Increase	Virginia
Canadian Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Quebec Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Prince Edward Island Pond
Western Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	San Francisco Pond
Best Percentage Increase	San Francisco Pond
Eastern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Long Island Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Long Island Pond

Constitutional Amendments:

- 1993 Motion was made seconded and passed to increase the amount of the Host Pond Fund from 50 cents to 75 cents per dues paying member (Section 3, of the By-Laws)
2. Motion was made to enable candidates for Grand Nest office to elected “out of cycle” from another Region if the “in-cycle” Region was unable to produce a candidate for office. Motion was proposed by PMLGG Ivar Awes. After considerable discussion and apparent concern regarding its intent and consequences, the motion was withdrawn by PMLGG Awes.

MLGG Newitt then adjourned the meeting until the following morning.

The afternoon and evening was free for our registrants with the golfers off to the annual golf outing

Wednesday, August 8, 1993

The day began with members of the San Diego Pond providing an audio-visual presentation of the site for our 1994 Convention in San Diego, with its incomparable climate and resort like atmosphere.

MLGG Newitt then declared the final business meeting of our 1993 Convention open for business and roll call was taken by GWGQ Maloney.

We immediately commenced the annual election of Grand Nest Officers who were properly nominated and unanimously elected as follows:

Most Loyal Grand Gander	Clifford Needham	San Diego Pond
Grand Supervisor of the Flock	Christopher Reith	Westchester Pond
Grand Custodian of the Goslings	Glenn Carlson	Nebraska Pond
Grand Guardian of the Nest	George Harwood	Georgia Pond
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg	Mark Thurber	Quebec Pond

PMLGG John Zeldam conducted the installation of the newly elected officers.

After the presentation of pin of office to the newly elected officers and the Past Most Loyal Grand Gander pin and Life Membership Plaque to PMLGG Trevor Newitt, newly elected MLGG Clifford Needham gave his Address of Acceptance, printed herein in its entirety:

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE
MLGG Clifford Needham

“PMLGG Trevor Newitt, current Grand Nest Officers, PMLGG’s and my fellow Ganders.

Thank you for permitting me to experience one of the greatest moments of my life. That of being elected as the Most Loyal Grand Gander of our beloved honorable Order of Blue Goose. This is the fulfillment of a goal that I have pursued since I took my first flight from the banks of the San Diego Pond on January 26, 1955. I now stand before you with a heart full of gratitude and a burning desire to do the very best job I can as your Most Loyal Grand Gander. The phrase “behind every successful man there is a woman” has been played upon in a thousand ways. I cannot be anything but totally serious when I say this holds true for my wife Berdie, who has never at any time failed to support me in all of my Blue Goose activities, and who could ask for a more appropriate name for a wife than Berdie, for a Blue Goose is a bird and I have one for a mate.

The opportunity to serve this honorable order would not have been possible without the help and encouragement from our current and past Grand Nest officers, as well as the members of the San Diego and Arizona Ponds. I will also at this time give special recognition to our dearly departed past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Browne Bolton and Frank Hunter, who’s advise and counsel I could always count on. To past Most Loyal Grand Gander and Judge Advocate Chuck Palmerton for his patience and understanding, which I have tested on more than one occasion, such as the time I first appeared in my Blue Goose costume at the Seattle Grand Nest Convention in 1979. I can not say enough for our Grand Wielder, Terry Maloney. His source of

information and guidance these past four years and in my coming year as Most Loyal Grand Gander, will make my term in office much easier.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention Past Most Loyal Grand Gander, John Zeldam, affectionately known as “Mr Z”. He has set an example that will be the bench mark for all MLGG’s to emulate. Last and never to be forgotten is our immediate past Most Loyal Grand Gander, Trevor Newitt, who has earned the distinguished title of past Most Loyal Grand Gander by serving Blue Goose with pride to himself and honor to our Order. Trevor, will you please stand up so we can show our appreciation and give thanks for a job well done.

I quite often here the question “What is Blue Goose and what can it do for me?” This will be one of the subjects that I will address as I visit the Ponds throughout the United States and Canada. We learn from the history of our honorable order, that Blue Goose is a fraternal organization dedicated to the promotion of high ideals and professional standards, encouraging all of its members to achieve a closer understanding of the Golden Rule inculcating the virtues of character, charity and fellowship. We also know that Blue Goose is the only organization where men and women from all segments of the insurance business can meet to promote the welfare of our industry, develop lifetime friends and establish mutual trust with those of us who earn our living in the business. I am sure that many of you here today, like myself have had experiences where Blue Goose has proven to be invaluable. There were times in my career when I needed information concerning insurance companies, agents, prospective employees or knowledge pertaining to a particular insurance problem that I could call a fellow Blue Gooser for the answer. This is what Blue Goose can do for us. I would be interested in hearing from you about any experiences you have had where Blue Goose has been helpful. This information will be passed on at my meetings with the Ponds I visit. Like many other organizations, membership in Blue Goose continues to be a problem. I will devote my time and energy in finding a solution to this dilemma.

Two of our Ganders, GGN George Harwood and PMLG Ken Morris from the National Capital Pond have presented some excellent ideas for increasing membership, and I intend to follow through with them on this.

In closing, let me remind you of the pledge I gave to Blue Goose when I was first nominated to serve as a Grand Nest Officer. The first letter in each sentence of my pledge spells Blue Goose, which means that I have pledged myself to our honorable Order. This is my pledge:

Be dedicated to the Grand Nest
Loyal to the Order
Unselfish toward my fellow ganders
Earnest in upholding the ideals and principals on which Blue Goose was founded
Generous with my time
Obedient to my superiors
Observe the rules and regulations of Blue Goose
Sincere in my dealings
Equal in character, charity and fellowship to all Ponds

I have and will continue to honor this pledge, and in return ask for your support and confidence in me as your Most Loyal Grand Gander.

Thank you fellow ganders and God bless Blue Goose.”

MLGG Needham then called upon the Committee to Report on PMLGG Trevor Newitt’s year in office. PMLGG John Zeldam in behalf of his committee (PMLGG Harry Merrifield and PMLGG Bob Rice) commended PMLGG Newitt for his service to our Order and his sense of humor and contagious spirit.

PMLGG Ivar Awes, chairman of the Resolutions Committee comprised of PMLGG Jerry Simpson and Alfred Kregel, read the Resolutions, thanking and commending all the ganders, guests, Ponds and institutions and facilities for their excellent performance in providing a wonderful Convention and experience for all the registrants.

MLGG Needham called for adjournment of this our 87th Grand Nest Business Meeting with the ganders and guests departing for the luncheon to follow. The tables were decorated with miniature lobster traps provided by the Nova Scotia Pond and a fun filled meal was had by all. We left the luncheon little knowing what was to follow that evening.

The Ganders and Guests gathered in the lobby adjoining the banquet room. The lobby had been transformed into our very own Blue Goose gold mine complete with grub-stackers, “bar ladies” miners and others. Those wishing could even “pan” for gold! If we weren’t already in awe of our surroundings, the doors to the banquet room were opened and “what to our wandering eyes would appear” but thousands of glittering lights and glitter – sparkling wherever one looked. Incredible! A magnificent meal followed of prime rib and baked Alaska. The evening was climaxed with dancing and listening to the sounds of the renowned Edmonton Firefighters Dance Band. What a night and what a convention. Thanks, Edmonton Pond.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, August 11, 1993, Westin Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta

MLGG Clifford Needham called the meeting to order with the following Offices and Guests present:

MLGG Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond	PMLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
GSF Chris Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GCG Glenn Carlson, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
GGN George Harwood, Georgia Pond	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
GKGGE Marc Thurber, Quebec Pond	PMLGG Alfred Kregel, Long Island Pond
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Robert Rice, Colorado Pond
GWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PGWGQ Jack Gravenstine, Wisconsin Home Nest
	DMLGG Grover Alspaugh, Tennessee Pond
	DMLGG Womack, Colorado Pond
	DMLGG Paul Roberts, San Diego Pond
	DMLGG Gregor

MLGG Needham confirmed appointments of PMLGG Charles Palmerton as Judge Advocate and PMLGG Gordon Crowther as Grand Nest Historian.

Bank cards were signed by MLGG Needham

Honorariums were approved as follows:

Rae Cook, secretary to Chuck Palmerton	\$100
Kathy Prefontaine, sec to MLGG Newitt	\$100
Sandra Newitt, asst to MLGG Newitt	\$100

Grand Nest Officer expenses to the Convention were approved

The 1993-1994 Grand Nest budget was approved

Mid Year Meeting will be held Feb 11-13, 1994 at the Rye Town Hilton, hosted by the Westchester Pond

Annual audit will be held in July 1994 in Elm Grove, WI

GSF Reith will attend the Annual CPCU/IIA Awards Ceremony in Baltimore, MD

MLGG Needham assigned Grand Nest officer duties and announced Grand Nest Committee appointments and DMLGGs

The Peace Garden Pond has asked that they provide a cup to be awarded to the Pond with the most “first time attendees” at a Convention, excluding the Host Pond. The offer was accepted.

PMLGG Newitt volunteered to attempt to rewrite the “So You Want To Be A Grand Nest Officer” and “So Now You Are A Grand Nest Officer” guides. PMLGG Palmerton and Awes offered to assist.

Meeting was adjourned.

1993 – 1994**Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting, February 12, 1994, Rye Town Hilton, Westchester, NY**

The meeting was called to order by MLGG Clifford Needham, with the following Officers, Past and Present in attendance:

MLGG Clifford C Needham, San Diego Pond	GGN George Harwood, Georgia Pond
GSF Christopher Reith, Westchester Pond	GKGGE Marc Thurber, Quebec Pond
GCG Larry W Lewer, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG/GNH Gordon Crowther
	PMLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
	PMLGG Tim Holland, Bay State Pond
	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond

Due to an unexpected and nearly unprecedented blizzard covering the east coast, GWGQ Terry Maloney and others were unable to attend the meeting.

MLGG Needham introduced our newly appointed Grand Custodian, Larry Lewer from the Nebraska Pond. His appointment followed the death of our dearly departed Grand Custodian, Glenn Carlson.

Pending Convention Budgets and Planning was discussed with all reporting satisfactory progress.

Future Convention Sites indicated that the Seattle Pond was prepared to host the 1999 Convention. The other Regions are uncommitted, with the National Capital Pond in 2000; the St Louis, Heart of America and Greater Chicago in 2001; Tennessee in 2002 and Nova Scotia Pond for 2003 are all possibilities

Regional concerns indicated concerns of varying degrees with the following Ponds:

Western: California Pond
 Southern: Palmetto and Alamo Ponds
 Canadian: British Columbia, Fredericton and Manitoba Ponds
 Eastern: New York City and Long Island Ponds as well as Penn, West Virginia and Syracuse.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: PMLGG Ivar Awes discussed the merits of his proposed amendment which was withdrawn at our 1993 Convention permitting a Region to nominate a candidate and host Pond out of sequence in the event the sequential Region fails to do so.

1993 Convention, Edmonton, Alberta: PMLGG Newitt advised that the Convention resulted in a surplus of about \$40,000.00

PMLGG Newitt is preparing a draft revision of the Grand Nest Officer's Booklet

MLGG Needham is attempting to create a Puddle for Northern Arizona in the Sedona, AZ area.

Following other miscellaneous discussions regarding delegate attendance at Regional meetings, future Judge Advocate search, Blue Goose bumper stickers and pins and salary evaluations for the GWGQ, the meeting was adjourned.

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, July 26, 1994, San Diego Hilton, San Diego, CA

MLGG Clifford Needham called the meeting to order with the following Officers, Past and Present, in attendance:

MLGG Clifford Needham, San Diego Pond	PMLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
GSF Christopher Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GCG Larry Lewer, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
GGN George Harwood, Georgia Pond	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
GKGGE Marc Thurber, Quebec Pond	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
GWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond	
PMLGG/GNH Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond	

Pending and Future Convention Sites and Planning: All host Ponds for pending Convention report satisfactory progress. Possible Host Ponds for the future are: 1999 – Seattle Pond; 2000 – National Capital Pond; 2001- St Louis or Greater Chicago; with no interest expressed for 2003 & 2004 to date.

GWGQ Maloney reported that membership is down slightly this year primarily due to membership adjustments by a few Ponds.

Regional Concerns and Comments: The following Ponds show varying degrees of concern: California, Long Island, Penn, Empire State, Dakota, Ohio, and others in the Southern and Canadian Regions. Of specific concern is the Long Island Pond which has suffered due to the recent indictment of several of its members as a result of an insurance fraud investigation. On the positive side, a Sedona Puddle of the Arizona Pond has been established.

The Committee to Report on MLGG Needham's Year In Office and Resolutions Committee appointments were made. PMLGG John Zeldam will conduct the installation of Grand Nest Officers.

The Canadian Relief fixed exchange rate for 1994-1995 is 1.40. Business POV mileage allowance is 29 cents/mile.

GSF Reith announced that he will appoint William Gast of the Nebraska Pond as Assistant Judge Advocate following his anticipated election to MLGG for the year 1994 – 1995.

Host Pond Fund: A discussion regarding allocation of returned Host Pond Funds by the Host Pond following its convention revealed a consensus that this money should be specifically escrowed in a segregated fund with the interest being available for funding future conventions.

Constitutional Amendment: PMLGG Ivar Awes advocated adoption of his proposed amendment enabling Ponds outside the sequential Region to host future conventions if the sequential Region fails to produce a host Pond from its Region. JA Palmerton opposed the amendment for fear that this may result in a Region without Grand Nest representation for several years.

MLGG Needham adjourned the meeting.

88th Grand Nest Convention, San Diego Hilton, San Diego, California

Wednesday, July 27, 1994: Registrants to this convention found themselves immediately thrust into the planned activities, with golfers teeing off in our annual golf outing and others going on fishing excursions off the shores of San Diego or simply taking in the wonders of and wonderful climate of San Diego. And the kids were not forgotten as they attended their own barbeque.

That evening we all gathered around the fabulous pool for our own Mexican Fiesta complete with a strolling Mariachi trio and south of the border cuisine. Best of all, a chance to mix with our friends and fellow ganders.

Thursday, July 28, 1994:

Following breakfast, MLGG Clifford Needham brought the gavel down, officially opening our 88th Convention. The National Colors of Canada and the United States were presented by the US Marine Recruit Depot Color Guard followed the traditional singing of our National Anthems. The Rev Dr. Stephanie Nagley provided the Invocation and Joanne DiBona of the San Diego Convention Bureau welcomed us to beautiful San Diego.

The Memorial Service was conducted by members of the California Pond, followed by the Model Initiation performed by members of the Arizona Pond, attired in their customary garb as Cowboys dressed for the Saturday Night Dance, complete with six-shooters. A super performance. Thanks, Dudes!

This afternoon we all were bused to the fabulous Sea World Park where the entire park was at our disposal. We were treated to the likes of Shamu to Manta Rays and creatures of the sea and air. We were all impressed by Sea World's program dedicated to the preservation of marine life. Following a scrumptious buffet we witnessed a great fireworks show to climax our day.

Friday, July 29, 1994:

Our morning began abruptly, with a continental breakfast being provided during our Regional Meetings. Following the Regional meetings, the delegates and ganders gathered for the first business meeting of the Convention, with MLGG calling the meeting to order and GWGQ Maloney calling the roll of delegates.

MLGG Needham proceeded with his Report of His Year In Office which is included herein in its entirety:

MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER'S REPORT
MLGG Clifford C. Needham

“Current Grand Nest Officers, PMLGGs and my fellow Ganders. It has been almost a year since I was privileged to stand before the officers and members of our honorable order, to deliver my acceptance speech, as your Most Loyal Grand Gander.

These past months have been the most rewarding experience of my life, unfortunately time does not permit me to list all of these rewards. There is one however that stands out, and that is “fellowship”, which as we all know is one of the cardinal principles of our Order. This extension of fellowship from the Ponds I visited, only fortified my convictions that Blue Goose is by far the greatest organization that anyone could be privileged to belong.

In my travels through out the United States and Canada, I was able to visit Ponds in each of our five districts, accounting for a total of 26 Ponds. Some of the meetings, like the Iowa Duck Dinner in Cedar Rapids, the Bonspiel in Banff and the Eastern Regional in Westchester, I was able to meet members from another 14 Ponds, so all in all I was in contact with a total of 40 Ponds. This gave me an opportunity to observe the strength and weaknesses of these Ponds. The result being that the Ponds who are utilizing the broadening of membership eligibility rules, recently enacted by Grand Nest, are the stronger ones. The Ponds that have resisted these changes are like the “spotted owl” and find themselves on the endangered list. It is therefore imperative that these Ponds must be encouraged by not only Grand Nest, but by all of us, to eliminate the negativism that persists, and like a cancer in time will destroy them. Fellow Ganders, I ask that when you leave this convention, go back to your Ponds thinking positive about Blue Goose.

When I first joined Blue Goose in 1955, it was because I wanted to and not because I was asked. Ganders, conditions have changed and we must change with them. We cannot wait for members to come to us, but instead we must go to them. There is a wealth of prospective members who would like to be in Blue Goose, but how can they join if they have never heard about us. This is why I devised that pin “Ask Me About Blue Goose”, a pin that I hope you will all be wearing. By displaying this pin and carrying with me the “Blue Goose Today” pamphlet, it helped me in establishing a puddle in Northern Arizona. In the so-called “Good Old Days” the insurance companies were strong supporters of Blue Goose and we did not have to advertise our product. These days are gone and we can no longer depend on insurance companies for our welfare. Instead we must let the rest of the people from the other segments of our business know about Blue Goose. Wear the pin and when someone asks you what is Blue Goose, give them the pamphlet and application, and if they are eligible to join invite them to your meetings. Your Pond membership will increase. If your Pond has strong leadership and provides good programs, both educational and social, these new members will stay and in turn bring in their friends and associates. By doing this our honorable order will again be recognized by the insurance industry as an organization that everyone will be proud to join. Blue Goose deserves this but it needs your help, please do your part.

Before closing I want to give a special recognition to the Ganders and their spouses in the San Diego Pond. I will never be able to repay them for the many years of self sacrifice and devotion that they have contributed to make this convention a reality. Their loyalty to Blue Goose and support to me these past 10 years is above and beyond what any individuals could be asked to do. I say 10 years for as many of you recall, in 1984 the San Diego Pond came within one vote of hosting the 1989 Grand Nest Convention. This, my fellow Ganders is what Blue Goose is all about. Finally, I would like to thank all of the Grand Nest Officers, both past and present, and most of all my fellow Ganders like you, for the support and fellowship you have given me during my term of office.

God Bless you and Blue Goose.”

GWGQ Maloney then gave the Annual Wielder's Report, advising that membership had declined slightly this last year, due primarily to membership adjustments by a few Ponds.

GKGGE Marc Thurber followed with the Annual Audit Report, advising he found the financial records in order. However, contrary our projected budgeted surplus for fiscal year 1993-1994, actual results resulted in a deficit of \$9,200.77. As a result,

our total assets as of June 30, 1994 are \$88,876.57. A budget has been proposed for fiscal year 1994-1995 with projected income of \$91,877 and expense of \$88,000 resulting in a budgeted surplus of \$3,877.00.

