

# THE HONKER • OCTOBER 2015

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## • OFFICERS •

### Most Loyal Gander:

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[pbergin@vericlaiminc.com](mailto:pbergin@vericlaiminc.com)  
410-925-4580

### Supervisor of the Flock:

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[Wendy@harfordcleaners.com](mailto:Wendy@harfordcleaners.com)  
443-243-2602

### Custodian of the Goslings:

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[barb@capeziocontractor.com](mailto:barb@capeziocontractor.com)  
301 404-5758

### Guardian of the Pond:

Erikson Flynn – SERVPRO Of Hunt Valley / Harford & Cecil Co.  
[erickson@sphvhc.com](mailto:erickson@sphvhc.com)  
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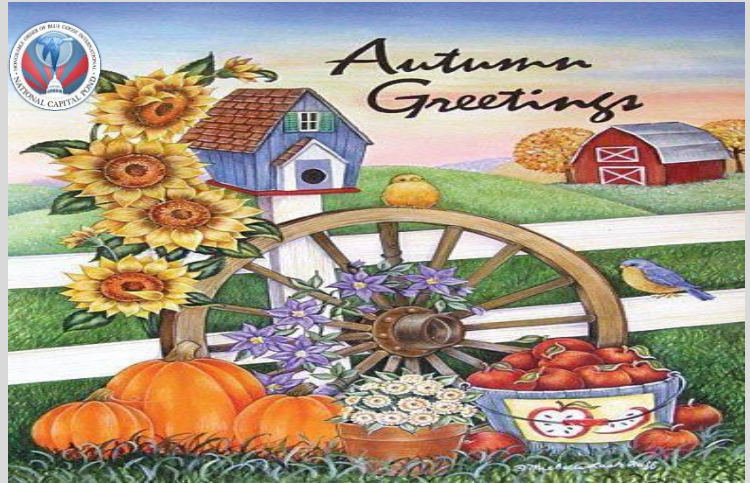
### Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg:

Gene Newman  
[newmang@verizon.net](mailto:newmang@verizon.net)  
443-851-9596

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Michelle Fitzwater  
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# OCTOBER 2015



## •Next Gathering•

Rush Party  
November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
5:30 P.M.

## •Location•

Dave & Busters  
Arundel Mills

The National Capital Pond is holding their annual **RUSH for Goslings Party**. Don't miss this event— Rush Party on 11/19/15 at Dave & Busters. We do this event once a year and its purpose is to promote membership, this year it will be a **night of bowling with prizes and giveaways**. Please see the flyer below for details. Unlike our regular meetings we will need an RSVP a week before the event to Laura Jeffers at [ljeffers@gma-cpa.com](mailto:ljeffers@gma-cpa.com) and space is limited so don't delay!

## IN THIS EDITION

Rush Party Information  
Save the Date Holiday Party  
Wrapping up Convention 2015  
Community Board  
Officers Board

Help Wanted  
Charity  
Birthday's  
Closing Note

## 2015 / 2016 UP COMING EVENTS • SAVE THE DATE

11/19/15 Rush Party  
12/08/15 Holiday Party  
01/21/16 Monthly Meeting  
02/24/16 Rocking the Red Hockey Game  
03/17/16 March Madness  
04/21/16 Monthly Meeting  
05/19/16 Monthly Meeting  
06/ /16 Golf Outing Date TBD

Information on events will be in future News Letters and are listed on our web page [www.nationalcapitalpond.com](http://www.nationalcapitalpond.com) on the events calendar!



