

History of the Grand Nest
Honourable Order of the Blue Goose, International
2021-2022



MLGG Linda Meik

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

Internet Address-<http://www.bluegoose.org>

E-Mail Address: terry@bluegoose.org

Grand Nest History

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Grand Nest History

Grand Nest Officers 2021-2022



GSOE Wendy Knizek



MLGG Linda Meik



GCOG Steve Carson, II



GKGGE Joe Lothschutz



GGON Wendy Hubbard



GWGQ Terry Maloney



JA Lorena Kohlruss, PMGG



GNH Dan Rich, PMLGG



John C Bishop PMLGG

GNH Emeritus

Grand Nest History

Editor's Note

Dear Ganders,

We have had a really tough couple of years, not only because of the pandemic but also the loss of members for various reasons. And although we can see "light at the end of the tunnel", we are still not free of this terrible encroachment on our lives.

Some of you have gone above and beyond the call of duty, bringing opportunities for your members, to stay connected and keep Blue Goose in their hearts. Others have done nothing, blaming it on the pandemic or reluctant to venture outside their bubbles, not being vaccinated seems to be the big reason. I remind you all that we are a bottom up organization, not a top down. By that I mean it is the members responsibility to keep us afloat (excuse the pun), to make sure Blue Goose continues to flourish and grow. When I became a member in 1981, there were close to 35,000 members. In 2003, when I became MLGG there were around 25,000 members. Today we have under 2000 members. It is vital that we attract new members to our organization and as mentioned before that is the duty of all of us. I encourage you all to take up the challenge to grow our Order so that we can achieve another 100 years. As PMLGG Linda Meik points out, as of June 30th, 2022 our Honorable Order ended the 2021-2022 year with 31 Ponds in the 4 regions. Eight Ponds each in the Central and Southern regions, 9 in Canada and 6 in the East, comprising 1658 active members and 618 lifers. PMLGG Linda continues "A single proposed amendment was presented at the Grapevine convention, and that was to increase dues from \$27 per active member to \$39 and to be effective July 1, 2022. It was properly reviewed by the Jurisprudence and C & BL committees and found to be in proper format and order. In accordance with the C & BL it was presented to the membership prior to the convention, voted on at the convention and passed."

My friends this is my final history report as your Grand Historian. I have enjoyed every minute as such and I pass the torch to PMLGG Dan Rich who has been doing a tremendous job with the Grand Nest archives, correlating and identifying articles for every region. I know I'm leaving this report in good hands and offer my help in any way Dan sees fit.

As you will see in the next pages, this history is slightly different from my previous ones, in that I have concentrated on truly historical items. It contains pictures from the Grapevine convention, along with features and information special. Important firsts, weather report, guest speaker, just to name a few. And lots and lots of pictures!

I hope you enjoy this issue. Again it's been a pleasure serving Grand Nest in this way and, should they require my services in the future, I stand ready to serve. I am planning to attend future conventions so I hope to see you all there.

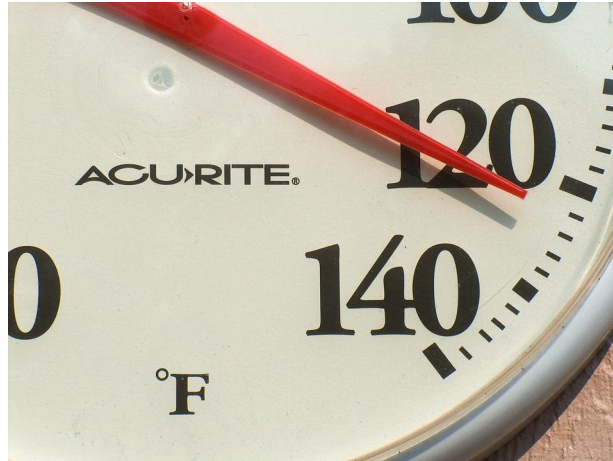


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Weather Report



The average temperature in Grapevine, the week of the convention, was 106 F, a full 10 degrees above normal for that time of year. In fact the rest of North America was in an above normal heat wave. Most of our activities were indoors under air conditioning, with the exception of the BBQ cookout where the cooking and food pickup was done outdoors, but the eating was done indoors. You collected your food quickly and back inside we went. Tuesday evening's family night dinner was at Billy Bobs, approximately an hour away from the hotel, but we got there on air conditioned buses and an air conditioned venue.



Grand Nest History



CHARITY

116th Honorable Order of Blue Goose International Convention
 July 10-14, 2022
 Grapevine, Texas



Grand Nest Officer & DMLGG Dinner



Welcome Wagon Dinner



All the extra food from these two events was distributed to either the homeless people in the area or to the various first responders across the metropolx. In addition, the straw bales for the Welcome Party, which would have been for seating and watching the Prairie Games if they were to be held outside were donated to Nash Farm for their animals.



A rousing Cornhole Tournament fund raiser created some lively activity. The tournament winner received half the proceeds for winning and the remaining proceeds were given to the Grapevine Fire Department Color Guard.