Judge Advocate Charles Palmerton gave his report, advising that anti-trust issues continue to cause distrust of Blue Goose by some insurance companies, albeit such perceived concerns are untrue. He again admonished all that questions regarding membership eligibility, falls within the purview of the Committee on Jurisprudence rather than Judge Advocate. An issue was raised regarding Puddle funds remaining upon it dissolution: decision rendered is that a Puddle is simply an extension of the chartered Pond and any Puddle assets (or liability) would have to be returned to the sponsoring Pond.. He also advised of the current problems of criminal activity alleged of certain ganders and the Constitutional requirement to expel any such ganders from membership in the Order.

Committee reports from the Membership, Publicity and Education Committees were presented and received, following which our Annual Grand Nest Awards were presented to the following Ponds:

Membership Cup	Florida Pond
Pond Publication Awards	
Amateur Award	Colorado Pond
Professional Award	San Francisco Pond
Heart of America Pond Fellowship Cup	San Francisco Pond
Kentucky Pond No Drop Our Cup	Tie: Peace Garden, Oregon, Bay State and Hartford Ponds
Regional Challenge Cup	Central Region
Regional Charity Awards:	
Central Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Michigan Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Indiana Pond
Southern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Georgia Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Georgia Pond
Canadian Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Edmonton Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Nova Scotia Pond
Western Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Arizona Pond
Best Percentage Increase	San Diego Pond
Eastern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	National Capital Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Garden State Pond

Constitutional Amendment: PMLGG Ivar Awes proposed an amendment to our Constitution to enable another Region to host a convention and nominate a candidate for Grand Nest office if the Region in sequence fails to produce a Host Pond and candidate. This amendment had been proposed at the 1992-1993 Convention however was withdrawn by PMLGG Awes due to question of clarity and intent. The language had been revised in an attempt to provide greater clarity and intent. Following a second, the amendment was defeated by voice vote.

The meeting was then adjourned until Saturday morning by MLGG Needham, who invited all to stick around for the All Industry Luncheon which not only provided necessary sustenance but laughs from the comments by our guest speaker, Rusty Nails.

The afternoon and evening was free for the attendees to do as they wished.

Saturday, July 30, 1994

Our morning began with the presentation of next years Convention hosted by the Westchester Pond, which promises to be the place to be in 1995.

MLGG Needham then called the final business meeting to order following which Grand Wielder Maloney called the roll of delegates. We immediately moved into the election of Grand Nest Officers for the following year, with the following slate:

Most Loyal Grand Gander	Christopher Reith	Westchester Pond
Grand Supervisor of the Flock	Larry Lewer	Nebraska Pond
Grand Custodian of the Goslings	George Harwood	Georgia Pond
Grand Guardian of the Nest	Marc Thurber	Nova Scotia Pond
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg	Rex Clark	Seattle Pond

PMLGG John Zeldam conducted the installation of officers, following which the newly elected officers were presented with their respective pins of office and PMLGG Cliff Needham his PMLGG pin and Life Membership Plaque.

Newly elected MLGG Chris Reith followed with his address of acceptance, reprinted herein as follows:

**ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE
MLGG Christopher Reith**

“Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Clifford Needham, Current and Past Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Fellow Ganders:

It is with great pride and deep commitment that I accept your election to the office of the Most Loyal Grand Gander of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International. This is a great honor bestowed not only upon myself but the Westchester Pond of the Eastern Region.

I must give special thanks to my wonderful wife, Vivian, who has not only stood beside me for the past 22 wonderful years of marriage, but was the person who first brought me into the world of property and casualty insurance. Without her persistence as an employee of the old INA many years ago, I would not have been able to begin a career as an adjuster trainee with that company. I would also like to give special thanks to my children Eric and Caroline who have been attending the Blue Goose conventions since Omaha and have quickly proven that the Blue Goose is meant for children of all ages. As these two young people have grown over the years so has this family’s deep fellowship with the great Blue Goose family.

I have already been asked by both of my children what career paths could they follow so that they can be life long members of Blue Goose.

I must for a moment talk about commitment, not only of myself to the Blue Goose, but also that of the Westchester Pond who began considering hosting the convention when they were just a mere 5 years in existence. With a regular active membership of only 30 members and with an absolute zero balance in their bank account six year ago, the Westchester Pond has been committed to not only host a great convention in 1995 but are now a leading influence in the Eastern Region and the Blue Goose International. Westchester Pond’s commitment to the Blue Goose is limitless.

As PMLGG Gordon Crowther earlier indicated I have been recently appointed a corporate officer for the Home Insurance Company. One of the great surprises that I found when I was talking with the senior management at the Home was that they fully supported the Honorable Order of Blue Goose and my role as Most Loyal Grand Gander. With what appears to be the current trend (away from insurance organizations) in the carrier end of the insurance industry, especially in the United States, this quite honestly took me by surprise. I have been almost believing that senior management of large stock companies in this country did not support our great organization.

I will be focusing a great deal of time and effort in my year of office in communicating with as many large companies to turn the apparent trend of not supporting organizations such as the Blue Goose. I strongly believe that the recent trends of anti-trust legislation and litigation has distorted the public perception as to what the Honorable Order of Blue Goose is all about. Just last year a major magazine publication in an article on fraternal organizations in North America indicated that the Honorable Order of Blue Goose International was an extinct organization. I think it is time that we take great effort to communicate not only to the industry but also to the general public what we are really all about.

The Blue Goose is about character, fellowship and charity and I will do everything I can to convince the insurance industry that we are not in violation of anti-trust acts and manipulation of the insurance industry.

Finally, let me invite all of you to the 89th Anniversary Grand Nest Convention in Westchester, New York August 13th through 16th, 1995. Thank you again.”

The Report on MLGG Clifford Needham's year in office and the report from the Resolutions Committee given by Committee Chairmen PMLGG Awes and PMLGG Simpson respectively were given appropriately thanking and commending MLGG (now PMLGG) Needham for his service to our Order and the many ganders, guests, organizations and facilities contributing to the success of our Convention.

The meeting was then adjourned until next year in Westchester, with everyone preparing and anxiously awaiting the Grand Banquet and Ball that evening. Once again a wonderful banquet was to be experienced by all and the fellowship continues.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, July 30, 1994, San Diego Hilton, San Diego, CA

MLGG Chris Reith called the meeting to order with the following officers, past and present, in attendance:

MLGG Chris Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
GSF Larry Lewer, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GCG George Harwood, Georgia Pond	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
GGN Marc Thurber, Quebec Pond	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
GKGGE Rex Clark, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond
GWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	DMLGG (Central Region) Steve Gregor
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond	
PMLGG/GNH Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond	
Asst JA, William Gast, Nebraska Pond	

MLGG Reith confirmed the appointments of Judge Advocate, Asst Judge Advocate, Grand Nest Historian and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, following which the GWGQ contract, bank cards and resolutions were signed.

A \$250 honorarium was granted to JA Palmerton's secretary, Rae Cooke, \$150 of which will be reimbursed to Grand Nest by JA Palmerton.

Grand Nest officer expenses and the 1994-1995 budget were approved.

The Mid Year meeting is scheduled for Feb 11, 1995 at the Red Lion Inn, Omaha, Nebraska and the Annual Audit will be conducted in Elm Grove, WI in July 1995.

GSF Lewer will represent Blue Goose at the annual CPCU/IIA Awards Ceremony in Chicago, IL September 25, 1994

Consensus is that attendance of delegates to Convention Regional Meetings be mandatory.

Appointments of GN officers as liaisons to Grand Nest Committees were made.

It was decided that change in the Grand Nest phone system was not advisable. The Grand Nest computer system is in need of upgrading and funds were approved for this purpose. The meeting was then adjourned.

1994 - 1995

Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting, Feb 11, 1995, Red Lion Inn, Omaha, Nebraska

The minutes of this meeting are unavailable to the author

Grand Nest Officers Pre-Convention Meeting, August 12, 1995, Rye Town Hilton, Westchester, NY

MLGG Christopher Reith called the meeting to order with the following Officers, Past and Present, in attendance:

MLGG Chris Reith, Westchester Pond	PMLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
GSF Larry Lewer, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GCG George Harwood, Georgia Pond	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
GGN Marc Thurber, Quebec Pond	PMLGG Jerry Simpson, Florida Pond
GKGGE Rex Clark, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Bruce Bolton, Kentucky Pond
GWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Alfred Kregel, Lond Island Pond
PMLGG/JA Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond
Asst JA William Gast, Nebraska Pond	DMLGG Barry Snyder, National Capital Pond

Pending Convention Reports:

1995 Westchester is all set and financially sound
 1996 Omaha anticipates registration fee of \$140 - \$150 with dates of August 3 – 8
 1997 Georgia may increase its registration fee noting that room rates will be relatively low. Dates Aug 10 – 13
 1998 Quebec has tentative dates of Aug 1 – 6. No contract has been signed.
 1999 Seattle tentative dates of Aug 4 – 8 at the Four Season Hotel. Room rate of \$140/nite.

GWGQ Maloney reported that he has been able to revitalize the Texas Pond with over 100 prospective members. A charter has been requested for the proposed Mount Vernon Pond, Alexandria, VA. Fredericton and Prince Edward Island Ponds are faltering. Overall membership is down.

Regional Concerns:

Minnesota, Dakota and Ohio Ponds continue to cause concern in the Central Region
 Alabama, Alamo, Florida and Louisiana Ponds are of concern in the Southern Region.
 In the Canadian Region the Fredericton Pond is dropping its charter.
 The Washington Pond is restructuring. The Oregon Pond is of concern in the West.
 Eastern Region finds the Penn Pond initiating 5 new members with West Virginia appearing stable. The proposed charter for a new Mount Vernon Pond is causing some unrest and divisiveness with the National Capital Pond.

MLGG Reith appointed presenters for the Annual Grand Nest Awards and members of the Report on the MLGG Year in Office and Resolutions Committees

PMLGG John Zeldam will conduct the installation of newly elected Grand Nest Officers

GKGGE Rex Clark reported that the annual audit revealed another fiscal year deficit, due primarily to a drop in membership and suggested further dues increases may be imperative. After some discussion, the matter was tabled until the post convention meeting.

Canadian Relief Exchange Rate was set at 1.35 for fiscal year 1995-1996

Host Pond Fund disbursements/reimbursements was discussed. Consensus was that if a surplus existed after the convention, the money should be returned to Grand Nest to be placed in escrow to a “future convention reserve fund”.

MBNA Affinity Credit Card Program will be initiated and introduced during this convention

Asst JA Gast has been working on recodification of our Constitution and By-Laws

Further discussion regarding the proposed Charter for a Mount Vernon Pond ended with this matter being referred to a vote by the delegates without endorsement by the Grand Nest Officers.

Meeting Adjourned

89th Grand Nest Convention, August 13 – 16, 1995, Rye Town Hilton, Westchester, NY

Sunday, August 13, 1995

After a great time meeting old friends and making new ones at registration, everyone made their way to the buses. There was little time to “warm-up” at this convention. West Point Academy here we come. A tour of the grounds, a walk through the museum and some souvenir shopping took up the day. Dinner on the grounds at the Thayer Hotel garden bluff overlooking the Hudson River provided a perfect setting. The West Point jazz concert in the natural amphitheater on the bank of the Hudson topped off a wonderful day.

Monday, August 14, 1995

The opening ceremonies of this, our 89th Grand Nest Convention, was called to order by MLGG Reith with the National Colors of Canada and the United States being presented by the Westchester Boy Scouts followed by the singing of our respective National Anthems. Lou McIntyre gave an inspiring invocation after which Westchester County Executive Andrew O'Rourke welcomed us to the area.

The Memorial Service was conducted by the National Capital Pond with special memorial tributes to two of our Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders who took their last long flight this past year, Bob Wiseman of the National Capital Pond and Earl Hannan of the St Louis Pond. They served as MLGG in the years 1955-1956 and 1964-1965 respectively. “Hail Friends and Farewell”

The Nova Scotia Pond conducted the Model Initiation Ceremony formally attired in kilts and accompanied by bagpipes.

We then adjourned for a cocktail reception followed by the annual All Industry Luncheon. Our speaker was introduced as Dr. Robert Payne who commenced with an embarrassingly boring and unintelligible discourse upon the present state of our government. It took a few moments until we became aware that he was a master of doublespeak, which soon had us doubling over with laughter.

Regional and committee meetings were held during the afternoon.

That evening the Westchester Pond hosted a “Black and White” party with guests encouraged to be attired in like colors. A gander and wife to be remembered were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Henry, dressed in black and white (Holstein?) cow costumes. Bill was instrumental in the resurrection of the “new” Texas Pond that received its charter during this convention. Good buffet, cocktails, weather and fellowship for all!

Tuesday, August 15, 1995

MLGG Chris Reith called the first business meeting of this convention to order followed by the roll call of delegates by GWGQ Maloney. After the customary introductions of Grand Nest Officers, their wives and Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and their wives, MLGG Reith gave his report on his year in office, which is reprinted herein:

MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER'S REPORT Christopher J. Reith

“It is with mixed feelings that I give up my year in office as your MLGG. My term in office has been comprised of multitudes of human emotion ranging from respect and gratification of the position to frustration as to things I could not accomplish.

The overall experience will be forever remembered by me and my family⁷ as the shortest year in our lives. The following is a partial breakdown as to the visitations that I was able to make during this period of time: I am glad I enjoy the game of golf as I was constantly invited to play golf with numerous Ponds: I was able to play with the Hartford Pond, the Long Island Pond, the Garden State Pond and the Bay State Pond. At each outing I was more than cordially shown a great time and was able to meet many of the local Pond members and prospective members. I was able to attend regular meetings of the New York City,

Long Island and Garden State Pond and the rather interesting Hartford Pond meeting at a restaurant called “The Blue Goose Restaurant”. I was cordially invited to Texas by the Texas Pond to initiate over 75 new ganders at one meeting and was able to attend the Canadian Region Bonspeil hosted by the Alberta Pond in Banff where I was treated truly as a VIP. During the winter months I was lucky to be able to travel to the following functions with my wife, Vivian – the Good Fellows Charity Luncheon in Detroit; the Chicago Pond Christmas Party (at an OTB Parlor which was better than it might sound); to the National Capital Pond Charity Luncheon; to the San Francisco Dinner Dance; to the New York City Christmas Party; to the Garden State Pond Valentine’s Dance; and of course to the mid year Grand Nest Executive Meeting in Omaha. At each one of these functions, both Vivian and I were treated with the greatest fellowship possible and were thankful to be able to meet so many great Blue Goose people in an official capacity.

My term comes to an end at this Westchester Convention where I will be able to hand out two new Pond charters, one to the Texas Pond and one to the Mount Vernon Pond. Unfortunately, just one month before the convention I had to transfer our residency from Westchester to the Chicago land area (due to the Home/Zurich buy out). This made it all the more difficult in attending to convention business, but this was easily taken care of by the Westchester Pond’s over-commitment to the convention.

I thank you, the members of the Blue Goose, in electing me to this high office, allowing me to experience the responsibilities and the lasting friendship obtained from meeting many of you.

The Blue Goose, however, is not about the Most Loyal Gander. It is not about the Grand Nest or upon hosting the National Convention in any one year. It is about the general membership and the meaning of the Blue Goose as it was established 89 years ago: character, charity and fellowship.

I truly wish that I had had the ability to attend all the functions that I was invited to, however, being in a new job (twice over) made time an enemy.

I will always remember the character, charity and fellowship shown to me by you, the members of the best insurance organization possible, The Blue Goose.”

Following MLGG Reith’s report, PMLGG Palmerton gave his Judge Advocate Report. He advised that the “recodification” of our Constitution and Bylaws was progressing with the hard work of our Asst Judge Advocate, Bill Gast. This project will continue into the next year as it is very time consuming and extremely important to our Order. He addressed the extremely contentious issue arising from the request for a charter for a new Pond, the Mount Vernon Pond in Virginia. After addressing the two amendments to the Constitution to be proposed during the Convention he followed with his words of retirement which are herein cited: “.....This being my final report as Judge Advocate of the Honorable Order of Blue Goose International, let me say thanks to you and the fifteen other PMLGG’s that I have been privileged to serve as Judge Advocate. It has been a tremendous experience and I am truly honored that I have been allowed to serve the Order that long. Twenty-one consecutive years as an elected or appointed officer is really more than any one organization should have to endure. It is an honor that I truly appreciate more than words can say.....”

The presentation of Grand Nest Awards identified the following winners:

Membership Cup	Bay State Pond
Pond Publication Awards	
Amateur Award	Arizona Pond “Honker”
Professional Award	St Louis Pond “Blue Notes”
Heart of America Pond Fellowship Cup	Manitoba Pond
Kentucky Pond No Drop Out Cup	Tie: St Joe Valley, Oklahoma and Tennessee Pond
Peace Garden Award	National Capital Pond
Regional Challenge Cup	Southern Region
Regional Charity Awards:	
Central Region	
Most New & Reinstated members	Heart of America Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Heart of America Pond
Southern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Georgia Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Georgia Pond
Canadian Region	

Most New & Reinstated Members	Quebec Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Saskatchewan Pond
Western Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	California Pond
Best Percentage Increase	California Pond
Eastern Region	
Most New & Reinstated Members	Garden State Pond
Best Percentage Increase	Bay State Pond

Following the presentation of awards, the proposed Charters for the Texas and Mount Vernon Ponds were discussed and voted upon by the delegates. After some discussion, Charters were granted to both and they were officially welcomed into our Order.

Two Constitutional Amendments were voted upon.

1. Amending the eligibility requirements for membership to include employees of Life and Health Insurance Companies
2. Amending the Regional order of Grand Nest officers to enable another Region to step forward in the event the Region in sequence is unable to nominate a candidate.

Both Amendments were defeated by voice vote on the floor.

The meeting was adjourned until the following morning. The afternoon and evening were free. Many took this opportunity to attend an optional Broadway Show in the Big Apple.

Wednesday, Aug 16, 1995

After breakfast, MLGG Reith once again called the meeting to order with GWGQ Maloney proceeding with the customary roll call of delegates. We then proceeded into the annual election of Grand Nest Officers. The following Officers were elected and appropriately installed by PMLGG John Zeldam:

Most Loyal Grand Gander	Larry W. Lewer	Nebraska Pond
Grand Supervisor of the Flock	George Harwood	Georgia Pond
Grand Custodian of the Goslings	Marc Thurber	Quebec Pond
Grand Guardian of the Nest	Rex Clark	Seattle Pond
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg	Barry Snyder	National Capital Pond

The newly elected officers were presented with their pins of office and PMLGG Reith was given his Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Pin and Life Membership Plaque.

MLGG Larry Lewer followed with his Address of Acceptance, which is printed herein in its entirety:

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE
MLGG Larry W. Lewer

“Four years ago in Detroit and again two years ago in Edmonton I was privileged to nominate for Grand Nest Office my good friend, Glenn Carlson. Upon Glenn’s resignation from office and followed by his untimely death, I was asked to accept appointment to his vacated office as Grand Guardian of the Nest. Upon acceptance of this honor, I dedicated my period of service as a Grand Nest Officer to the memory of our dear and departed friend.