# *National Capital Pond November Rush Party*

**DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2015**

**Time: 5:30**

**LOCATION: Dave and Buster's Arundel Mills- Bowling Alley  
7000 Arundel Mills Circle  
Hanover, MD 21076**

**COST: \$40 per person  
Make checks payable to the National Capital Pond**

**Prospective members that fill  
out a membership application and pay dues of \$50 get in free**

**AND**

**1<sup>st</sup> 10 people that fill out an application with dues attending the Rush Party  
will receive a free ticket to our March Madness Party when initiated in  
January 2016**

**COME OUT FOR A NIGHT OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, AND BOWLING  
PRIZES AND RAFFLES**



## **“Together we can build our Order!”**

***The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International is a fraternal organization that welcomes men and women who are involved in the insurance industry. As such, what better way to build our Order than to have a Rush Party?***

***This Rush for Goslings event is therefore designed to provide each of us with a specific opportunity to invite prospective new members to our Rush Party and invite them to join.***

***Many of our Ponds are providing special drawings and giveaways for the prospects that join. This year we will host this event at Dave & Busters and it will be a Bowling Event. At this event we will offer the first 10 new initiated Goslings a free ticket to our March Madness Party!***

***The Blue Goose is about ‘giving back,’ to our community in charity, to each other in fellowship and friendship and to ourselves through the development of character and the promotion of integrity. These are the precepts of our Order, which is why our organization provides something unique ... a fraternal organization of men and women giving back and showing that we care!***

***You and I are the best recruiters for our fraternity.***

***If you would like additional information please contact myself or any member of the Custodian of the Goslings committee. This year the committee consists of:***

***PMLG Jimmy Dorsey: [lanham1@verizon.net](mailto:lanham1@verizon.net) 240-309-4085***

***PMLG Ian Jenkins: [ijenkins@restronic.com](mailto:ijenkins@restronic.com) 301-682-9887***

***New Member Terri Gwyn: [terri@pdrqb.com](mailto:terri@pdrqb.com) 301-737-8505***

***Fraternally yours,***

***Barb Markuski: [barb@capeziocontractor.com](mailto:barb@capeziocontractor.com) 301-404-5758***



# HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**SUBMIT WITH A \$50 CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO NATIONAL CAPITAL POND**

**NEW MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ REINSTATEMENT \_\_\_\_\_ FLIGHT \_\_\_\_\_**

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name:	First Name:	Date:
Date of birth:	Cell Phone:	Home Phone:
Current address:		Email:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer:		
Employer address:		
Phone:	Cell:	Fax:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Position:	E-Mail:	

## HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF ANOTHER POND? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, where:	Flight to:	Pond from:
Paid dues for the fiscal year ending:	If Officer position held:	Dates:

## NEW MEMBER VOUCHER FOR BY THREE GANDERS

Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

**APPLICANTS SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Pond Use Only

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Received By:	Date:
Method of Payment:	Date:
Wielder's Signature:	Date:



**Mail To:** Michelle Fitzwater PO BOX 554 Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

**SAVE THE DATE!**



*Save the date 12/8/15*

**The John Brenner**

**National Capital Pond**

*44<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Luncheon!*

*Benefitting*

Children's National Medical Center &  
DC Firefighters Burn Foundation

DOOR PRIZES! BASKETS OF CHEER! 50/50 RAFFLE!

Please join the National Capital Pond, Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International, in our effort to raise funds for the DC Firefighters Burn Foundation (DC FBF) and The Children's National Medical Center (CNMC).

You will enjoy fellowship, a delightful sit down lunch, hear from a captivating guest speaker as we enjoy each other's company. Each year this has been a very rewarding and enjoyable occasion, so plan now to join us and kick off the holiday season!

**Location:**  
Martin's Cross Winds  
7400 Greenway Center Drive  
Greenbelt, MD. 20770

**Time:**  
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Price:** \$100.00 Per Person  
Reserve a table of 8 for \$800.00

Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots and a new or gently used coat to donate for someone in need.

Door Prizes are appreciated. Please attach your business card to your door prize.

*Please join us as we celebrate the holidays in  
Character, Charity & Fellowship*

Tickets will be sold on line only this year.  
Click on the link below to purchase.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oei=dk=a07ebos5khx4a879733&llr=4kmlnobab&showPage=true>