Several Charity Angels donated gift cards, from Walmart, Target, AMEX, Mastercard, etc., in any amount, which were used to buy the items for "Care Bags" for the patients and their families. Parkland Burn Unit and Shriners Children's Hospital were the recipients of these "Care Bags." Fifty "Care Bags" for patients and fifty for



A note of CHEER & WELL WISHES written by the attendees of the convention was inserted

Grand Nest History

Grapevine, Texas

92 Ganders, spouses and guests (including one child) from across the US and Canada journeyed to Grapevine, TX, to attend the 116th Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention from July 10-14, 2022, at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Grapevine is a city and suburb of Dallas and Fort Worth located in northeast Tarrant County, with minor portions extending into Dallas County and Denton County. The city is adjacent to Grapevine Lake, a large reservoir impounded by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1952, that serves as a source of water and recreational area. It's known for its restored 19th-and 20th-century buildings. Many of these are on the downtown's Main Street, which is lined with restaurants, galleries and shops.

The Cotton Belt Railroad District is home to artisans' workshops, including a glass-blowing studio, which some of our attendees were able to check out. As of the 2020 census, Grapevine has a population of just over 54,000 with a 2.7% unemployment rate.

The Economy of Grapevine is largely based around the domain of tourism of several varied travelers coming and leaving from Dallas and Fort Worth International Airport often ending up visiting Grapevine.



General Sam Houston and fellow Commissioners camped at Tah-Wah-Karro Creek, also known as Grapevine Springs, to meet with leaders of 10 Indian nations. This meeting culminated in the signing of a treaty of "peace, friendship, and commerce", which opened the area for homesteaders. The settlement that emerged was named Grape Vine due to its location on the appropriately-named Grape Vine Prairie near Grape Vine Springs, both names in homage to the wild grapes that grew in the area. Grapevine is the oldest settlement in Tarrant County, dating back to 1844 when Texas was a republic before statehood in 1845.

In October 1843, General Sam Houston and fellow Commissioners

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Blue Goose Firsts

The Grapevine convention was historical for many reasons. 1-It was the first to have a female MLGG who served two terms as MLGG, once for the Savannah convention in 2017, then again in Grapevine this past July. 2-The first where DMLGG's were invited to the Grand Nest meetings and events. It proved to be a valuable addition to the meetings and most likely will continue under future MLGG's 3- PMLGG Linda oversaw a variety of publications including the Wielder's Guide, MLG Guide, Pond/Puddle Officer's Guide, DMLGG Guide, and History Guide. She also expanded the Charity Awards. 4-The first time in Blue Goose history that a female MLGG will replace a female PMLGG. 5-The first time there were three female members on Grand Nest at the same time. 6-First time in recent memory the goose guard had to



PMLGG Linda Meik

defend the
ders from
crashers at
Grand Ball



2022-2023 Grand Nest Officers

Sitting left to right GCOP Wendy Hubbard,
MLGG Wendy Knizek. Standing right to left GCOG Tom
Elder, GSOE Steve Carson III

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Grand Nest History

Very Special Guest Speaker-A Voice Like an Angel



Her name is Kechi Okwuchi. On December 10, 2005, she got on a flight with about 60 friends from her boarding school between Nigerian cities Abuja and Port Harcourt. She was sitting in an aisle seat next to her best friend. There were a total of 109 passengers on Sosoliso Airlines Flight 1145.

On this fateful day, this flight crashed killing 107 of the 109 passengers. Kechi was air-lifted to Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa for immediate medical attention and treatment, and later to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Galveston, Texas, United States. She received third degree burns over 65% of her body and was given a 30% chance of survival. She has undergone over a hundred reconstructive surgeries while at Shriners for Children.

Today, Kechi is a 32 year old Nigerian born writer, currently living in Houston, Texas.

She is an MBA student, a bullying prevention advocate, an inspirational speaker, and self-taught singer. (As a sidelight Kechi admires the way our organization reaches out and does charity work along with the other things we are known for. In fact she and her mother helped pack the bags for the less fortunate at our charity event.)

Kechi found her true voice after her accident-music served as an escape for her as she dreamed of performing in front of large crowds.

She resumed high school in 2009 and in 2015 she graduated First Class from the University of St. Thomas, Houston, with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics.

Becoming a finalist on America's Got Talent in 2017 was Kechi's truest dream realized, and on June 10th, 2018 Kechi released her debut single, "Don't You Dare" on all digital musical platforms. In 2019, Kechi became a finalist on the premiere season of America's Got Talent: The Champions. (Editor's Note: Google her name and she will sing for you.)

Kechi has the voice of an angel even made it tears listening to her perform those who have seen her



angel and claims that the better. The audience was in form. Truly an inspiration to perform and speak.

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Picture Gallery



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Blue Goose Photographer
Extraordinaire PMLG Neil Miller

Grand Nest History



The Before and After