My acceptance of this honor was due primarily to the encouragement of two of my best friends in Blue Goose, both PMLGGs, Ivar Awes and Cliff Needham and several of my long time friends in the Nebraska Pond. It was but ten years ago that my friend and fellow Nebraska Pond Gander, Lyle Johnson, was installed as MLGG at our Convention in our Nation’s Capital and faithfully led our Order during his term in office, culminating in our Convention in Omaha. I stand in awe of the accomplishments of Ivar, Cliff, Lyle and our other PMLGGs who have presided before me and hope and pray that I will be deserving of the honor that you have bestowed upon me. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Nebraska Pond for their support and also to express particular praise for my wife, Connie, for her unconditional support to me and our Order. I promise that I will do my best to merit your confidence in my selection as your MLGG.

Some of my objectives as your MLGG are:

I will attempt to visit any Ponds who request my attendance at any of their functions, barring conflicts. I will wish to schedule my itineraries in such a way as to mitigate travel expense and time and therefore will try to “regionalize” my visit where possible. I would appreciate those Ponds desiring my attendance at any of their functions to provide dates of those functions as soon as possible.

I will encourage other Grand Nest Officers to visit Ponds within their Region and also encourage the Ponds to invite these officers to specific functions. Additionally, I encourage all Ponds to invite members of other Ponds, particularly those adjacent to theirs, to attend specific functions and for the Ponds to support one another.

I will ask the Grand Nest Committees to actively distribute relevant information to the Ponds and prepare appropriate reports for presentation at the Grand Nest Convention. A copy of their reports will be provided to the delegates. In turn, I ask the Pond Officers be responsive to the Committee communications.

I will attempt to keep the Ponds advised of the current activities of your Grand Nest in the form of messages from the Grand Nest to the Pond Wielders on at least a quarterly basis.

Our Order is a most honorable one. It is unpretentious in its cause, premised upon a trinity of virtues....character, charity and fellowship. Our mission is as important today as it was in 1906. All too often we stand witness to those in awe of credentials and blind to character; to those immersed in self-interest and disregarding the needs of others and to those who retreat rather than engage in friendly fellowship with their peers. We must continue to bear witness to our cardinal principles and promote and instill these precepts within our profession.

In closing, I wish to perform two official duties which I am delighted to perform. I wish to formally announce the reappointment of PMLGG Gordon Crowther as Grand Historian. Gordon is well known by all of us in Blue Goose, having ably led our Order during the 1975-1976 period and as our Grand Historian for the past 3 years.

I also wish to announce the appointment of Bill Gast, PMLG, Nebraska Pond, and present Assistance Judge Advocate to the position of Judge Advocate of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International. Bill has been a long time friend of mine and is held in high esteem by his peers in the legal community and the insurance industry. He has given unconditional and tireless effort to our Order for many years and has provided legal insight to our Order while serving on the Grand Nest Jurisprudence Committee and this last year as Assistant Judge Advocate.

It is with pride that I make these announcements and I am proud and privileged to have them as fellow Grand Nest Officers.

Once again, please accept my heart felt gratitude for the confidence that you have expressed in granting me this opportunity to serve you. I accept this office with great pride and humility and will do my best to merit this honor. Thank you.”

The Committees on MLGG Reith’s Year In Office and Resolutions were presented, thanking and commending MLGG Reith for his loyalty and service to our Order and the many Ganders, individuals and institutions responsible for providing this wonderful Convention in our 89th year.

The Charters for the Texas Pond and the Mount Vernon Pond were presented to Bill Henry and Ken Morris, representatives of their respective Ponds.

A special presentation was made honoring Judge Advocate and Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Charles I Palmerton, during which he was awarded the Founding Father’s Award from the Wisconsin Home Nest. This was but the second time this award had been given since its creation in 1988.

MLGG Larry Lewer then brought down the gavel, officially ending this our 89th Grand Nest Business Meeting.

Following lunch, we “kicked back” and prepared for the gala evening ahead....the traditional Grand Banquet and Ball. And what an evening it was. Cocktails and food fit for royalty with entertainment and dancing thereafter. Our special thanks go to our Convention Co-Chairs, Chip Dahle and Lisa Kane, for a wonderful experience in their beautiful city.

Grand Nest Officers Post-Convention Meeting, August 16, 1995, Rye Town Hilton, Westchester, NY

MLGG Larry Lewer called the meeting to order with the following Officers, Past and Present, in attendance:

MLGG Larry Lewer, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG Chris Reith, Westchester Pond
GSF George Harwood, Georgia Pond	PMLGG Charles Palmerton, Seattle Pond
GCG Marc Thurber, Quebec Pond	PMLGG Trevor Newitt, Edmonton Pond
GGN Rex Clark, Seattle Pond	PMLGG Cliff Needham, San Diego Pond
GKGGE Barry Snyder, National Capital Pond	PMLGG John Zeldam, Michigan Pond
GWGQ Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest	PMLGG Ivar Awes, Minnesota Pond
JA William Gast, Nebraska Pond	PMLGG Tim Holland, Bay State Pond
GNH/PMLGG Gordon Crowther, Hartford Pond	PMLGG Ed Morgan, Nova Scotia Pond
	PMLGG Al Kregel, Long Island Pond
	PMLGG Harry Merrifield, California Pond

MLGG Lewer appointed William Gast as Judge Advocate and Gordon Crowther Grand Historian as well as Terry Maloney as GWGQ. GWGQ contract was duly signed as well as bank cards and resolutions.

PMLGG Palmerton's secretary, Rae Cooke was granted an honorarium of \$250, of which PMLGG Palmerton will reimburse \$150 to Grand Nest.

Grand Nest officer expenses, excluding those of the newly elected GKGGE, were approved, as was the budget for the fiscal year 1995-1996

The Mid Year Executive Committee meeting will be held Feb 16-17, 1996 at the Gwinnett Marriott Place, Atlanta, GA and the annual Grand Nest Audit will be conducted in Elm Grove, WI in Jul 1996.

GKGGE Snyder will represent Blue Goose at the annual CPCU/IIA Awards Ceremony in Philadelphia, PA

PMLGG Needham advised that the San Diego Pond was considering reimbursement of the Host Pond Fund to Grand Nest. The San Diego Convention in 1994 ended with a significant surplus.

Discussion was held regarding the advisability of paying or waiving registration fees for widows of PMLGGs and the matter was tabled for continued discussion at a subsequent meeting.

JA Gast and MLGG Lewer will continue with the recodification of our Constitution with plans for presentation at the 1996 Convention in Omaha.

Meeting adjourned.

1995– 1996

The 90th Grand Nest Convention was held at the Red Lion Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska, August 4-7, 1996. The convention's Welcome Party featured a boat ride on the Missouri River followed by a BBQ at Freedom Park Marina.

The next morning, Most Loyal Grand Gander, Larry Lewer, opened the convention. The National Anthems of the United States and Canada were led by the "Echelon Barbershop Quartet" and the Invocation was given by the Rev. J. Scott Barker. The Honorable Hal Daub, Mayor of Omaha, gave the Welcoming Address.

The other officers in attendance were: GS, George Harwood; GC, Marc Thurber; GG, Rex Clark; GKGGE, Barry Snyder; GW, Terrence Maloney; JA, William Gast and Grand Nest Historian, Gordon Crowther. We also recognize the attendance of the following PMLGG's: Ivar Awes, Bruce Bolton, King Luck, Harry Merrifield, Cliff Needham, Trevor Newitt, Jerry Simpson and John Zeldam.

St. Joe Valley Pond conducted the Memorial Service for our Honored, Departed Ganders. A special eulogy was given by PMLGG, Gordon Crowther in memory of PMLGG, Alfred Kregel Jr. Al joined the Blue Goose in 1956 and was MLGG in 1980 at the Grand Nest Convention in Long Island. He was very proud of his son, Kevin, an astronaut who piloted 2 missions, including the Columbia flight which set a record for the longest flight in space.

The Iowa Pond Team conducted the Model Initiation, in a very appropriate "Heart of America" red, white and blue uniform.

The All Industry Luncheon was well attended, and was honored to hear a speech by the Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson, the Governor of Nebraska. The blending of charity into the All Industry Luncheon was a new concept for our conventions. This was a fine way to reinforce and demonstrate our Principle of Charity to our members as well as to the insurance community. The balance of the afternoon was spent in various committee meetings.

The Convention youths spent the day at the Doorly Zoo in Omaha, and were joined there by the adults in the late afternoon. Tours of the aquarium and tropical forest building preceded a cocktail hour and dinner at the zoo.

GKGGE Barry Snyder gave his Audit Report. In his report, new Judge Advocate Bill Gast recommended a \$ 3.00 increase in dues. He also stated much work had been done to recode the Constitution and By-Laws. The following Amendments recommended were: #1) a recodification; #2) an Anti-Trust policy statement in the Preamble; #3) a requirement that only "dual members" who desire to take flight are included among the fifty needed to start a new Pond; #4) an expansion of membership eligibility to include those regularly providing services to the P&C insurance companies; #5) an MLGG countersignature requirement on expenditures above levels set by the Executive Committee; #6) an increase in the GN Officer fidelity bond to \$100,000; #7) a GWGQ/MLGG transmittal procedure for checks requiring countersignature; The Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws include: #8) a complete revamping, including clear limitations, on reimbursement of GN Officer expenses by the Grand Nest treasury; #9) an advance, by one month, of the date that Pond Wielders must notify the GWGQ of members with due delinquencies; #10) a procedure for summarily expelling Ganders convicted of a felony or high crime; #11) a clarification of language requiring transmittal of all funds and records to GWGQ by Ponds seeking to disband; #12) regarding the use of the Monetary Exchange rate in GN/Canadian transactions. All Amendments passed unanimously. J. A. Gast expressed his most humble appreciation to PMLGG/JA Chuck Palmerton whose friendship, support and advice have been solely responsible for any success that my first year as Judge Advocate might have enjoyed.

. MLGG Lewer reported on his year in office. He and his wife Connie traveled extensively during his year in office, and visited Ponds "from San Diego to Boston; from San Francisco to Orlando; and from Banff to Halifax". MLGG Lewer participated in initiation ceremonies by the Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, St. Louis, Peace Garden, and Nova Scotia Ponds. They attended the Valentine's Day Dance in San Francisco, A Family Picnic in Dallas with the Texas Pond, and Christmas Charity Luncheons with the Michigan and National Capital Ponds. Mr. Lewer also made a solo trip to Banff to attend the Men's Bonnespiel. During his year in office, MLGG Lewer delivered five "MLGG Messages" to "keep our membership advised of my activities and those of the Grand Nest." Mr. Lewer reported that "membership continues to be a serious concern to our Order... declining by "243 members this year, bringing total membership at year end to 7,742."

AUGUST 6th AWARD PRESENTATIONS:
Membership Cup-PENN POND
Pond Publication: Amateur - HARTFORD POND
Pond Publication: Professional - ST. LOUIS POND

Fellowship Cup - WI HOME NEST
No Drop Out Cup-WI, MN, FL, GA, KY, OK, BC, CO, WV and WESTCHESTER PONDS
Peace Garden Award – QUEBEC POND
Regional Challenge Cup – SOUTHERN REGION
Regional Charity Awards – Central – MICHIGAN and INDIANA
Southern – TEXAS
Canadian – NOVA SCOTIA
Western – SAN FRANCISCO
Eastern – BAY STATE and PENN

The business meeting reconvened for the election of officers for 1996-1997. The new officers, installed by PMLGG John Zeldam, were: George Harwood, MLGG, Mark Thurber, GSF; Rex Clark, GCG; Barry Snyder, GGN; Charles L. Cramer, GKGGE.

In his address of acceptance, the Atlanta Pond's MLGG George Harwood announced plans to appoint a committee of PMLGG's to *"take a look at the Ritual with an eye toward revising it to eliminate archaic and inappropriate language"*. He also announced the *"extraordinary action"* of changing the makeup of the Membership, Charity, Education, and Publicity Committees. Previously, these Committees were comprised of one representative from each of the five regions. Mr. Harwood said *"each committee will now be appointed within one Pond or local geographic area to allow the committee to personally meet and formulate their report."*

The newest GN officer, Charles L. Cramer, made a few brief remarks expressing his appreciation on being elected our Grand Keeper.

Chuck was born in Philadelphia, Missouri. He joined the USF&G Companies in 1947 as a claim adjuster in the Kansas City office and advanced to supervisor in 1952. In 1954 he was assigned to Houston, Texas as Ass't Claims Superintendent and then Superintendent of the Claims Department. He transferred to Omaha in 1960 as Regional Claims Manager over nine states. In 1965 he transferred to Chicago and supervised an additional five states. In a transfer to St. Louis in 1967, he was named Ass't. Manager of the St. Louis Branch Office and appointed General Manager in 1973. Chuck holds a Law Degree from the University of Missouri and has been a member of the Missouri, Texas and St. Louis Bar Association. He was Chairman of the Governors Committee of the Missouri Fair Plan and served 17 years as a Director of the Missouri Insurance Guaranty Association. In 1986 he was appointed by Governor John Ashcroft to the Missouri Task Force on Liability Insurance as the Industry Representative. After retirement in 1987 from the USF&G he joined the law firm of Brown & James and retired in 1992. Chuck is currently on the Board of Directors of ECHO/Emergency Children's Home. Chuck, and spouse, Dorothy, have four children, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He joined Blue Goose in 1974 and was MLG 1985-86.

The grand finale of the convention was an exceptional Banquet and Ball. The theme was the "Wizard of Oz" featuring costumed characters, a walk on the Yellow Brick Road, and a red velvet slipper as the centerpiece.

1996-1997

The 91st. Grand Nest Convention was held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 13-16, 1997.

The Georgia Pond hosted an opening night “Sports Theme” Party with a large variety of “fast” foods usual to sporting arenas. Guests were encouraged to dress in a sports-related manner. Everyone enjoyed the various games. A great start to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

The next morning, MLGG George Harwood called the convention to order. The color guard from Dubbins Air Force station was impressive. Following the singing of the Canadian and United States National Anthems, the Reverend Steven Brown gave the Invocation.

The Tennessee Pond Memorial Service and the Model Initiation Team from the North Carolina Pond both clearly upheld the great traditions of past opening day ceremonies. The North Carolina Pond had the honor to initiate six goslings.

The All Industry Luncheon speaker was Mr. Michael Jones who spoke on “PROMISES” honor and trust in our industry. He left us some thoughtful views on the ethics of our international society. The rest of the afternoon was filled with regional meetings.

Our evening was a delightful one at Stone Mountain, where a train ride, steamboat ride, and sky-tram ride were followed by a steak barbecue. A spectacular laser show on the side of the mountain capped off the evening.

The Grand Nest business meeting reconvened on Friday morning. Following the various committee reports, the Membership Awards were presented:

Membership Cup – BAY STATE POND
 Pond Publication – Amateur – HARTFORD POND
 Pond Publication - Professional – MICHIGAN POND
 Heart of America Fellowship Cup – CALIFORNIA POND;
 Kentucky’s No Drop-Out Cup - WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA, PEACE GARDEN, MOUNT VERNON, NORTH
 CAROLINA, NEW YORK CITY and SAN DIEGO
 Peace Garden Award – ST. LOUIS POND
 Regional Challenge Cup – CANADIAN REGION
 Regional Charity Awards- - Central Region- ST. LOUIS and PEACE GARDEN
 Southern Region- -Texas and Mount Vernon
 Canadian Region – ONTARIO and QUEBEC
 Western Region – OREGON and SAN DIEGO
 Eastern Region – BAY STATE.

The next order of business was the Audit Report by GKGGE Chuck Cramer and the Audit Committee report by Chairman, PMLG Keith Strohecker. The Judge Advocate Bill Gast was unable to attend due to family illness. The report was given by PMLGG Charles Palmerton, followed by Grand Nest Historian Gordon Crowther. The proposed changes to Constitutional By Laws were: #1- Host Pond Fund Amount (Section3 [g] ; #2 – Membership Requirements (Art. IV) #3 – Ritual-; #4 – Stations of Officers (Section 4); #5 – Elimination of Section 8 (a) (The reasons are: #1 This will allow the amount of the Host Pond Fund to float as a percentage of the dues; #2 and #3 are attempts to streamline and modernize the documents; #3 and #4 both involve elimination of geographical designations for the stations of the officers; #5 refers to a section that was previously deleted from the By Laws, this section should have been removed at the same time.) All five amendments passed as well as the motion to increase the Grand Nest dues from \$13 to \$16. The 1997-1998 dues will be #16 per member, payable to Grand Nest.

MLGG Harwood reported on his year in office. He visited ten Ponds, appointed the first Grand Nest Audit Committee, and remarked that his realignment of the Grand Nest Charity, Membership, Publicity, and Education Committees resulted in receipt of reports from “*each of those four committees... unlike in past years*”. He conceived the concept of developing the MBNA affinity credit card for Blue Goose membership, whereby the Honorable Order received a portion of all amounts charged on the cards.

One of the most touching moments in many years was having PMLGG George Harwood have the opportunity to receive his PMLGG pin from his father, PMLG Bob Harwood.

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney announced current membership at 6,918. The three largest Ponds were Michigan (393), Quebec (259), and Alberta (254).

On Saturday morning the Quebec Pond was called on to make their presentation on what Montreal would offer the members in 1998. Following their presentation, the election of new officers by unanimous vote was: MLGG Marc Thurber, GSF Rex Clark, GCG Barry Snyder, GGN Charles Cramer, GKGGE Marvin Wilson and the ever present, GWGQ Terrence Maloney. PMLGG John Zeldam dedicated his installation of the officers to PMLGG Trevor Newitt, who was unable to attend due to a set back in his health. PMLGG Chuck Palmerton presented the pins and ribbons to each officer. MLGG Thurber then gave his Address of Acceptance, noting that Blue Goose had not had a French Canadian MLGG since E. J. Beauvais in 1948.

Mr. Thurber reflected that *“laughter and friendship... are the two main keys that have kept me going in this Order. Life goes by so fast and we work so hard in the insurance business that it feels good to participate in any event organized by the Order. We have fun, we help needy people and charitable organizations, and we make friends. As far as I’m concerned these are also the basic principles of our Order. Meeting people from all over Canada and the United States, people having many things in common, sharing the same difficulties, the same concerns. This is what it’s all about. We all meet once a year at the Grand nest Convention, we solve our little problems, we drink, we eat, we visit places that we would otherwise not take the time to see and this, again, is what the Honorable Order is all about.”*

Our newest officer, Marvin P. Wilson Jr. is a native of Raleigh and Chapel Hill, where he graduated from high school and the University of North Carolina. He joined the N.C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau in 1950. In 1951 he was transferred to Asheville and in 1952, he was sent to Winston-Salem. In 1954 he was placed in charge of the Wilmington (N.C.) office. Just prior to moving to Wilmington, he married Guinevere Dries, of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. While there, he was active in the Jaycees, serving as local President and later as State Vice-President, State Secretary and U. S National Director. In 1964, he moved back to Raleigh as Rating Superintendent of the Rating Bureau. He was appointed Administrative Assistant in 1972 and became Manager of the N.C. FAIR Plan and the N. C. Beach Plan in 1977. He served there until he retired in 1992.