**TICKETS SALES  
END NOV. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**







**Dr. Bear's Closet is in need of the following!**



**INFANTS**

- Musical toys
- Rattles
- Infant mirrors
- **Music boxes and interactive toys**

- Baby blankets
- **Activity centers**
- Soft/squeeze toys
- Baby books

- Picture books
- **Crib mobiles**
- Pop-up toys
- Play telephones

- Teething toys
- Infant videos
- Stuffed toys
- Infant toys

**TODDLERS**



- Wooden puzzles
- **Bubbles**
- Toy tape players

- Stack toys
- **Musical books**
- Blocks

- Plastic trucks
- **Board books**
- Push/pull toys

- Medical kits
- Duplo building blocks
- Stuffed toys

- Sesame Street and other popular character toys

- Dolls, diversity is appreciated in doll selection

- Little People, such as those made by Fisher Price and Little Tykes

- Fisher Price doll house, people, furniture, and accessories

**SCHOOL AGE**

- School supplies
- Connect Four
- Candy Land
- Wall-mount basketball hoops
- Barbie dolls and clothing

- **UNO Cards**
- Chutes and Ladders
- Monopoly Jr.
- Scattegories

- Checkers
- Trouble
- Scrabble Jr.
- Handheld electronic games

- Memory
- Sorry
- Boggle Jr.
- Books

- DVDs, G and PG rated

- Notebook dividers
- Bead kits/ and art kits

- Legos/Lego model sets
- Magna Doodles

- Stuffed animals
- Etch-A-Sketch

- **Matchbox cars**
- **Play-doh**
- Disney character items
- Dolls, diversity is appreciated in doll selection

- **Bubbles**
- **Arts and crafts sets**
- Model kits, snap tight
- **Coloring books, activity books, word find books**

- Paint sets, non-toxic
- Construction paper
- Wooden models
- **Crayons/markers/colored pencils**

- Action figures
- Playing cards
- **Gimp**
- Card games (Old Maid, Go Fish)

**ADOLESCENT**

- Books and magazines
- Boggle
- Jenga
- Hangman
- Portable CD players with CDs
- Model kits, snap tight
- Make-up sets
- **Hand-held electronic games**
- **Word search, crossword books, Sudoku**

- **Wii Fit**
- Scattegories
- Sorry
- Battleship
- Stationery



- Scrapbook materials
- Manicure kits
- Bicycle helmets
- Footballs, soccer balls, baseball bats and balls, wall-mount basketball hoops

- **UNO Cards, all versions**
- Scrabble
- Life
- Chess and Checkers
- Movie theatre gift cards
- Diaries/journals
- Baseball caps
- Nerf balls
- Grooming kits (girls/boys)

- Monopoly
- Clue
- Pictionary
- DVDs, PG and PG-13
- Art sets
- Barbie dolls and clothing
- Pencils/colored pencils
- Gift cards



## Blue Goose Holds Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore, MD



266 Ganders, spouses and guests, including fifteen children from across the US and Canada journeyed to Baltimore, MD to attend the 109<sup>th</sup> Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention from July 19-22, 2015. The convention was held at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in the heart of Baltimore's inner harbor within easy walking distance of its many shops, restaurants, and attractions.

### Sunday July 19, 2015

The Grand Nest Officers met on Saturday, but for most Ganders and their families, things kicked off on Sunday night.



The Convention's Welcome Party was held just a short walk from the hotel at the World Trade Center. We had a huge private room on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor that was ringed by full height glass, so we enjoyed a spectacular 360° panoramic view of the harbor and city. The room was huge, and easily accommodated our large crowd.



There were a dozen food stations with carved meats, shrimp, crab cakes, soup, a potato bar and desserts.

There was musical "entertainment" in the form of karaoke, and we were treated to some good, some bad, and some downright ugly tunes. Pins were traded and it was a great time catching up with old

friends to start the convention.



### Monday July 20, 2015



After a full breakfast, we walked over to the Baltimore Ballroom as the 109<sup>th</sup> Grand Nest Meeting was ready to get underway. MLGG Bill Olson welcomed the group, gavelled the meeting to order, and introduced the Grand Nest officers with a twist – he matched them with a historical name from some of the personalities of the War of 1812.

MLGG Olson next introduced the PMLGGs, Grand Nest spouses, and the National Capital Pond officers.

The flags were presented with a fife and drum entrance by the Fort McHenry Honor Guard. The national anthems of Canada and the United States were led by Grand Custodian Mark Robertson and National Capital Pond MLG Pat Bergin respectively.