In Raleigh, Marvin has served as Sunday School teacher and superintendent, and member of the Vestry, of Christ Church (Episcopal). He also served two terms as Chairman of the Insurance Club of Raleigh and as president of the Triangle Insurance Institute. Marvin joined Blue Goose in 1952 and has been permanent Wielder of The N.C. Pond since 1968. He was MLG in 1988-89 and has been appointed to the Publication Committee on two different occasions. He has been appointed DMLGG twice. Marvin has attended 14 Grand Nest Convention.

The PMLGG’s in attendance were: Gordon Crowther, Larry Lewer, King Luck, Harry Merrifield, Clifford Needham, Charles Palmerton, Chris Reich, Jerry Simpson and John Zeldam. One special guest was Dorothy Hannan, widow of Earl Hannan, PMLGG – 1965.

The spouses and youngsters thoroughly enjoyed their special outings.

The Grand Banquet and Ball was an elegant ending. “Moonlight and Magnolias” was the theme for the final evening of Southern hospitality.

1997-1998

The 92nd Grand Nest Convention was held August 1-5, 1998 in Montreal, Quebec, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, which was also the site of the 1973 Grand Nest Convention. The opening night party was held at the Cabana-á Sucre (Sugar Shack). A tour of the area showed the making of maple sugar and syrup. A nice dinner, French country music and dancing rounded out the evening

MLGG Marc Thurber, presided over the opening ceremonies, with the presentation of the colors by the Compagnie Franche de la Marine, in full authentic dress. Following both countries national anthems, the Rev. Canon, Dr. Jan Dijkman gave the invocation. The Major of Montreal- Mr. Pierre Bourque was kind enough to welcome us to this great cosmopolitan city. The Ontario Pond presented the Memorial Service, which is also a wonderful time to reflect on our purpose in life and our friendships. PMLGG John Zeldam gave a special eulogy for one the Order's most beloved individuals, PMLGG Trevor Newitt.

Cérémonie de Confirmation (Model Initiation) was performed by the New York City Pond with an international flavor of French and English.

For the first time ever, the entire children's program was outsourced for added security and the best use of the resources of the city. The youngsters had left earlier on their outings and just before the All-Industry luncheon the spouses departed for their luncheon rendezvous. The guest speaker for the luncheon was Sylvain Laroque, one of the premier Canadian comedians. He was very entertaining. After lunch the members disbursed into various committee meetings followed by regional meetings.

Busses departed for a St. Lawrence dinner cruise, which ended up on probably the best summer evening of the entire summer. The view and the food were excellent, but the disc jockey had everyone on the ship rocking n' rolling. It was a very memorable evening.

The next morning, MLGG Thurber called the meeting to order and gave his report on his year in office. GWGQ Maloney, JA Gast, GNH, PMLGG Crowther and GWGGQ Wilson gave their various reports. The various committees' gave their reports.

There was one proposed change to Constitutional By Laws: Section 19 – Monetary System (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, all monetary transactions, including those between Grand Nest and Canadian Ganders or Ponds, shall be payable in United States funds. (b) However, remittance of dues (By-Laws, Section 3 (f) to, the Canadian Region Ponds shall be subject to the officially published Monetary Exchange Rate (MER) on the 31st day of March prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, to a maximum of 1.25. The Grand Wielder shall ascertain and notify the Canadian Region Ponds of such rate in May of each year. The amendment passed.

The following Awards were presented.

Membership Cup – DAKOTA POND
 Pond Publications – Amateur Award – ARIZONA POND
 Pond Publications - Professional Award – St. LOUIS POND
 Heart of America Cup – INDIANA POND
 Kentucky No Drop-Out Cup – OKLAHOMA, MOUNT VERNON, 2nd year in a row, MANITOBA, COLORADO
 Peace Garden Award – ST. LOUIS POND, 2nd year in a row
 Regional Challenge Cup – EASTERN REGION
 Regional Charity Awards – Central Region – MICHIGAN and DAKOTA PONDS
 Southern Region – Texas Pond
 Canadian Region – ONTARIO and THUNDER BAY
 Western Region - SAN FRANCISCO and CALIFORNIA
 Eastern Region – GARDEN STATE

MLGG Thurber expressed regret that he was not as active in Blue Goose as he would have liked to have been. His year in office fell below expectations because of “*three separate acts of God*”. These were the sudden death of his father, a subpoena for jury duty that led to a three and a half week long murder trial, and “*the worst natural disaster in Canadian history...an ice storm that lasted five days*” resulting in a loss of power at his residence for 25 days, and six hundred thousand insurance claims with losses of \$1½ billion. He received a six-month work load overnight, and was forced to cancel most of

his Blue Goose plans. His emotional address ended with *“I have dedicated the last fourteen years of my life to this organization because I believed in the precepts of our Order, because it fulfilled a need inside of me to be part of an organization that exists not only in Quebec or Canada but in the United States. You know, my dear fellow Ganders, I am very proud of being a Quebecer, and very proud of being a Canadian. But let me tell you there is a maple leaf in my heart which is wrapped in an American flag and this is why I felt I had the requirements to lead this organization and that I really feel now of being a member of one international family”*.

The new slate of elected officers are: MLGG Rex Clark, GSF Barry Snyder, GCG Charles Cramer, GGN Marvin Wilson and GKGGE John Bishop. MLGG Rex Clark then gave his acceptance speech. Mr. Clark has been a Blue Goose member for 46 years and is attending his 22nd convention. As *“so many members of us in the industry are feeling the stress of down-sizing, mergers, and world-wide competition”*, he suggested that Blue Goose offers so many benefits to those in the industry- *‘fellowship, a good meal with people of like interests’*, participation in charity events, and *“the only family convention in the industry”*.

Our newest officer, John Bishop is the son of Keith and Louise Bishop of Halifax, Nova Scotia. John lives in Halifax with his wife Debbie, and his three children, Kristen, Danielle and Allison. John’s father Keith was one of the founding members and the first MLG of the Nova Scotia Pond of the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, International. John attended St. Francis School for his elementary education and St. Patrick’s High School. He graduated from St. Mary’s University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and again in 1977 with a Bachelor of Business Education.

In the past, John served as Alumni President and represented the Alumni on the St. Mary’s University Board of Governors, with the prime responsibility to the Property and Management sub committee during extensive renovations of the residence complexes. Currently, John’s association with St. Mary’s continues. He is the “voice” of the Husky’s in his role as stadium and arena announcer at home football and hockey games.

In 1978, John joined Jack & Co. Ltd. as Vice-President-Operations. Jack & Co. is a family owned and operated insurance brokerage founded in 1860. John is now Vice-President-Administration. John is currently the Deputy Chair of the Workers’ Compensation Board of Nova Scotia.

John joined the Nova Scotia Pond in 1981. He was MLG in 1996 during the 40th anniversary of the Pond. He currently serves as the Pond’s publication editor and permanent welder.

The following PMLGG’s and spouses were in attendance: Ivar and Lois Awes, Bruce Bolton, Gordon Crowther, Gordon Crutcher, George and Donna Harwood, Larry and Connie Lewer, King and Mildred Luck, Harry and Opal Merrifield, Clifford and Berdie Needham, Jerry Simpson, Charles and Helen Palmerton, Marc and Sylie Thurber, John and Peggy Zeldam and Dorothy Hannan, widow of Earl Hannan, PMLGG 1965.

The final event, the Grand Banquet and Ball was “Grand” as usual. One added feature was an ongoing video show of all the memories that took place during the Montreal convention

1998 – 1999

The 93rd Grand Nest Convention was held at the Four Seasons Olympic Hotel in Seattle, WA from August 15-18, 1999. A Sunday evening School Bazaar Welcome Party included midway games, magic tricks, dinner and dancing.

Next morning, the Convention was brought to order by Most Loyal Grand Gander, Rex Clark. The keynote speaker was Randy Stoddard, President of Safeco Insurance Co. He spoke of the progression of the internet and it's affect on the insurance industry and our culture.

The other Grand Nest officers present were: GSF Barry Snyder, GCG Charles Cramer, St. Louis, MO; GGN Marvin P. Wilson Jr., Raleigh, NC; GKGGE John C. Bishop, Halifax, NS; GKGGE Richard Phillipson, Westlake Village, CA; GWGQ Terrence M. Maloney, Elm Grove, WI; JA William Gast, Omaha, NE and GNH Gordon Crowther, Hartford, CT.

The Colorado Pond conducted the Memorial Service. The Model Initiation performed by the California Pond was impressive and different. The Ganders were garbed in yellow rain slickers and hats, with umbrellas.

The All-Industry luncheon guest speaker was Cliff McGrath, Seattle Pacific University soccer coach. His humor and outlook on life was very interesting. Regional meetings were held after the luncheon. The spouse luncheon, held at the Washington Club, featured Rosalie Whyel, who had a most interesting presentation on the history of dolls. Our visit to the Boeing Museum for dinner and exploring all the exhibits was a very good choice. The day ended with a wonderful dinner on the grounds of the Boeing Museum of Flight.

The Grand Nest membership was 6,263. There were 42 Ponds represented, along with 65 Delegates. The total attendance was 228 Ganders and Spouses, 17 Guests and 32 youths.

The PMLGG's in attendance were: Gordon Crutcher, George Harwood, Larry Lewer, Harry Merrifield, Cliff Needham, Charles Palmerton, Chris Reith, Jerry Simpson and John Zeldam.

The following awards were presented:

Membership Cup –TEXAS POND

Pond Publication – SEATTLE POND

Heart of America Fellowship Cup – INDIANA POND

Kentucky's No-Drop Out Cup – ALBERTA POND

Peace Garden Award – two winners – ST. LOUIS and TEXAS PONDS

Regional Challenge Cup – EASTERN REGION

Regional Charity Award 1998-1999 – Central Region – CHICAGO

Southern Region TEXAS

Canadian Region – QUEBEC

Western Region UTAH

Eastern Region – HARTFORD and WESTCHESTER.

A new award, the Gordon Crowther Charity Award was introduced by PMLG Gerry Hale, of the Hartford Pond. The first recipient will be recognized at the next Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore.

A new charter for the Houston Pond was accepted by Linda Meik and Teri Cluck, representing the Houston Pond

MLGG Rex Clark reported on his year in office. As a long time member, he is "*proud to see that (Blue Goose) is continuing it's fine objectives of fellowship, charity, and benevolence towards its members.*" Rex and JoAnn Clark attended an Alberta Pond meeting and Christmas Charity Luncheons hosted by the National Capital and Michigan Ponds- each event drew over 400 attendees. They also attended the National Association of Insurance Women's Convention in Las Vegas.

The Judge Advocate, William Gast, restated an Article on Delinquent Dues. This article clearly states that a Pond delinquent in dues cannot have their delegates vote on any issues at the Convention.

The Audit Report, presented by PMLGG John C. Bishop showed a deficit of \$2,077.25, which was due, mainly, to late payment of Pond dues. He strongly urged the Ponds to pay in a timely manner. Reports by the various committees were then submitted.

The Seattle Pond MLG, Marilyn Slanina, proposed an Amendment to the By - Laws Sect. 21, requiring notice to Ponds ninety (90) days prior to Grand Nest meetings and notice to the Constitution & By - Laws Committee one hundred twenty (120) days prior to grand Nest meetings. Dick Chenard, Michigan Pond seconded. The amendment was passed.

The nominations of the new officers were accepted unanimously. They are: Barry Snyder, MLGG, National Capital Pond; Charles Cramer, GSF, St. Louis Pond; Marvin Wilson, GCG, Raleigh Pond; John Bishop, GGN, Nova Scotia Pond; and Richard Philippsen, GKGGE, California Pond.

MLGG Barry Snyder joined Blue Goose in 1979. In his address of acceptance, he noted that he is the third MLGG from the National Capital Pond. His address concerned "membership and retention". *"Members today require a far different program from the one that was perfectly appropriate a decade ago. Today, people have a different perspective on the value of time. Our lives are busier than ever and our careers no longer involve set number of work hours. As a result, sports and service clubs have experienced tremendous membership reductions. People cannot spend the same amount of time they once did in pursuit of pleasure or ideals. They would rather spend what little time they have at home with their families. My main goal is to increase membership and retain the members we have... Who is responsible for membership building in a Pond? All of us. The success of any given Pond depends on how seriously its officers and members take their responsibilities. The officers must schedule exciting meetings that help members achieve their objectives and convince guests to join... When Pond officers pay attention to the dreams of individual members, the Pond soon finds that there are not enough chairs to go around."*

The newest officer, Richard "Dick" Philippsen, lives in Westlake Village, CA with his wife Norma. They have four married children, and six grandchildren. Dick was the Chairperson for the 1989 Grand Nest Convention held on the Queen Mary. Raised and schooled in the Chicago area, Dick moved to California and graduated from Golden West College in Huntington Beach, CA. Dick is a past president of the San Fernando Valley Adjusters Association, where he is still an active member. Upon moving to California in 1966, Dick accepted a job as an adjuster for Allstate Insurance Co. in Long Beach. He has been active in the adjusting of claims since that date. He is presently employed, as a Branch Manager by the D.L. Glaze Co., is a division of ASU GROUP out of Okemos, Michigan. Dick's extra curricular activities are with his community. He is President of his homeowners association and his wife, Norma is the Social Chairperson for that association. Dick joined the California Pond in 1979 and served as their MLG in 1991-92. He is currently the Permanent Wielder/Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and also serves as the editor of the Pond's publication.

The National Capital Pond showcased the Baltimore area and the Inner Harbor as the site of the next convention. They plan to have a great convention.

The finale to the convention was the Grand Banquet and Ball. It was a great evening. The Duke and Duchess of Nice, Rex & JoAnn Clark received a nice round of applause for being such nice hosts at such a fun convention.

1999—2000

The 94th Grand Nest Convention was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel – Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland from Sunday, August 6th – Wednesday, August 9th. The Grand Nest Officers arrived Friday, August 4th for their Pre-Convention meeting on Saturday, August 5th.

“Baltimore Carousin’ in 2000” was a most appropriate theme for the National Capital Pond’s very successful Convention. The Inner Harbor, with its countless attractions and multitudes of revelers, provided a marvelous setting for 352 Ganders, spouses, children and guests.

Baltimore. It is a great American city growing and gleaming on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. A lively and diverse metropolis in midst of a renaissance yet generously endowed with history and graciously blessed with charm. Home of the National Aquarium, Maryland Science Center, U.S. Frigate Constellation, the World Trade Center, Baltimore’s fish market, shops and restaurants of Harbor place and The Gallery, ethnic neighborhoods, historic homes and internationally acclaimed museums.

Sunday evening on August 6th was the Welcome Party with a “Taste of Baltimore”. Food Stations were all around the convention hall featuring many local dishes, especially seafood. What a wonderful way for everyone to meet old friends and make new ones

Monday, August 7th was the opening ceremonies of the 94th Grand Nest Convention with the Most Loyal Grand Gander Barry L. Snyder presiding. The following current Grand Nest Officers were present:

Charles Cramer, Grand Supervisor
Marvin P. Wilson, Jr., Grand Custodian
John C. Bishop, Grand Guardian
Richard Philippsen, Grand Keeper
Terrence M. Maloney, Grand Wielder
Bill Gast, Judge Advocate was not present
John T. Zeldam, Grand Nest Historian

Opening ceremonies was highlighted by the presentation of colors and the singing of our National Anthems. How fitting that our stars and stripes and the Star Spangled Banner were presented at the place where those now famous words were first penned.

Father Phillip DeRea, MSC of Catholic University provided an inspirational invocation. The Hartford Pond put on a very touching Memorial Service. An especially poignant moment was the eulogy to PMLGG Gordon Crowther of Hartford, CT. The Bay State Pond provided the initiation ceremony. They were dressed in hooded robes looking like monks and were very prepared.

The Opening ceremonies concluded with an “All Industry Luncheon” which was a great meal with the “Lady of Magic and Charm”----Becky Bloney providing some fine comedy and magical charm. Our spouses enjoyed a magnificent luncheon at Truffles.

That night was the Harbor Cruise and Crab Feast. The entire convention boarded the “Bay Lady” for a harbor cruise, which not only included all the crabs you can eat and other fare fit for a king, but also included a fabulous light show, equaled only to that which occurred when Francis Scott Key composed those now famous words, “O say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light”.

Tuesday, August 8th, MLGG Barry L. Snyder opened the business session with his report on his year in office, which is included herein in its entirety:

Grand Supervisor Cramer, Current and Past Grand Nest Officers, Delegates and Gander.

Before, I started to write my report, I went back a few years and read some old Grand Nest Bulletins of what other Most Loyal Grand Gander’s wrote. I have noticed several started their report saying something like this, and I quote “I am happy to report that our beloved Order is alive and well. Overall membership and activity are on the increase, and the future is bright.

We find this healthy atmosphere exists in every region of our organization.”

It was late last Wednesday afternoon that I started to write this report. I had a very difficult time getting started with how to go about writing the report. I contemplated several days if I should write the way I feel. Nevertheless, I did not know how to say what is on my mind and say it diplomatically. My wife Pat, always tells me I am not the most tactful person, I totally disagreed with her. However, this past month I believe that some of my fellow Grand Nest Officers will agree with Pat.

My fellow Ganders, I am going to tell you how it is, no sugarcoating, just the facts! I am sad to tell you that our beloved Order is sick and dying. Overall membership and activity are on the decrease, and the future is not very bright. We find this decaying atmosphere exists in every region of our organization.

In my acceptance speech last year, my main goal was to increase membership and retain the members we have in the Order. I am heartsick to report that we did not accomplish this. Again, we have lost members. Three Ponds and a Puddle decided to disband. A few other Ponds are on the brink of extinction. Again, referring to my speech, I said who is responsible for membership building, all of us. The success of any Pond depends on how seriously its officers and members take their responsibilities. Evidently we did not take this matter seriously. I am tired of hearing the insurance companies do not support us, other organization have membership problems, or individuals do not have the time and all the other excuses, that is a cop-out.

It is the responsibly and duty of every member of this Order, especially the leaders of the Pond, The Grand Nest Committees, the Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Current Grand Nest Officers and the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders to be sure this great organization survives.

My wife and I visited a Pond that had a large function and many where there that were not members of the Blue Goose. I decided to walk around and talk to the folks. Within thirty minutes I found two individuals who were not members, but were eligible to be members. I asked them why are you not a member? This is what they said, NO ONE ASKED ME, no one asked them, what a shame. To make it worse, a member of their family was a member. Immediately I told a gander of that Pond to be sure they get an application.

I had the privilege to be a guest at the 59th National Association of Insurance Women Convention this year in Kansas City, Missouri. I was one of five judges, to judge their speech contest, “Communicate with Confidence.” Being introduced several times throughout the convention as the Most Loyal Grand Gander of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International, a few came up to me and wanted to know what is the Blue Goose? I was very happy to explain to them. This past Monday, we had the privilege to initiate Pamela Jay Paralakis, whom I met at the Convention. She is now a member of the Hartford Pond. Please stand, thank you, we are delighted to have you as a member. There are many eligible members in the Insurance Women Association. They have many Chapters in every State and some in Canada. Ponds should have a joint meeting with their Association. You will find many in that organization that would be excellent leaders in your Pond. You see it is not that hard to obtain members

I hope I did not come on too strong. Delegates and ganders, go back to your Pond, roll up you sleeves, work hard this coming year and see what we can accomplish. I hope when Charles Cramer gives his report next year, he will be able to report we have an increase in members.

The other concern to this Order is our dues. MLG Jim Kern, Chair of the Audit Committee will give his report in a few minutes. I want everyone here to listen very carefully to his report.

It is with regret and deep sympathy that I report the loss of two Past Most Loyal Ganders, PMLGG Stanley Spore of Texas and the Grand Historian, PMLGG Gordon Crowther, of Hartford. We were saddened by the recent death of Lois Bolton of Kentucky, the wife of the late PMLGG Browne Bolton and the mother of PMLGG Bruce Bolton.

With the death of PMLGG Crowther, this left the vacancy of the Grand Historian. I called my good friend PMLGG John Zeldam to see if he would accept the appointment of the Grand Historian, he did accept, thanks John.

As many of you know, our great ambassador of this Order, the Grand Wielder, Terry Maloney, had major surgery this past year. That night after his operation he called me. Keeping a good man down is hard, Terry, I and all of us here are happy that you can be with us at this great Convention in Baltimore.

I thought it would be appropriate to have a pin for the Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander's. With the help of Terry we came up with a pin for those Deputies that served beyond the call of duty and work extremely hard for the good of the Order.

Serving on the Grand Nest is a five-year commitment. You are responsible for the well being of your Region. Over the past five years I have visited with Ponds in the Eastern Region. I had good support from the five Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders, thank you deputies for your help. To me and for the welfare of the Region it is very important that the Ponds stay in communication. A Grand Nest Officer is always on the look out for good talented people, immediately I noticed Dan Rich with the Hartford Pond. Dan is the editor of the Eastern Horizon, a newsletter distributed throughout the Region. Every Pond in our Region shares the news of the activities of their Pond. Also, we were able to establish a Regional Splash held in February.

Over the past five years I had the privilege to attend the CPCU/IIA National Honors activities at the Insurance Institute of America. For the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International, it was an honor to present the Program in General Insurance (INS) Award for Academic Excellence. We have a National Education Committee this is one avenue in our Order we must strengthen. Local Ponds should add this Committee to their program. With an excellent educational program this should be a plus for us to have the Insurance Companies start supporting us.

We have been privileged to make eight individual Pond visitations plus visiting with members of nine other Ponds in the Southern Region Splash, and the Quad Pond meeting in New York City. We visited four out of the five regions. A time factor prevented our visiting the Western Region. We had a wonderful time renewing acquaintances and friendships and meeting many new members.

Each function was a special experience. I attended my twenty-seventh John Brenner Annual Charity Luncheon sponsored by our own National Capital Pond. The yearly event of the Garden State Pond's St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance; the 9th Annual Celebrity Sports Banquet sponsored by the Virginia Pond, which supports The Virginia Home for Boys, the Hartford Insurance Commissioners Luncheon; and the Detroit Puddle, Blue Goose Holiday Season Party and what a party! The room was packed with 750 people.

I had the experience of my life when I visited the Nova Scotia Pond. I will never forget this occasion. It was my first curling event. The Canadians went all out to show me a good time. The Grand Nest team was made up of Allen Levine, Terry Maloney, John Bishop and myself. Not knowing anything about curling and I did not want to embarrass myself, I asked John many questions. He said don't worry, we will have you throw the rock. I thought to myself what is he talking about, then he said I could sweep, if John was not a Grand Nest Officer I would think he was nuts. I remembered the late PMLGG Trevor Newitt giving me a rulebook on curling, so I read the book, but that did not help. PMLGG Ed Morgan was there to teach me, so with the help of Ed, John and the other experts, I was able to play the game. I enjoyed the sport, it was fun and I never laughed so hard in all my life, watching the players sweeping the ice. The Canadians take this game very seriously.

Thanks to all the current Grand Nest Officers and Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders for your support. I express special gratitude to the Grand Nest Committee Chairpersons for their valuable contributions and I urge their successors to aim for a high standard in this important work.

The Ponds in the Eastern Region have provided significant financial support toward this Convention, as well as the National Capital Pond and Grand Nest, a sincere thanks to all for your support. The generous financial support of industry friends is also very sincerely appreciated.

To all members of the National Capital Pond, sincere thanks and congratulations, particularly the convention committee members for your enthusiastic and dedicated effort to host a convention for which you can take pride for many years to come. Thanks to Alan Levine, Edward Noye and Gerald Kaplan for the many hours spent orchestrating the event. Thanks Pat for putting up with me these past five years, if you would ask her, she would tell you it wasn't easy.

I personally want to thank you for electing me to the office of Most Loyal Grand Gander last year in Seattle. This past year will be long remembered and never forgotten. It has been an experience that few are privileged to enjoy, and for this, I thank you.

Each of us can be justifiably proud of our membership in this great Order and I urge each of you to do your utmost to ensure its continued success and foster our cardinal principles of character, charity and fellowship. God Bless you and God Bless Blue Goose.

Grand Wielder Terrence M. Maloney stated that there are fifty-five Ponds; 4,214 active members; 1,165 life members and 108 dual members.

Judge Advocate William E. Gast stated that there was one proposed amendment to be taken up at the Annual Meeting, which was endorsed by the Grand Nest Officers at the Mid-Year Meeting in St. Louis. This proposed amendment simply consolidates the By-Laws into the Constitution. This is merely a housekeeping amendment, and I recommend its prompt adoption. I am not aware of any pending or contemplated legal actions against the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

PMLGG John T. Zeldam, Grand Nest Historian gives his report. After the final flight of PMLGG, and Grand Nest Historian, Gordon Crowther, MLGG Barry L. Snyder was on the telephone, asking me to serve the balance of Gordon's term as Grand Nest Historian.

I am concerned that our archives like the "History of the Grand Nest," are not available to more of our members. How can we expect our new members to appreciate our rich past, if we hide it from them in Terry's basement? Our collective history, both written and otherwise, is a window on the past, a guide to the present, and light for the future.

Memorabilia that has been collected over the years from different Grand Nest Conventions will now be taken to the Conventions and put on display for all to see and to have a better understanding of our history.

The Audit report was given by the Grand Keeper, Richard J. Philippsen. Income for the year was \$75,787.37 with a total operating expense of \$82,916.44 showing a deficit of \$7,129.07. The deficit was accounted for because Ponds are delinquent in payment of dues by \$17,944.87 from the Annual Budget.

The most important item, which has developed this year under the Charity Committee, is the new Grand Nest award known as "The Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award." This award was given in recognition of Gordon Crowther's lifetime service to Blue Goose and his charitable nature. This year, the Hartford Pond was given the honor of choosing the inaugural winners for this new award. However it will, from now on, be turned over to the Charity Committee. This award takes into consideration, not only monetary donations, but also additional charitable pursuits of each Pond (such as toy drives, clothing drives, food drives, volunteer services, scholarships, etc.). It is an outstanding award and an extreme honor to be selected as the annual award winner, as well as the two honorable mentions.

All other Grand Nest Committee reports were given by the Chairperson of that committee as well as a printed copies of the reports to all the delegates.

Celebrating the life of the San Diego Blue Goose. Prelude, selected music, processional, greetings by Terry Maloney, GWGQ, eulogy given by PMLGG John Zeldman. The San Diego Blue Goose was hatched August 13, 1979 at the Grand Nest Convention in Seattle and final flight August 7, 2007. Place of internment Needham Gardens, Sedona, Arizona.

Wednesday, August 9th, the St. Louis Pond after providing a well rehearsed, interesting, and fun presentation of their town and their bid for the 2001 convention received the unanimous approval of all attending the meeting.

The nominations of the new officer were accepted unanimously. They are: Charles Cramer, MLGG, St. Louis Pond; Marvin P. Wilson, Jr., Grand Supervisor; North Carolina Pond; John C. Bishop, Grand Custodian, Nova Scotia Pond; Richard Philippsen, Grand Guardian, California Pond and Gerald F. Hale, Grand Keeper of the Hartford Pond.

The newly elected officers were installed by PMLGG John T. Zeldam. MLGG Cramer appointed Terrence M. Maloney to serve as the Grand Wielder; William Gast, Judge Advocate; and PMLGG John T. Zeldam as the Grand Nest Historian. Marvin Wilson of the North Carolina Pond became the Grand Supervisor, John Bishop of the Nova Scotia Pond became the Grand Guardian, Richard Phillippsen of the California Pond became the Grand Guardian, and the newest officer was Gerald (Jerry) H. Hale of the Hartford Pond who joined the Grand Nest as Grand Keeper.

After the installation of the officers, PMLGG Barry L. Snyder received his Life Membership plaque from PMLGG Bruce Bolton and his PMLGG Pin from his wife PMLG Patricia A. Snyder

In his Address of Acceptance, MLGG Cramer reminded the Convention of a Ralph Waldo Emerson quote – "*Nothing great ever happened without enthusiasm. It was a joy for me to call folks who with enthusiasm and good will have agreed to serve in some of the most important positions within Blue Goose, charged with the responsibility to pursue programs that help us to uphold the principles of our Honorable Order*". Mr. Cramer spoke about goals; family goals, career goals and individual goals.

“Here is a goal for all of us. The 100th Anniversary of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose should be the most memorable and wonderful occasion that we could ever imagine. In just six short years the convention site for our annual convention will be the Home Nest Pond in Wisconsin...This is a goal – our 100th Anniversary – that all of us – all 55 Ponds of Blue Goose will want to strive for, to insure that the principles of our order – character, charity and fellowship can be showcased for all to see”.

The convention culminated that evening with the Grand Banquet. The decorations, the food, the entertainment, and especially the sincere labor of love from all the National Capital Pond volunteers will always be treasured by all who attended this great Baltimore Convention.

2000-2001

The Ninety-Fifth annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Hyatt Union Station in St. Louis, Missouri, August 5-8, 2001, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Charles L. Cramer, presiding. Fellow Grand Nest Officers included Marvin P. Wilson of the North Carolina Pond, Grand Supervisor of the Flock, John C. Bishop of the Nova Scotia Pond, Grand Custodian of the Goslings, Dick Philippsen of the California Pond, Grand Guardian of the Nest, Gerald F. Hale of the Hartford Pond, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Terrence M. Maloney of the Wisconsin Home Nest, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill and Robert Tayloe Ross of the Virginia Pond, Judge Advocate. 367 Ganders, spouses, guests and youth took advantage of the host Pond's wonderful hospitality.

Among those attending were PMLGG's Barry L. Snyder, Rex W. Clark, George Harwood, Larry Lewer, Bruce Bolton, John Zeldam, Jerry Simpson and Chuck Palmerton.

Sunday Night's Welcome Party was held at the City Museum, a three story building on the site of an old shoe factory. The evening featured many interactive exhibits and demonstrations, seven food stations, a mime, stilt-walker, fire juggler, caricaturist, palm reader, tarot card reader, silhouette artist, and live music.

Monday's Opening Ceremonies featured the presentation of the flags by the Naval Marine Color Guard of St. Louis and a humorous address by a Mark Twain look-alike.

A dazzling Model Initiation ceremony was performed by the Michigan Pond. Eighteen new ganders were initiated, as Michigan's "men and women in black" gave a rendition of the ceremony not seen before in modern times. The "Blues Brothers" were well represented. Michigan's attention to detail while making the ceremony entertaining was a wonderful balance. The Indiana Pond provided dignity to our Memorial Service for our departed Ganders.

The All Industry Luncheon featured singing and dancing entertainment by "The Courthouse Steps" – a collection of musically talented St. Louis attorneys who skewered subjects varying from sexual harassment, the Clinton and Bush first families, and gun control. The highlight of their set was a very funny operatic treatment of a celebrated product liability case involving subpoena service to Ronald McDonald while the attorneys sang "*we'll take your case, we need the cash, we have no pride.*"

The overall membership of the Order was now 5,624, a reduction from the previous year by 308. Of that loss, 207 were dues paying members. There were 285 new members along with 79 that were reinstated and 11 received by flight. However, there were 29 deceased members and 508 that were dropped and 35 that resigned and 11 lost by flight. The largest of our 53 Ponds was Michigan (406), Quebec (230), Alberta (216), Edmonton (215), Heart of America (211), St. Louis (204), Hartford (192), and Ontario (172).

Regional concerns focused on Ponds that were in need of redirection, especially in the area of membership recruitment.

There were two proposed constitutional amendments discussed, on which the membership will vote. Article VII, h, 3 was to be changed so as the Judge Advocate's term be limited to no more than four consecutive years. Article VII, h, 4 was to limit the Grand Nest Historian's appointment to four years as well. Both motions failed because neither one could muster the necessary 2/3 support of the delegates.

The Magic Empire and Mt. Vernon charters were removed with notification sent to their members that this was done. The Capital City Pond was monitored.

MLGG Cramer reported on his year in office. He and his wife Dorothy were two of the 350 in attendance at the National Capital Pond's John Brenner Charity Luncheon, and the next day they were two of the 700+ in attendance at the Detroit Puddle's Charity Luncheon. Mr. Cramer also attended Pond functions in Indianapolis, Dallas, Omaha, Louisville, Kansas City, Portland, and Vancouver. Mr. Cramer commented that every one of the Ponds he visited had at least one female officer. "*After twelve years since they became part of our great organization, I think we should give them a well deserved round of applause.*"

Mr. Cramer also commented on the Order's increasing use of the internet: "*In this cyber world we live in, a number of our most active Ponds have web sites – eight of them at this time (and) the Grand Nest web site also. I am certainly a*

complete neophyte when it comes to using the web, but we have a good core group of our people who are more than willing to share their knowledge. Who knows how much we could help our membership efforts with this important tool?"

MLGG Cramer announced that he has asked Gander Robert Tayloe Ross to immediately begin serving as Assistant Judge Advocate to Judge Advocate William Gast, and to eventually take over at that position.

GKGGG Jerry Hale introduced the new Eastern Region display booth to be used in promoting Blue Goose at trade shows and other industry events.

Online convention registration was introduced for the first time, to be ready for the St. Louis meeting. PMLGG Snyder presented Grand Nest a manual on "How to Conduct a Convention", as a resource for convention planners.

In 2001, the Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award was introduced by its creators, the Eastern Region. In order to win the award, a pond would need to do "...all types of varied works of charity." The intent was to give all ponds the opportunity to compete for the award, whether they are big or small in numbers. In 2001 the award was won by the Virginia Pond. Because the Eastern Region had developed the award they were the first judging panel. In subsequent years, the winner would be the judges for the coming year. The award was a fitting tribute to its namesake-Gordon F. Crowther-the Blue Goose truly lay deep in his heart. Other awards went to the Houston Pond with the Membership Cup, The Manitoba Pond with the Heart of America Pond's Fellowship Cup. The No Drop-Out Cup went to the Iowa Pond; The Michigan Pond won the Peace Garden Award, while the Regional Challenge Cup Award went to the Canadian Region.

Wednesday morning started with a presentation by "Sir Walter Raleigh" (GSF Marvin Wilson) on behalf of the North Carolina Pond to preview next year's convention in Raleigh.

The newly elected officers were installed as follows: Marvin Wilson of the North Carolina Pond as MLGG, Terrence M. Maloney of the Wisconsin Home Nest as the Grand Wielder; William Gast of the Nebraska Pond as Judge Advocate, PMLGG John T. Zeldam of the Michigan Pond as the Grand Nest Historian, John C. Bishop of the Nova Scotia Pond became the Grand Supervisor, Richard Phillippsen of the California Pond became the Grand Custodian, Gerald (Jerry) Hale of the Hartford Pond became the Grand Guardian, and the newest officer was Timothy T. Seider of the Wisconsin Home Nest who joined the Grand Nest as Grand Keeper.

In his Address of Acceptance, MLGG Wilson thanked his immediate PMLGG predecessors; Chuck Cramer, Barry Snyder, Rex Clark and Mark Thurber. *"(They) have left me with a challenge I gladly accept. That challenge is to continue to move the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose ever forward – especially in Charity, especially in Fellowship, and especially in Membership. I have been in love with this organization every day of my life since I joined 49 years ago. I believe with all my heart that the three cardinal elements of Blue Goose- character, charity and fellowship are basic in making any individual a better human being. For the past 34 years, I have served as the Wielder of the North Carolina Pond. During that time I have shed blood, sweat, and even a few tears. If your Pond has a dedicated and hard-working Wielder –be thankful! That person means more to your Pond than any other individual. Cherish your dedicated Wielder!"*

The Convention ended with the Grand Banquet and Ball set to a Space Odyssey 2001 theme.

September 11, 2001

Five weeks after the St. Louis Convention ended, terrorists attacked New York City and Washington DC. The following article appeared in the December 2001 edition (Issue 185) of *Hartford Ponderings*, and was written by PMLG/Editor Dan Rich.

We are deeply saddened to report that the events of September 11, 2001 took a personal toll on the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International. That date marked the senseless loss of Rudy Mastrocinque, MLG of the Long Island Pond, and Tim Reilly, SOF of the New York City Pond.

Also lost were two former members of the NYC Pond, Ann McGovern and John Rhodes. On October 6, PMLG John Ryan of the NYC Pond also passed away, and as our good friend Patrick Kennedy has suggested, John probably died of a broken heart.

A memorial was held for our fallen ganders, and for all lost from the insurance industry, on November 7 at Our Lady of Victory Church on 60 William Street in Manhattan. Over 200 people were in attendance. The service was eloquently

conducted by Father George Baker, and featured readings by Patrick Kennedy, Louis McIntyre, and touching remarks by David Passman, VP of AON Risk Services and a former VP of Claims for Marsh McLennan. AON and Marsh both had offices in the upper floors of the World Trade Center and the two companies were heavily hit by the disaster.

After the service, a bagpiper escorted our group as we walked to the Mercantile Grille at 126 Pearl Street for a reception hosted by the NYC Pond. Approximately 70 Ganders from 9 of the 10 Eastern Ponds were in attendance. Even as we mourned and remembered our fallen friends, the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship evident that night was overwhelming. It made us realize, more than ever, how important our close friendships are, and what a tight-knit group we have become.

The Grand Nest is developing plans to organize a trust fund for the survivors of our lost comrades. Most Loyal Grand Gander Marvin Wilson will be sending a notice to all Ponds throughout the US and Canada with more information on the trust fund. The thoughts and wishes of the NYC and Long Island Ponds will be incorporated into his notice.

2001-2002

The Ninety-Sixth annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Marriott Raleigh-Crabtree Valley, Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-10, 2001, with Most Loyal Grand Gander, Marvin Wilson (North Carolina Pond) presiding. Fellow Grand Nest Officers included John C. Bishop (Nova Scotia), Grand Supervisor of the Flock, Richard Philippsen (California), Grand Custodian of the Goslings, Gerald F. Hale (Hartford), Grand Guardian of the Nest, Timothy T. Seider (Wisconsin Home Nest), Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Terrence M. Maloney, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Robert Tayloe Ross, Judge Advocate and John T. Zeldam, Grand Historian.

Two hundred and sixty-nine Ganders, family members and guests attended, including 41 children. Among those attending were PMLGG's George Harwood, Larry Lewer, Gerry Simpson, Barry Snyder, Rex Clark, and Cliff Needam.