Bergin welcomed the convention and referenced Baltimore's rich culture of history, food and sports. He told us that Baltimore history includes the nation's first post office, first dental school, and first sports organization (the Maryland Jockey Club in 1743).

MLGG Olson thanked the Convention Sponsors who supported the convention and invited us to visit the Sponsor Expo outside of the meeting room. Olson acknowledged the convention committee – and thanked Gene Newman, Michelle Fitzwater, Jim Kern, George Burgee, Jim Lanham, Wendy Fletcher, Barbara Markuski, Erikson Flynn, Donna Digman and Jesse Turpin.

In last year's acceptance speech, Olson remarked that 2014 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women joining the Honorable Order, and asked "*where would Blue Goose be without them?*" He returned to that theme again, as he introduced PMLG Pat Snyder and introduced a new award, the National Capital Pond's "Woman of the Year" whose inaugural winner was Michelle Fitzwater.

We saw a short film about The War of 1812's Battle of Baltimore, in which the unsuccessful British assault on Fort McHenry became the inspiration behind a Francis Scott Key poem, which in turn became the *Star Spangled Banner* and was adopted as the national anthem in 1931.

Our next speaker was Scott Sheads, a Park Ranger and historian at Fort McHenry who proved that a historian can be very funny. He was a terrific speaker, as he described the 25 hour bombardment of Fort McHenry by 40 British ships. The bombardment was so loud, it could be heard over 100 miles away in Philadelphia.



The Star Spangled Banner tells the story of how the US flag was seen "still waving" on the morning after that ferocious battle. Within three months, the song "went viral" as it's lyrics were printed in newspapers across the nation.

Convention Co-chair Gene Newman made some housekeeping announcements before we recessed for a break and moved into the Memorial Service.



The Convention's Memorial Service was conducted by Frank Marx, Andrea Clark, and Laurie Wolford of the Penn Pond. The name of each Pond was called and the members of that Pond stood in unison. If a Pond lost a member during the year, the name was called and a candle was lit.

PMLGG Chuck Cramer (2000-2001) was eulogized by GSOF Randy Wilson. Other eulogies honored Eastern DMLGG and Bay State Pond MLG Lisa Mullen (by DMLGG Dan Rich) and Southern DMLGG and Kentucky Pond Wielder Don Greeno (by Grand Custodian Linda Meik).

The Transylvania Pond (many of whose members suspiciously looked like NYC Pond members) conducted the Model Initiation Ceremony. In an effort to increase its membership, the Transylvania Pond took a controversial new approach - they tried to grow the Pond by reanimation. Their Initiation team dug deep into the annals of horror movies and assumed the roles of various movie characters and reimaged many movies



gags, clichés, and plot lines into the Ritual. Some of the participants we saw included Dr. Frankenstein, his assistant Inga, the Frankenstein monster, Quasimodo, and the Bride of Frankenstein. Imagine the shock on the faces of the 14 new initiates as they paraded into the room and were confronted by that group!



The Model Initiation team of Dean Merry, Liz Peterson, Randy Roonan, Mike Nardulli, Rich Mastrocinque, Glen Verhaaren, and Dan Aizley did a great job and thoroughly entertained the convention.

The All Industry Luncheon featured a fascinating address (The Changing Insurance Landscape) by Patty Harmon, Editor In Chief of Claims magazine. She spoke of some of the more memorable stories she has covered, including fire at the St. Louis Arch museum, Ground Zero in New York, Hurricane Katrina, the Opry Mills Mall flood in Nashville, and New York/New Jersey flood damage from Super Storm Sandy.



She spoke to us directly, and stated that *“people don’t realize how important it is to do the things you do. You work in a noble and honorable profession”*

She spoke of the shift in the industry to include more and more women, and quipped that *“there never used to be a line for the ladies room at insurance functions, but not anymore”*.

She ended on a very serious note, as she spoke of the impending talent gap in our industry that will see 25% of the workforce retire in the next three years. This will have serious ramifications on training, hiring challenges, internships, job fairs, social media, work/life balance, knowledge transfer, mentoring, and specialized claim handling through technology and market changes.