The Welcome Party featured entertainment by "Jeri Lou the Clown" who entertained the kids with balloon animals and entertained the adults by leading participatory dances such as the Macarena, Hokey-Pokey, Electric Slide, and Chicken dance.

The Opening Ceremonies featured a color guard presentation by the United Methodist Boy Scout Troop 100.

The Georgia Pond's Memorial Service was especially impressive as there was a special tribute provided to the Ganders who were lost on September 11th. The tribute was given by PMLG Patrick Kennedy of the New York City Pond, as he memorialized Rudy Mastrocinque, Tim Reilly, and John Ryan. Rudy's brother, Richard was introduced and accepted three checks from the Blue Goose 9/11 Fund – one in memory of each of our missing Ganders. Under MLGG Wilson's direction, our Ponds had responded magnificently in generously donating to the 9/11 Fund, and the Order was able to collect a total of \$7,500.

The Virginia Pond, dressed in colonial costume and entering the room to fife and drum music, conducted the Model Initiation Ceremony and initiated four new members. Other first day activities included the All Industry Luncheon, with entertainment by a barbershop septet, and remarks by David Thomas, President of the CPCU Southern Region. That evening, the group took busses to the North Carolina State Fairgrounds for an Eastern Carolina barbecue and entertainment by a country band.

The total membership of the Order was 5,259 a further reduction of 365 from the year before, once everything was taken into account. There were 286 new members and 81 that were reinstated. This was offset by 20 deceased members that year along with 629 that were dropped and, 29 that resigned and 24 that were lost in flight.

Membership seemed to dominate the discussion throughout the convention. Grand Wielder Maloney suggested that Blue Goose needs to "restructure" itself as the insurance industry was, in order to meet the needs of its members. "The industry is as big as it always was; it is our relationship of working in it that has changed."

MLGG Wilson reported on his year in office. He poignantly told how the euphoria of the August 2001 St. Louis convention disappeared in the wake of the September 11th attacks; calling it "*a sadness that was very difficult to overcome*". He spoke of the heartache in our four New York City area Ponds, and of the loss of our loved ones, colleagues, and members. In December, Marvin was one of the 400 in attendance at the National Capital Pond's Christmas Luncheon, and he was one of the 600 present at the Michigan Pond's Christmas gathering. He attended the Kentucky Pond's Valentine's Dance and the Halifax Mid-Year Meeting in February. He thanked GN Historian John Zeldam and PMLGG Barry Snyder for organizing the Order's history and memorabilia. He asked the Ponds to rededicate themselves to charity and charitable pursuits.

The Grand Historian gave an update on his archiving efforts and asked that if anyone had items to add he would readily accept them. He said, "Our collectible history, both written and otherwise, is a window to the past, a guide to the present, and a light to the future."

The Order's finances were in pretty good shape. The organization was able to realize a surplus as compared to a deficit for the previous year. Total assets increased mainly due to a special assessment for the 9-11 Fund. However, after accounting for that amount, a healthy 10.3% asset increase was realized.

The Hartford Pond was the winner of the Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award, while the Membership Cup went to the Bay State Pond. The "Eastern Horizon" by the Eastern Region (editor Irene Hughes of Bay State) took first place for Pond Publications, while "Sunshine" by the Florida Pond took second place. Several ponds shared in the honorable mention section namely St. Louis Blue Notes, The Nova Scotia Gander News and Arizona Honker. The Hartford Pond won its second award when given the Heart of America Pond's Fellowship Cup, while the Kentucky Pond's No Drop-Out Cup, an extremely difficult award to win, was actually shared by four ponds-Quebec, New Brunswick, Utah and Westchester Ponds. The Peace Garden Award went to the Virginia Pond and the Eastern Region took home the Regional Challenge Cup

The newly elected officers were installed as follows: John Bishop of the Nova Scotia Pond as MLGG, Terrence M. Maloney of the Wisconsin Home Nest as the Grand Wielder; John Tayloe Ross of the Virginia Pond as Judge Advocate, PMLGG John T. Zeldam of the Michigan Pond as the Grand Nest Historian, Richard Phillipsen of the California Pond became the Grand Supervisor, Gerald (Jerry) Hale of the Hartford Pond became the Grand Custodian, Timothy T. Seider of the Wisconsin Home Nest became the Grand Guardian, and the newest officer was Keith Strohecker of the Virginia Pond who joined the Grand Nest as Grand Keeper.

In his Address of Acceptance, MLGG Bishop acknowledged his daughter Kristen's upcoming kidney transplant and September 11th as he described the past year as a time of "great suffering" for both his family and for Blue Goose – describing the year as a time of "unprecedented sickness and death" for the Blue Goose family. MLGG Bishop looked ahead and said "We must try to rekindle the desire to be a true Blue Gooser. We must try to revive a sense of belonging that seems to have gone missing... I truly believe Blue Goose will live long into the future. It is my solemn pledge to you that I will continue the hard work of my predecessors, and that I will encourage membership in Blue Goose. I look forward to welcoming you when you come to Halifax in 2003."

John also commented on a major development regarding the way in which Blue Goose will conduct business as the Order goes forward. "This coming year your entire Grand Nest Executive will be able to communicate by way of e-mail, which will be a first for Grand Nest. We will be able to communicate with the committees in this manner as well. I would like to be able to contact the Ponds as well. Therefore I encourage you to provide e-mail addresses to our Grand Wielder so that we will be able to provide timely and efficient communication right to the front lines. We would hope that the Ponds would then be able to transfer this information to their membership. The reverse is also true. You can communicate with Grand Nest. I welcome any e-mail correspondence and I promise you that I will respond to each and every one that I receive."

2002-2003

The Ninety-Seventh annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Casino Nova Scotia Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, August 10-13, 2003, with Most Loyal Grand Gander John C. Bishop, presiding. Fellow Grand Nest Officers included Richard Philippsen, Grand Supervisor of the Flock, Gerald F. Hale, Grand Custodian of the Goslings, Timothy T. Seider, Grand Guardian of the Nest, Keith Strohecker, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Terrence M. Maloney, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Robert Tayloe Ross, Judge Advocate and John T. Zeldam, Grand Nest Historian.

Convention attendance totaled 193 Ganders, 147 spouses, 70 children, and 6 guests, for a total of 416. Among those attending were PMLGG's Larry Lewer, Jerry Simpson, Barry Snyder, Rex Clark, Bruce Bolton, and Marvin Wilson.

The convention opened with a welcome reception celebrating Nova Scotia's heritage by featuring native ethnic dishes to the Province. Street entertainers, or Buskers, in town for the annual festival, performed for those in attendance.

Tradition was the word for the opening ceremony, which included the Town Crier and a Bagpiper. The flags were presented by athletes from the Nova Scotia Special Olympics.

The Nova Scotia Pond used a black light effect to present a dignified Memorial Service. Their Initiation Team wearing kilts and accompanied by bag pipes, presented an impressive Model Initiation. The historic highlight of the initiation was the fact that 12 goslings from Australia were initiated by proxy making our fraternal order a truly International Organization.

The All-Industry Charity Luncheon followed, and 25-year pins were presented to three members of the Nova Scotia Pond. A special presentation was also made as the host Pond announced a donation to the Nova Scotia Special Olympics. Entertainment was provided by *Bongo Bolero*, a versatile two person team of crowd pleasing knife throwing acrobats.

Membership in the Order slipped again from the previous year. There were 5,010 total members with 306 new members, 59 reinstated and 13 received by flight. Membership had increased in some ponds but had fallen off in others. The Grand Wielder reported that our membership in essence was stale and growing in some ponds but others had failed to actively attract and recruit new members.

The Convention Contingency fund, first set up in 1996, was called on to defray the deficit left by the Raleigh Grand Nest convention the year before.

The highlight of the convention was an all-you-can-eat lobster bash at Pier 21, Canada's Ellis Island. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants to North America has passed through this location on their way to the "New" land. Some conventioners commented about relatives who had done the same and were delighted to be at such a historic location. After allowing us time to wander through the museum, appetizers were served, including a never-ending mountain of mussels. A huge lobster feast followed, with great music and exceptional fellowship. The pirate hats, eye-patches and gold hoop earrings that all dinner guests received helped to fuel the fellowship.

The Judge Advocate reported that there had been significant activity including the review and consideration of a proposed change in the Constitution, modifying the title of "Grand Custodian of the Goslings" to "Grand Custodian of the Ganders". This recognized the fact that Goslings are under the mandate of the Ponds and not Grand Nest. There was also the need to update the Constitution and By-Laws which is a continuing project. There was also a review of contract issues for computer system upgrades. A revision of publications describing the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International was done this year as well.

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney discussed two important issues –the Order's need for an updated computer system, which is anticipated to cost approximately \$7,500. The second issue is a recommended dues increase to be voted on next year. Despite cutting expenses 30% this year, the decrease in membership still created a budget shortfall.

Grand Nest Historian John Zeldam fulfilled his four-year commitment to serve as Historian following the passing of Gordon Crowther. Mr. Zeldam worked to preserve the history and traditions of Blue Goose, and made our history more accessible by writing a history column for the Grand Nest Bulletin. John also searched out Blue Goose memorabilia and tried

to build up the archives collection. He thanked his successor, Barry Snyder for helping in the archives restoration, and thanked the St. Louis Pond for their donation of a travel case for the archives collection.

MLGG Bishop reported on his year in office, a year that started with surgery to donate a kidney to his daughter Kristen. *“I’m not sure how many Most Loyal Grand Ganders before me can lay claim to beginning their term flat on their back in a children’s hospital, but for reasons well documented by now that is how I began my year. The Bishop clan, I’m pleased to say, has recovered fully, or as normal as can be expected. I want to take this opportunity to thank all you wonderful people who sent cards, sometimes more than one, to Kristen and I. And those of you who sent wonderful baskets of the most marvelous stuff I had ever seen. Your love and concern for us was deeply felt and much appreciated. We had folks praying for us literally from all over the world and there is no doubt in my mind that it was because of this that we had such an astonishing recovery. I was even able to get in a few rounds of golf before they closed our course for the Winter.”*

MLGG Bishop travelled a great deal during the second half of the year. He was one of the 700 that attended the Michigan Pond’s Christmas Party and attended that Pond’s Executive Board Meeting as well as a Detroit Red Wing game. After Michigan, he also visited the Wisconsin Home Nest and the National Capital Pond; *“the entire trip amounted to nine takeoffs and nine landings visiting four different cities and seven different airports in nine days”*. After the holidays, he also attended the Grand Nest Mid Year in California, and the Quebec Pond.

Looking to the future, Bishop commented *“I think the most important part of my tenure was the utilization of the internet. I was able to send out quarterly messages to all Ponds directly through the Pond Welders thus communicating with the Pond members in a more intimate fashion. I had mentioned last year that communication with the front lines was vital and the internet helped make this happen. The Grand Nest Executive was able to communicate effectively and efficiently this way as well. We have only begun to tap into this resource and I encourage those behind me to utilize this means of communication to the fullest.”*

The Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award was won by the National Capital Pond while the coveted Membership Cup went to the St. Joe Valley Pond. Nova Scotia introduced the “Link of the Year” Award in 2003. It was awarded to the Pond with an outstanding internet Pond web site. The introductory award went to the Greater Chicago Pond. The *“Hartford Ponderings”* took first place in the Pond Publication award category. The Heart of America Pond’s Fellowship Cup went to the Regina Pond, while the Kentucky Pond’s No Drop-Out Cup was shared by the Alabama, Oklahoma and Tennessee Ponds. The Peace Garden Award went to the National Capital Pond and the Eastern Region won the Regional Challenge Cup for the second year in a row.

The newly elected officers were installed as follows: Richard Phillipson of the California Pond as MLGG, Terrence M. Maloney of the Wisconsin Home Nest as the Grand Welder; John Tayloe Ross of the Virginia Pond as Judge Advocate, PMLGG Barry Snyder of the National Capital Pond rejoined the Grand Nest as the Grand Nest Historian, Gerald (Jerry) Hale of the Hartford Pond became the Grand Supervisor, Timothy T. Seider of the Wisconsin Home Nest became the Grand Custodian, Keith Strohecker of the Virginia Pond became the Grand Guardian, and the newest officer was Jack Fitch of the Ontario Pond who joined the Grand Nest as Grand Keeper.

In his Address of Acceptance, MLGG Phillipson commented on the Order’s growing use of e-mail, *“now most of the committee members are connected by e-mail. Even though we are across the continent, we are as close as our computers. This will continue, and make your Grand Nest a more effective leader of the organization”*.

MLGG Phillipson looked at the continuing decrease in membership, but offered two success stories, and a possible strategy to ensure more successes. *“There is a shining light at the end of the tunnel. I can speak of Cynthia Conover of Oregon in the Western region. When the Oregon Pond considered turning in their charter two years ago, they were down to 3 members, but Cynthia worked hard, and with the focus on charity has built the membership to 80 Ganders. In the Southern region the Virginia Pond under the leadership of Joe Bishop went from 50 members to 137 members in the five years that he was their MLG.”*

“The big question is ‘why is membership growing in some regions, but failing in other regions?’ I looked at the Western region and the success stories are with the Seattle Pond and Oregon Pond. What do they do that is different from other Ponds in that region? Upon investigation it appears that their education, and charity programs are well received and attended by prospective applicants, as well as existing members. I then went to the Southern Region and looked at Texas. Here we have two Ponds that are working at becoming viable candidates for a convention. What do they have in common, and once again it appears that the answer is educational and charity programs for the members and prospective applicants. Remember, if we follow our cardinal principles of education and charity, then fellowship will follow.”

2003-2004

The Ninety-Eighth annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City, California, August 1-4, 2004 with MLGG Richard L. Philippsen, presiding. Fellow Grand Nest Officers included Gerald F. Hale, Grand Supervisor of the Flock, Timothy T. Seider, Grand Custodian of the Ganders Keith Strohecker, Grand Guardian of the Nest, Jack Fitch, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Terrence M. Maloney, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Judge Advocate Robert Tayloe Ross and Grand Historian Barry Snyder.

Among the over 250 attending were PMLGG's George Harwood, Larry Lewer, Jerry Simpson, Rex Clark, and Chuck Palmerton.

The convention opened on Sunday, August 1 with a welcome reception offering numerous food stations to allow everyone to mingle together. A photo opportunity with special guests Shrek, Princess Fiona, Spiderman, and Sponge Bob was available for young and old.

On Monday, at the opening ceremonies, the Salvation Army provided the color guard while the Australian, Canadian and United States national anthems were sung; this was a first for the annual meeting, and signified the installation of twelve Australian members the year before in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Our guest speaker was Mr. Mark Isler, a local television personality, who offered us a humorous "Welcome to LA" presentation.

The Oregon Pond performed the solemn Memorial Service with a creative flair – they used a video screen to display the names of each Pond and their recently departed Ganders. The Seattle Pond conducted the Model Initiation at which four Ganders were initiated. After the ceremonies, the Ganders were invited to the All Industry Luncheon and listened to Stuart Anderson, chairman of the California Fair Plan. Mr. Anderson reeled off a series of entertaining war stories from his files.

Monday evening everyone boarded special tour buses right outside the hotel. A "behind the scenes" tour of the TV and movie sets of Universal Studios was amazing. We saw breath-taking special effects including a close encounter with the shark from Jaws, a collapsing bridge, and a wild earthquake experience. The "red carpet" at the dinner theatre welcomed us to wonderful meal hosted by Lucile Ball and Marilyn Monroe. Marilyn even had a special song for our Mr. President, Dick Philippsen. After dinner, the famous City Walk, which consists of over 50 shops, restaurants, and nite clubs, offered an exciting venue for anyone's tastes.

The overall membership of the Order continued to decline, this year down to 4,749, a full 261 from 2003. Although there were 295 new members with 49 reinstated and 7 received by flight, there were 8 deceased members 487 that were dropped, 13 that resigned and 7 lost to flight.

The new member Centennial pin was introduced at this convention and a new software system was in the works and being developed for use by all the ponds and their WGQ's

GWGQ Maloney also introduced a master general liability contract that included coverage for all the ponds, thus providing the local chapters with much needed revenues by a reduction in expenses.

MLGG Phillippsen reported on his year in office, a year that started off tragically. *"After reading John Bishops report of last year, I hope that the two of us are not setting a trend for future Grand Nest Officers. I started off my year by receiving a telephone call in Halifax that our daughter had discovered her husband dead of a heart attack, and we had to rush home to help with the funeral. This past June, the same daughter was killed in an auto accident, and we had another funeral to arrange and grandchildren to care for their future."*

Somehow, he and his wife Norma visited many Ponds; small and large alike. *"Our first visit was to a Western Region Pond in San Diego, where Richard & Fran Anthony accompanied Norma and me for a lunch. They had the largest turnout of the year to visit with a Grand Nest Officer. It was a great day. This made us realize that even the Ponds with the smallest number of members, are willing to go out of their way to meet with representatives from the "Grand Nest". I encourage all future Grand Nest Officers to go out of their way to meet with the smaller Ponds, and to give them encouragement to grow.*

During the holiday season we traveled to the National Capital Pond and the Michigan Pond annual Holiday Charity Luncheons. I was impressed with the number of attendees at each of the luncheons, as well as the amount

of money that they raised for charity. The National Capital Pond has contributed in excess of \$205,000.00 to the Children's Hospital. In Detroit, they put in the old saying that Charity Starts at Home. A Gander had passed away some years ago, leaving a widow with five children. The Michigan Pond held golf tournaments each year to raise money until the last of the five children were through college". That day the Michigan Pond gave out in excess of \$35,000.00 to local charities. It made me proud of being the Most Loyal Grand Gander of such a generous organization. One thing that struck me about both Ponds was the number of members who were in the category of vendors. They were true Blue Goosers, and I was proud to meet them. I realized that although this organization started strictly with insurance people, that in Order to survive, we have had to expand our membership. I feel that the Grand Nest will have to consider further expansion, so that this organization can grow to the stature it deserves"

Mr. Phillipsen also attended the Arizona Pond's Sweetheart Brunch, an educational seminar and dinner hosted by the Oregon Pond, a Seattle Pond meeting, and the Grand Nest Mid-Year meeting at Foxwoods Resort in Connecticut. He thanked his Convention Committee, "*10 hard working individuals*" for their dedication to Blue Goose.

There were two Constitutional amendments. The first called for an increase in dues to \$22. The second called for a broadening of the membership eligibility rules by deleting the phrase property/casualty and replacing it with "the business of insurance" thus providing an opportunity for those working in the business of insurance but not necessarily the property/casualty end to qualify for membership. Both amendments passed unanimously.

The Judge Advocate was involved in the discussion pertaining to the Constitutional amendments as well as the issues surrounding the members from Australia, and copyright issues involving Blue Goose, as the Order moved forward in the technology age and assisted the Grand Nest in updating and modifying the Blue Goose brochure which is a promotional tool used by Blue Goose. He was also involved in the Order's purchase of the Master Liability policy and the legal ramifications to the Order and its Chapters in its purchase.

The Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award was won by the Indiana Pond; the Oregon Pond won the Wisconsin Home Nest Membership Award. The Link of the Year for the outstanding web site went to the Ontario Pond. The Heart of America Pond's Fellowship Award went to the North Carolina Pond while the St. Joe Valley and Penn Ponds shared the St. Joe Valley Pond's No Drop-Out Award. The Peace Garden Award was won by the Wisconsin Home Nest and the Western Region took home the Regional Challenge Cup.

The Hartford Pond offered a preview of next year's 99th Convention, scheduled to be held at Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Ledyard, CT. Two hundred blue folders containing the proposed children's program, a tentative Convention agenda, and brochures for all attractions had been placed on the chairs throughout the room prior to the crowd filing in. At the conclusion of a slide presentation set to music, numerous Hartford Ganders distributed \$5 Foxwoods chips to the crowd.

The newly elected officers were installed as follows: Gerald (Jerry) Hale of the Hartford Pond as MLGG, Terrence M. Maloney of the Wisconsin Home Nest as the Grand Wielder; John Tayloe Ross of the Virginia Pond as Judge Advocate, PMLGG Barry Snyder of the National Capital Pond as the Grand Nest Historian, Timothy T. Seider of the Wisconsin Home Nest became the Grand Supervisor, Keith Strohecker of the Virginia Pond became the Grand Custodian, Jack Fitch of the Ontario Pond became the Grand Guardian, and the newest officer was JoAnn Clark of the Seattle Pond who joined the Grand Nest as Grand Keeper. JoAnn, wife of PMLGG Rex Clark, became the first female member of the Grand Nest Executive and will add another "first" to her credit when she becomes the first female Most Loyal Grand Gander. When that happens it will also be the first time in Grand Nest History that a husband and wife will have risen to the highest position in Blue Goose.

In his Address of Acceptance, MLGG Hale said "*I accept the challenge that you have placed upon me to lead this wonderful and distinguished organization. This Order is rich in history and well respected throughout the insurance industry. I am honored to be placed into this position at this time*".

He thanked the late Gordon Crowther (1976 MLGG and patriarch of the Hartford Pond) for kindling his interest in BG "*Five years ago, I announced that I would dedicate my years as a Grand Nest Officer, to my dear friend Gordon Crowther. By observing Gordon, I learned the true spirit of Blue Goose. He was, and still is, an inspiration to us all. Although he is not physically with us, I know he is still next to me, pushing me along. Thank you Gordon.*"

“My thanks continue each day to my friends in the Hartford Pond and in the eastern region. I have been honored in the past by being elected to the position of president of the national association of independent insurance adjusters. I am currently the president of the international federation of adjusting associations. However, I have never felt so close to any group as I do to my fellow ganders in Hartford and in the eastern region. Thank you all for your support.”

“This leads me right into my thoughts about this coming year with Blue Goose. No, I will not preach to you about membership, we all know how important that is to keep this organization growing”.

Mr. Hale stressed that both Life Members and young members are vital to our organization urging the need to honor and recognize the Lifetimes’, just as we need to identify and seek out younger members.

“I believe it is so important to get our youth involved in Blue Goose. Don't get me wrong, our older members helped to build Blue Goose into an internationally recognized and respected group. However, with the guidance of our life members, the youthful new members will help us to continue to grow and be recognized. I will do whatever I can to keep these two important parts of our membership working together”.

Mr. Hale also set Blue Goose’s sights on wider geographical membership.” *International membership has been an important goal of mine. Through my international contacts, I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to Australia and get a small group together to form a Puddle. They like to call themselves the “down under puddle of the Hartford Pond”. They have had a couple of meetings and are trying to set up their charities at this time. They have made the Australian government aware of Blue Goose and hopefully will continue to grow. Along these lines, we have had some inquiries about Blue Goose from London, England. I plan to travel to London and see if the interest is genuine and if so, I will try to get things started “across the pond”.*”

Mr. Hale reminded the group of the positive effects that came from broadening our membership criteria in 1989, and hopes that the 2004 addition of non- property/casualty members should have the same positive effect as the 1989 addition of women

“During this convention, we have voted upon two very important issues. The first was the change to expand our membership to include people outside of the property and casualty insurance field. All organizations must make advances to go along with our changing world. Years ago, Blue Goose made a change to expand membership to include women. I cannot imagine where we would be if that amendment did not pass. In the same line, by voting to accept new members from outside the property and casualty industry, you can be proud of your selves by knowing that you have once again helped Blue Goose to continue to expand.”

2004-2005

The Ninety-Ninth annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Gerald F. (Jerry) Hale presiding. Fellow Grand Nest Officers included Tim Seider, Grand Supervisor of the Flock, Keith Strohecker, Grand Custodian of the Ganders, Jack Fitch, Grand Guardian of the Nest, JoAnn Clark, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Terrence M. Maloney, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Robert Tayloe Ross, Judge Advocate and Barry Snyder, Grand Historian. There were over 360 adults and 65+ children in attendance.

A total of 352 Ganders and guests (including a total of 66 children) attended. Among those in attendance were PMLGG's Bruce Bolton, Rex Clark, George Harwood, Jerry Simpson, John C. Bishop, Larry Lewer, Ed Morgan, Chris Reith, Marvin Wilson and Marc Thurber.

The Convention got off to a somewhat rocky start. On Saturday August 6th, Joanne Hale, wife of MLGG Jerry Hale, tripped on a cobblestone stairway during the Grand Nest Spouse' Luncheon in Mystic, lost her footing, and fell, breaking her lower right leg and twisting her left ankle. She was taken to Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London for surgery and rejoined the Convention on Tuesday August 9. It was a great disappointment that she was unable to participate in so many of the events she helped to plan. Joanne did so much work on the Convention; planning events, making site visits, designing printed material, attending meetings, and hand-crafting the new Hartford Pond banner. She also did a wonderful job of feeding the Hartford Convention Committee at the marathon meetings she and Jerry hosted.

For some guests, their first Convention activity was the Sunday morning golf tournament at the new Lake of Isles course across the street from Foxwoods. A total of 80 golfers signed up to play the very challenging course. However, the first official activity for all guests was a Welcome Party held in the huge glass atrium of the Pequot Museum. With open bars, a buffet dinner, a DJ for music and dancing, and special food for the kids, the convention got off to a terrific start. The many children at the party had a blast collecting and trading pins.

Monday morning's Opening Ceremonies got off to an impressive start as the Governor's Footguard (one of the oldest Color Guard Units in the USA) carried in the flags of the United States, Canada, Australia and Connecticut. Most Loyal Grand Gander Jerry Hale introduced a long-time friend of the Hartford Pond, Insurance Commissioner Susan Cogswell, who formally welcomed the Convention to Connecticut. We also heard from Bob DeSalvio, the Executive V. P. of Marketing for Foxwoods. Hartford's Bob Partridge and Kevin Brady, in view of their five-year service as bartenders in the legendary Hartford Pond Hospitality Suites, were called up and given honorary symbols of office. True to their word, Bob and Kevin delivered an "Open Bar" throughout the Convention.

Following the opening ceremony the Memorial Service was performed by the National Capital Pond, honoring all the Ganders who had taken their last long flight, presenting the service in a power point format. It was the first time in recent memory where pictures of the deceased members were portrayed. Appropriate music was seamlessly played as the images were displayed, and the entire presentation was edited to perfection. Two tables were set up in the front of the room, each with Memorial candles and dozens of small votive candles which were lit one by one as the names were called. The combination of the imagery, music, candles, and solemnity with which the names were called was quite powerful and many people were weeping at the conclusion of the service.

It should be noted that we lost PMLGG Charles "Chuck" Palmerton between 2004 and 2005. In her eulogy Grand Keeper JoAnn Clark said, "Chuck was loyal, dependable and so proud to have attended thirty-nine Grand Nest Conventions. He loved Blue Goose." She went on to say, "Chuck really liked counseling people and enjoyed the need to get cooperation on voting issues from Ganders ...Being instrumental in constitutional amendments bringing the association into current thinking."

At the opposite end of the emotional spectrum, the New York City Pond performed a raucous Model Initiation Ceremony as twelve new members were initiated into the Hartford Pond. The NYC Pond has a recent history of conducting imaginative, original, and highly enjoyable Initiation ceremonies, and that tradition continued at the 2005 Convention.

Dressed as Harpo, Groucho and Chico Marx, the team reeled off dozens of routines and one-liners from the Marx Brothers movies, and then incorporated them into the Initiation Ritual. The look of befuddlement on the faces of the initiates as they were marched into the room was a sight to behold. All of the Marx Brothers classic trademarks were there, from Groucho's cigars, bushy eyebrows, greasepaint mustache and awful puns, to Chico's insults, to Harpo's clown horn.

The All Industry Luncheon followed, with entertainment provided by Ted Alexandro, a New York stand up comedian who had appeared on the David Letterman and Conan O'Brien shows and also hosted his own special on the Comedy Central Network.

Monday evening, we traveled to Ocean Beach Park in New London for a clambake. We started off with a cocktail hour on the pavilion, and then unleashed a buffet dinner of clam chowder, lobster, steamed clams, BBQ chicken, red bliss potatoes, corn on the cob, salad and ice cream. For entertainment, the Hartford Pond hired a local band, *The Driftwoods*, that specialized in covers of Beach Boys and Jimmy Buffet songs. Each dinner table was adorned with a large water-filled glass vase that served as a centerpiece. Inside the vase were glass beads over a pulsating LED light, and the final touch was a live betta fish swimming around inside each vase. Many a centerpiece were carried home by dinner guests, and the rest were collected and remained at Ocean Beach where they were picked up the next morning by representatives of a local nursing home.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Jerry Hale then reported on his year in office. Jerry was pleased to report that the financial condition of Blue Goose has improved. By cutting spending and pushing for early dues payments, the Order successfully met a balanced budget in 2004-05, and even accumulated a small surplus. *"My first goal involved the financial position of Blue Goose. I insisted that we operate this year under a balanced budget. With the help of my fellow officers and Grand Wielder Maloney, that goal was accomplished at the California Post Convention Meeting. I am proud to report that for the year 2004-2005, we have a surplus in funds; this is the first time in many years that we have not reported a loss in revenue. That was accomplished by the hard work and dedication of your International Officers and Grand Wielder Maloney. Spending was once again kept at a bare minimum. Your Officers have pushed to get dues paid in a timely manner. Hopefully, we will no longer have to wait for dues to be paid before Terry can write a check to pay our expenses. I urge all future Officers to keep this as a paramount goal, and maintain a balanced budget. A surplus revenue can only help us to expand our membership and spread the word about Blue Goose"*.

His second goal was to visit Ponds in every region. *"I accomplished this goal and then some. I cannot tell you how enjoyable it was to travel throughout the United States and Canada and meet such wonderful people. I will not even try to thank all of the individuals who met with me, because I know I will forget someone's name. All I can tell you is that the hospitality that was expressed and demonstrated was absolutely magnificent."*

He thanked the Ponds in Quebec, Virginia, Oregon, St. Louis, Wisconsin, Michigan, Baltimore, and Metro NYC for the overwhelming hospitality they showed him this past year. *"All total, these meetings and functions had well over 2,000 people in attendance. I also traveled to non Blue Goose meetings and tried to spread the word about Blue Goose membership. I attended the Loss Executives Association meeting in Tampa, Florida, the PLRB Conference in San Antonio, Texas, and the Chartered Institute Of Loss Adjusters meeting in London, England. Nearly 5,000 people were in attendance at these meetings. Obviously, I could not talk to all of them, but I did my best. I can report that there still seems to be some slight interest in London about Blue Goose. I will keep trying to cultivate that interest in the following year. As for Australia, I have maintained close contact with our membership in that country. They are still showing interest in Blue Goose and continue to pay their dues (on time). I hope to see an increase in their membership in the near future. "*

MLGG Hale finished by relating his two proudest moments of the past year. Jerry and Joanne traveled to St. Petersburg, FL to tape an interview with John Gravenstine, who served as the Grand Wielder from 1962 to 1988. He is an incredible individual who attended the 25th Annual Convention, as well as the 50th and the 75th Conventions. He intends to attend the Centennial Convention next year in Wisconsin. He and his wife shared their past experiences with me, while my wife (Joanne) video taped the interview". The tape has been donated to the Grand Nest archives. *"There seems to be no better way to memorialize the thoughts of this wonderful and sincere individual. "*

MLGG Hale also had the honor of participating in the initiation of his son Michael into the Hartford Pond. *"My second greatest moment happened in May at the last Hartford meeting. I had the great honor of initiating my son, Michael, into the Order. What a wonderful feeling. "*

Grand Wielder Terry Maloney's report was next. The overall membership in the Order continued to decline from the year before. There were 348 new members, 84 that were re-instated and 37 that were received by flight. On the other hand 15 members took their last flight, 408 were dropped, 25 resigned and 37 were lost by flight.

Michigan is the largest Pond with 429 members. Quebec and St Louis are next with 215 and 211 members respectively. Hartford remained in fourth. The rest of the ten largest Ponds are 5) Ontario, 6) Edmonton, 7) Alberta, 8) New York City, 9) Chicago, and 10) Nova Scotia.

Terry Maloney mentioned how the Grand Nest Bulletin was delivered to the Ponds electronically this year, saving the Honorable Order a great deal of money. He also briefed us on the new computer system which will soon have a server tied to the individual Ponds. Lastly, he mentioned that Blue Goose has changed as needed over the years, and the next change could very well involve Regional structure.

Grand Nest Historian Barry Snyder spoke next concerning the Blue Goose archives. They are a collection of Blue Goose memorabilia some of which traces back to the inception of Blue Goose 100 years ago. Barry is always looking for Ganders to donate historical Blue Goose items, and he thanked the Pond newsletter editors for getting that message across last year. The archives are expensive to maintain and ship, and he asked for Gander donations to help preserve the history of Blue Goose. Barry announced that he'd be passing a plate around the meeting room to seek Gander donations, and that he and his wife Pat would match whatever amount was collected up to \$1,000. When the plate came back, and the cash was counted, the Ganders in the room had donated \$1,447.00.

The Pond awards were announced next, as the Ponds that excelled in a variety of categories during the past year were honored. The Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award was won by the Regina Pond from Canada, while the Kentucky Pond won the Wisconsin Home Nest Membership Award. Nova Scotia's "Link of the Year" Award went to the St. Louis Pond for an outstanding internet web site, while first place for the Pond Publication Award went to the Quebec Pond. The Regina Pond was a double winner, taking home the Heart of America Pond's Fellowship Award, while the St. Joe Valley Pond's No Drop-Out Award, which is an extremely difficult award to win, went to the West Virginia Pond. The Garden State Pond won the Peace Garden Award and the Eastern Region was the Regional Challenge Award winner.

Judge Advocate Robert Ross filled in the Convention on the Blue Goose legal issues of the past year. He has been working to bring the Constitution, by-laws and ritual up to date. He has been looking at how Grand Nest communicates with the membership, re-examining the Convention subsidy customarily given to PMLGGs, and re-examining our dues policy for dual members.

There were two roll call votes by the delegates. The first was on changes in the wording of "The Charge" and other aspects of the ritual to reflect 1) recent broadening of membership criteria to include all types of insurance and 2) to include countries other than the U. S. and Canada when appropriate. The second vote was to discontinue the 50% discount on Convention registration given to PMLGG's. The delegates voted to pass all of the proposals.

On Wednesday morning, the Wisconsin Home Nest put on a presentation about Milwaukee and Green Lake, for the next convention. Significant about this was that they were to host the 100th year birthday in 2006.

After the convention, a special side trip is being offered to the Heidel House in Green Lake, Wisconsin – where 100 years ago our Blue Goose Founding Fathers dreamed up the Honorable Order that we belong to today.

After the nominating speeches, the newly elected officers were installed as follows: Timothy T. Seider of the Wisconsin Home Nest as MLGG, Terrence M. Maloney of the Wisconsin Home Nest as the Grand Wielder; John Tayloe Ross of the Virginia Pond as Judge Advocate, PMLGG Barry Snyder of the National Capital Pond as the Grand Nest Historian, Keith Strohecker of the Virginia Pond became the Grand Supervisor, Jack Fitch of the Ontario Pond became the Grand Custodian, JoAnn Clark of the Seattle Pond became the Grand Guardian, and the newest officer was William Wasekanes of the Penn Pond who joined the Grand Nest as Grand Keeper.

In his address of acceptance, MLGG Seider spoke about a recent visit he and Grand Wielder Maloney had made to Green Lake, WI. *"Terry and I were up in Green Lake with our families, checking out the resort facilities and working on the arrangements for the 100th Birthday Celebration. Of course we had to check out the golf venue. So, one morning we decided to go golfing at Tuscumbia Country Club, site of the first Blue Goose Golf Outing in 1906. As we were about to tee off at the first hole, we heard geese cackling. We looked up and here are six blue geese - in formation, flying directly over us, down the first fairway. Terry and I are standing on the first tee, we have dropped our clubs, and are flapping our arms. I can't imagine what the people in the clubhouse thought, seeing these two guys flapping their wings. We thought we died and went to heaven. We knew we stood on hallowed ground!"*

MLGG Seider spoke of the wonderful accomplishment that Blue Goose is about to achieve- one century of longevity. *"In 2006 the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose will be celebrating 100 years as an organization. 100 years! That is truly amazing. Not many organizations have an opportunity to celebrate a centennial. What a special year we have to look forward to and what a*

special year for us to celebrate. I am sure, as our Founding Fathers relaxed at the Oakwood Hotel on the banks of Green Lake, they never thought that this organization would not only survive 100 years, but thrive for 100 years.”

MLGG Seider read an excerpt from "The Flight to Green Lake", written in 1926 to memorialize the twentieth anniversary of our Order.

"It was a perfect day that greeted those Ganders and their wives who were fortunate enough to have time to make the trip to the Blue Goose shrine at Green Lake where the original egg was laid and hatched back in June, 1906. It was a sort of sentimental journey, a pious pilgrimage to a Blue Goose shrine. There, in the very hall in which the Order was established, the original crude initiation was repeated. Many of those who took part in the first ceremony conferred the obligation upon the first Gosling, whose pin feathers were plucked twenty years before. So far as possible, the event was duplicated in every detail, and before a large crowd, which was deeply impressed by the sentimental and historical associations involved. What was begun as a jest had developed into a great international organization, with thousands of members and widespread influence. A joke society intended to beguile the tedium of a rainy day, had grown to be the social organization of the business, promoting fellowship, charity and good will and condensing the teachings of the Golden Rule into two words of its underlying principle, "Tote Fair".

MLGG Seider spoke of the culture and tradition of Blue Goose, as well as it's core values. *"Today, the Blue Goose is different than it was in 1906. But, the basic principles of our Order - character, charity and fellowship - have stood the test of time and will continue to guide us into the future as we embark upon the next 100 years. Our Order is one steeped in tradition. It is based upon the core values that bind us together. They have provided a foundation upon which our organization was built. And, will continue to provide that foundation for many years to come. We, as any organization, must continue to grow; we must change and adapt to the world around us. But, always remembering the basic principles upon which The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose was founded.*

Let us always "tote fare" in our daily lives and strive to inculcate character, charity and fellowship. Thank you for granting me this opportunity to serve you and lead the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International into our next century."

After cocktails at the Intermezzo Lounge, the children rejoined the Convention for the Family Luncheon with spectacular entertainment by illusionist Lyn Dilies. She and her partner appeared and disappeared at will, twisted into a human pretzel, made fiery magic wands melt into and emerge from a balloon, she sliced herself in half with metal plates and then shrunk herself down to two feet in height. And for her big finish, she recreated Houdini's famous illusion *Metamorphoses*, where she exchanged places with her partner while tied inside a body bag and encased in a wooden crate.

The final activity on the Convention program was the Mardi Gras themed closing Banquet and Ball. With lavish decorations and Mardi Gras masks for all, the banquet was a resounding success, due in large part to the unbelievable show put on by *Eight To The Bar*, a six-piece swing-boogie-rock band whose showmanship and fantastic performances kept people dancing until Foxwoods asked us to leave so they could turn the room over for the next day.

2005-2006

The one-hundred annual anniversary of the Grand Nest Convention was held July 25-29, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

On Tuesday, July 25th, the current and past Grand Nest Officers started to arrive to gear up for the one-hundredth Grand Nest Convention. On Wednesday, July 26th they met in the Crystal Room for their pre-convention meeting. MLGG Timothy T. Seider of the Wisconsin Home Nest presided, Grand Welder Maloney, also from the home Nest called the roll. The following current officers were present. Grand Supervisor Keith Strohecker from the Virginia Pond; Grand Custodian Jack Fitch from the Ontario Pond; Grand Guardian JoAnn Clark from the Seattle Pond; Grand Keeper William Wasekanes from the Penn Pond; Judge Advocate Robert Tayloe Ross, from the Virginia Pond and Grand Historian, PMLGG Barry L. Snyder, from the National Capital Pond. Also, present were the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, Rex W. Clark, George Hardwood Larry Lewer, Jerry Simpson, Christopher J. Reith, John T. Zeldam, and John C. Bishop.

The Blue Goose came back to the same hotel that hosted the Diamond Jubilee Convention of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International in 1981. Douglass G. Snyder was the MLGG. This is the second time that the MLGG was from the Home Nest. Every twenty-five years, the site of the convention is held in Wisconsin, at the Home Nest. The twenty-fifth anniversary in 1931, the MLGG was Henry L. Rose of the Chesapeake Pond, from the Eastern Region. The fiftieth anniversary held in 1950, the MLGG was Robert L. Wiseman of the National Capital Pond, from the Eastern Region. The Central Region and the Eastern Region in switched places in 1975, so that every twenty-five years the MLGG will be from the Wisconsin Home Nest and will host the convention. (a little bit of ancient history)

The Home Nest was honored to welcome 238 Ganders and guests (including a total of 30 youths and children) to their Convention. Delegates, Ganders and guests came from the United States, Canada and Australia. This is the first time in the history of the Blue Goose that we had a member from another Continent. Congratulations to the Wisconsin Home Nest and all the Ganders for a very successful Convention.

Those that were going to play golf came in on Tuesday, so they would be on time to tee off at 8:00 am Wednesday. Some Ganders and guests also arrived on Tuesday to get settled before the start of the convention. There are many things to see and do in Milwaukee. That weekend they had a German fest, which is one of the largest in the United States.

The convention officially opened Wednesday evening with a Welcome Party on the second floor in the open Atrium of the hotel. There was a cocktail hour prior to dinner. Ganders, spouses and guest visited with old friends that they haven't seen for a year. Many meet new friends that they will long remember. The children were having a good time trading Pond pins. After cocktails we entered the dining area where there were different food stations set up. We enjoyed a "Taste of Milwaukee". While we ate we were entertained by a jazz quartet.

Those attending for the first time played "Blue Goose Bingo". They received a piece of paper that had squares on it. In the squares there were clues describing some of the Blue Goose members, such as the Grand Nest Officers, the MLGG, the Grand Welder, etc. The appropriate person described in the clue signed their name in their square. Those that filled all the boxes received a prize.

After dinner, we returned to the atrium where a holograph of the Blue Goose logo was displayed on the wall. The lights dimmed and an audio-visual presentation took place celebrating our 100-year history of the Blue Goose. There was music, lights, confetti and cannons. Everyone stood there in awe of this spectacular event.

Water Atwater the Most Loyal Gander from 1906, was present. He spoke to us from high above. The character was played by PMLGG John Bishop dressed in golf knickers and cap acting the part of a founder as did several other Ganders during the social events. This kept the historical theme moving through the convention.

Thursday was the opening day of the convention. The day started with a full breakfast that was held in the atrium. The conventioners were greeted by the German fest festival participants. The D'Oberlander Bavarian Folk Dancers, Jean Rex on the accordion and Doug Scott on the Flugel horn accompanied the dancers. Being of German decent this is the first time I ate breakfast to the Polka. I found it hard to stay seated when the music started.

After breakfast we went to the Regency Ballroom for the opening ceremonies. There was definite feeling of awe and wonder among the attendees at this convention due to the fact our organization was celebrating 100 years of the Order, we were making history.

The theme followed this format throughout the convention starting with enlarged photos of our founding fathers. These photos were displayed in the back of the head table to be seen by all in attendance. It was difficult to imagine such somber looking gentlemen creating an organization with such humorous names. Humor is a definite part of Blue Goosedom, along with great fellowship and large hearts toward others.

MLGG Tim Seider called the 100th Grand Nest Convention to order, the gavel dropped and the flags were brought in by the Milwaukee Police Department Color Guards. We then sang the national anthems of the three countries; Australia Fair, O Canada and The Star Spangled Banner.

The invocation was given by Reverend Douglas J. Leonhart of Marquette University. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett officially welcomed us to their City and declared the convention days, “the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose Days” in Milwaukee.

Special presentations were made to our Order. Governor Jim Doyle represented by Deputy Insurance Commissioner Claire Stapleton Concord, (an Australian native), proclaimed this Blue Goose International week in the State of Wisconsin. Next, State Representative Jeff Stone presented a citation from the Wisconsin Legislature recognizing our organization.

The Milwaukee County Executive, Scott Walker, sent us a proclamation acknowledging Blue Goose Day in the County of Milwaukee. Joseph Pause, the Mayor of Green Lake, WI. sent us a proclamation recognizing our return to the “banks” of Green Lake, WI. for our special birthday celebration.

Two charitable presentations followed. MLGG Seider presented to a representative of the Special Olympics a check for \$2,000. GWGQ Maloney then presented on behalf of the membership a check for \$12,000 to our fellow Ganders of the Louisiana Pond who were devastated by the hurricane Katrina. These funds were collected from all the Ponds. MLG Jon Masanz and WGQ Fred Combs accepted on behalf of their fellow Ganders.

The Greater Chicago Pond presented the Memorial Service honoring those who passed away this past year. This tradition has been held every year since 1907.

Grand Guardian JoAnn Clark eulogized Harry M. Merrifield from the California Pond. Harry was the MLGG in 1989.

The Michigan Pond did it again. They know how to put on an outstanding model initiation. Their performance in St. Louis was great, but I think they outperformed that one. They re-enacted the original initiation ceremony using the 1900’s dress. Twelve Goslings were initiated; among them were Ryan and Sean Maloney, the two sons of the Grand Wielder. Also, one of them could become the future Grand Wielder.

The guest speaker at the All Industry Luncheon was Bill Carullo, an NFL official that has worked many playoff games and Super Bowls. He gave us a fascinating glimpse into the background and lives of men that officiate the country’s most popular pro sport.

After lunch, Grand Wielder Terry Maloney gave a demonstration of the of the Order’s new software program that just replaced the 1986 program. The system is designed to let each Pond’s Wielder manage their Pond’s roster with adds, drops, reinstatements and e-mail capabilities.

Thursday evening’s theme was the “Streets of Old Milwaukee in 1906”. The Milwaukee Museum was the setting. Throughout the streets that were recreated to take you back to the turn of the century were buffet food stations serving the ethnic dishes of the times.

Friday opened as Grand Wielder Terry Maloney called on two Ganders for special presentations. Mike Nardulli of the NYC Pond stepped forward and read a letter from the White House expressing President Bush’s best wishes to Blue Goose on our 100th Anniversary. Mike then presented the letter to Grand Historian Barry Snyder for a place in the History Archives.

Next, Terry called up Leo Fluitsma of Blue Goose’s Australia Puddle. Leo presented Terry with an Australian flag signed by their members to symbolize their commitment to Blue Goose.

MLGG Seider reported on this year in office. (see Grand Nest Bulletin, Volume 100 for his complete report).

MLGG Seider called upon GN Historian Snyder for his report. He reported that the following Ganders are working on the next fifty-years of the History of the Order, from 1956 thru 2006. PMLGG Rex Clark; Grand Guardian JoAnn Clark; PMLGG Larry Lewer; PMLGG John Bishop; PMLG Dan Rich, PMLG Tom Cattell; PMLG George Kindler and the Wielder of the Texas Pond, Linda Meik. Snyder stated they hope to have it available soon for distribution. This will be available on a disk and also on the Grand Nest Web site.

MLGG Seider called upon the Judge Advocate Robert Ross for his report. Ross reflected that our Constitution and By-Laws have been changed over the years to mirror the needs and realities the Order has been faced with. He said we are now facing the reality of evaluating regional structure and the role of the Grand Nest and the individual Ponds.

Then, GWGQ Maloney offered his report, the theme of which was upcoming changes in the Order's Regional structure. The current structure of five regions (West, Central, East, South and Canada) dates to the 1930's.

PMLGG John Bishop gave the Audit report and said the Order's financial health would be much better were it not for \$10,000 in uncollected dues.

After the officers gave their reports. MLGG Seider called upon PMLG Dan Rich of the Hartford Pond to give the Membership Committee report. Lorena Dunlop from the Alberta Pond for the Jurisprudence report, followed by Linda Meik of the Houston Pond for the Education Committee report.

The Grand Nest Award presentation followed. (see Grand Nest Bulletin, Volume 100 for the listing of these awards).

The rest of the day was open for the attendees to take part in the Germanfest, brewery boat tours, Milwaukee Brewers baseball game and many other venues.

Saturday, after breakfast the Grand Nest Convention reconvened. The Virginia Pond gave their presentation for next year's Grand Nest Convention in Williamsburg. The State of Virginia will be celebrating their 400th year. The Virginia Pond will be celebrating their 100th year. This will be the first time Virginia will be hosting a Grand Nest Convention.

The slate of officers was placed in nomination, they were seconded and the closing remarks were given for each Gander as they ascended the Chairs of the Grand Nest. The newly elected officers were installed as follows: Keith Strohecker of the Virginia Pond as MLGG, Terrence M. Maloney of the Wisconsin Home Nest as the Grand Wielder; John Tayloe Ross of the Virginia Pond as Judge Advocate, PMLGG Barry Snyder of the National Capital Pond as the Grand Nest Historian, Jack Fitch of the Virginia Pond became the Grand Supervisor, JoAnn Clark of the Seattle Pond became the Grand Custodian, William Wasekanes of the Penn Pond became the Grand Guardian, and the newest officer was Joe C. Coccia of the Michigan Pond who joined the Grand Nest as Grand Keeper. Joe has been a member of the Blue Goose since 1980.

In his address of acceptance, MLGG Strohecker marveled at the longevity of the Honorable Order. *"My friends, we are now embarking on our second century of the Blue Goose International. It is amazing to think how this organization was founded. In 1956, Paul Rudd, Grand Nest Historian and a Past Wielder, said the Blue Goose was founded on a cold, rainy day in 1906 as a joke to help pass the time in fellowship with and in the company of good friends. Well fellow ganders, the joke is on them, because here we are one hundred years later. What they created that day to address a need is still valid today and we are reminded of it every time we initiate a new gosling: Character, Charity, and Fellowship. Over the past one hundred years, we have spread the word and initiated many great ganders. We want to continue to promote this great organization and it's outstanding members. The fate of the continued existence of the Blue Goose lies within each of us."*

Having looked at the past, MLGG Strohecker next looked at the future, *"Next year the Grand Nest will have an exhibit booth at the PLRB convention in Orlando. If you're going to be there, please let me or the Grand Wielder know. Not only will we be happy to catch up with you, but we could use your wit and charm to help man the exhibit booth. We are also joining the twenty-first century this year as the Grand Nest goes "live" on the Internet for all pond wielders. Who said we'd be going the way of the dinosaur!! This is a great step in the right direction as your Pond wielders will have instant access to the information about your ganders and will be able to send announcements, meeting notices, and other important information to keep you up to date. And if you think your wielder is waddling a bit slowly, tell him or her it'd be easier to fly than waddle and help them join the "V" formation by assisting them in getting the pond converted"*.

In closing, MLGG Strohecker spoke of the major role that the Grand Nest Conventions play in our lives, *"the continuation of our conventions is an important piece of the traditions of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. This year, we'll be thinking*

out of the box to ensure that they do continue. We will be looking into ways to allow ponds that want to host a convention to be able to step forward sooner”.

The Grand Nest Officers met for their Post Convention Meeting after the Family Luncheon. The other conventioners were getting ready for the big event that closed the Convention, The Grand Banquet and Ball.

That evening, we attended a cocktail hour in the hotel Atrium. The area was colorfully decorated with blue and white balloons. The doors to the ballroom were opened and the conventioners entered. The PMLGG's in attendance and the Grand Nest officers were introduced. PMLGG Seider and GWGQ Maloney and their wives came in last followed, by the University of Wisconsin marching band playing “On You Goslings” to the tune of “On Wisconsin” just as it was played 100 years ago in Green Lake, WI by our founding fathers.

The band started the evening off with upbeat music and they had the crowd dancing before dinner was served. Dinner was delicious, wild mushroom bisque; tossed field greens with heirloom tomatoes; filet mignon with melted Gorgonzola cheese; roasted halibut with lemon oil and sage; Yukon garlic mashed potatoes; asparagus and red pepper medley.

A special dessert was served for the occasion, it was an eight inch chocolate goose, filled with chocolate mousse and fresh berries. An elegant touch to an outstanding dinner.

Before, anyone could enjoy their dessert, all stood up to sing a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday Blue Goose while we rolled out a uniquely built three tier birthday cake. The real surprise was “Cliffie the Goose” who came back out of the archives to grace us with his presence just as he did for almost twenty-five years when one of our most dedicated Blue Goose members, PMLGG Cliff Needham would bring him to our Balls to add to the festivities. “Cliffie” had everyone on the dance floor doing the famous Goose dance (chicken dance).

This only fired up the group to continue enjoying the rest of the evening by rocking to the music of “Diamond” whose lead female singer was a back-up singer to Aretha Franklin.

(Some of the above information was taken from the current Grand Nest Bulletin and the Hartford Ponderings, by PMLG Dan Rich of the Hartford Pond).

**A GATHERING BY THE WATERS
THE HEIDEL HOUSE RESORT
GREEN LAKES, WISCONSIN
JULY 30-----AUGUST 1, 2006**

On Sunday, July 30th a caravan of Blue Goosers headed towards Green Lake, Wisconsin—the birthplace of our Order. Some of us drove and others boarded the bus. A wild thunderstorm rolled in from Lake Michigan. With rain beating on the bus windows we started our adventure to the beginnings of our Order. As we toiled along the weather turned dry and then sunny. The area became farmland with crops and pastures, real bucolic scenery. There were many nodding heads and snoozing after the late night dancing.

After settling in our rooms some played golf on the same golf course as our forefathers, (even though the course has been revamped, some of the holes have the markers defining what was back in 1906). The Tuscumbia Golf Course (the oldest in the State—1896, was across the street from the Heidel House. This was the infamous course, which was hit with a rainstorm. This turned the men's attention to having a fun evening program, which hatched our organization. Others rented jet skis, pontoon boats for some great water activities; and then some just went on tours of the area. Those on tours of the area drove thru some of the surrounding towns such as the Ripton, where the birth of the Republican Party occurred. Many visited the town of Green Lake and saw the site where the Oakwood Hotel has been in 1906, where the creation of Blue Goose occurred.

The first night we had an outdoor barbecue on the terrace overlooking the Lake. The weather was mild with nary a mosquito in site. We had great food and plenty of it, no one went away hungry. Later we could walk or ride on a golf car up to the bonfire.....roasting marshmallows and making smors. As we were visiting with our friends, Walter Atwater our first MLGG appeared out of the dark woods and revisited the events of 1906.

The second day many lolled around the pool getting a tan and swimming. There was boating, canoeing or site seeing. A big attraction in the town was a tavern called the "Goose Blind". Blue Goosers flew to this place like a magnet was drawing them---BUT not to partake of and libations, but to buy the--- you guessed it, tee shirts and caps with the logo of a Goose wearing sunglasses.

That evening we had a nice banquet in the ballroom. The room was filled with balloons. Photos were taken to enhance our memories of the group and the 100th Anniversary of the Blue Goose. There were six Ganders with fifty plus years of membership in attendance. The evening ended with two cakes decorated with the Blue Goose logo and 100th anniversary wishes.

Only once before in 1926 and then for just a railroad day trip from the Milwaukee convention site did our members return to Green Lake for a "gathering of our flock".

The 100th anniversary was witnessed and celebrated by one hundred adults and thirteen youths. Fifty-six of them were Ganders. The following Ganders names will be forever inscribed in our archives just as our six Founding Fathers have been ever since the first "meeting" 100 years ago.

The next morning was a time for good byes until next year and the bus trip back to Milwaukee to make our various ways home. Onward Blue Goose to another 100 years of following our precepts of Character, Charity and Fellowship.

**THE FOLLOWING GRANDERS ATTENDED THE 100th BLUE GOOSE BIRTHDAY PARTY AT
GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN - SUNDAY JULY 31—AUGUST 1, 2006**

David Beger
Jeff Berty
John C. Bishop, PMLGG
Barbara Blumenfield
Richard Chenard
JoAnn M. Clark, Grand Custodian
Rex M. Clark, PMLGG
Joseph Coccia, Grand Keeper
Frederick Combs
Alan Dahle
Bruce Delvoe
Harold Faith, DMLGG
Fred Fernandez
Jack Fitch, Grand Supervisor
Richard Grant
Donald Greeno
Terry Hackett
Donna Harwood, PMLG
George Harwood, PMLGG
Donald Hart
Bill Herman
Jane Herman Schultz
Lisa Kane
Tim Keary
George Kindler
David Kosdrosky
Noel Kott
Art LeMaistre
Ryan Maloney
Sean Maloney
Terrence M. Maloney, Grand Wielder
Christine Mancuso, PMLG
Richard Mancuso, PMLG, DMLGG
Linda Meik, DMLGG
Kenneth Meyer
Edwin Meyers
Neil Miller
Jim Myers
Michael Nardulli
Fred Nintzel
William Olson, DMLGG, PMLG
John Paris
Ralph Reese
Chris Reith, PMLGG
Gary Rogers
Robert Tayloe Ross, Judge Advocate
Tim T. Seider, PMLGG
Jason Smith
Barry L. Snyder, PMLGG,GNH
Patricia A. Snyder, PMLG
Kenneth Strobel
Keith Strohecker, MLGG
Jane Sullenger
Marc Thurber, PMLGG
William J. Wasekanes, Grand Guardian
John Zeldam, PMLGG