After the luncheon, the sponsor raffle winners were announced, and the regional meetings were held from 3:00 to 5:00.



The evening’s Family Night Dinner Cruise was held aboard the Spirit of Baltimore. The cruise afforded us some great sightseeing as we cruised around and out of the Inner Harbor and Patapsco River past the local sights and landmarks including Ft. McHenry, the Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the Maryland



Science Center and Planetarium.

## **Tuesday July 21, 2015**



MLGG Bill Olson called Tuesday’s meeting to order, and introduced Grand Wielder Terry Maloney for the roll call of delegates. As Terry called the names of the delegates, MLGG Olson presented each Pond’s delegation with their state’s or province’s flag.

Terry asked the first-timers to stand and be recognized, and asked them to take back to their Ponds a message about the value received with a convention registration. Terry called the Ponds in alphabetical order, as the delegates from Alberta to Wisconsin checked in.



There was a special “welcome back” greeting for PMLGG Guy Charron who was unable to attend last year’s Salt Lake City Convention, but received a hearty welcome in Baltimore.



MLGG Bill Olson reported on his year in office. He said that overall, Blue Goose had done a lot of good things over the last five years –“we lost a few Ponds, but we gained a few Puddles”. He is optimistic that Blue Goose will now have an increased marketing allowance from the \$5 dues increase, to promote our positive growth.

He spoke of the beauty of Edmonton and Banff, and how he has never missed a Canadian convention since his first in Edmonton in 1993.

Bill recognized some of the strong female leaders Blue Goose has had, such as Grand Nest officers Joanne Clark, Lorena Kohlruss, Kim Bilbrey, and Linda Meik, as well as Lisa Mullen of the Bay State Pond, Lisa Kane of the Westchester Pond, and Kimberly Latka, Wendy Hubbard, and Paula Pelletier of the Hartford Pond.

Bill attended or visited the Eastern Regional Mid-Year in Newark, the Kentucky Pond Golf tournament, the PLRB Meet and Greet in Providence, a Penn Pond and NoVa Puddle meetings, the Dayton Halloween Rush Party, and events in St. Louis, Texas, and Cincinnati.

In closing, Bill thanked Jerry Hale for appointing him as a DMLGG, and also thanked his Deputies, Judge Advocate Robert Ross, and Grand Wielder Terry Maloney for their support and friendship.

Grand Wielder Maloney started his report by saying that Bill Olson was too modest. Terry reminded everyone that Bill had a long and distinguished Grand Nest body of work before the 2015 convention. He ran the very successful 2000 Convention children’s program for 60 children, and along with MLGG Joe Coccia helped run the 2010 Philadelphia convention after the passing of Bill Wasekanes.

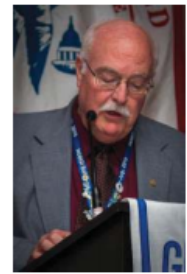
Terry’s report started with the pronouncement that *“this was a wonderful Year for Blue Goose, especially in the South”*. We added 174 new members, and every region had an increase in membership –a feat unmatched since 1987.

The ten largest Ponds were announced, with Michigan (310) in the top spot, followed by Quebec (264), Ontario (243), Hartford (217), St. Louis (167), National Capital (159), Edmonton (155), Alberta (136), Nova Scotia (133), and Wisconsin (128).

Terry challenged us all with spreading the news about what we do for charity. There is new interest in Blue Goose in many pockets across the U. S., and we need to keep up our visibility and spread the message. We are a flexible organization that offers charitable and educational programs for our Ponds – so *“do whatever works for your Pond”*.



Grand Nest Historian Jerry Hale commented on the Order's "hard working officers" who have promoted growth across North America. He praised the success of the "Rush for Goslings" initiative that "is getting us younger; this is our future". Jerry thanked the Ponds for supporting Blue Goose history, asked for submissions of historical items, and invited the convention to visit the archives.



Judge Advocate Robert Ross opened his report by thanking MLGG Bill Olson for his leadership, before reflecting back on his fourteen years of service on the Grand Nest. His first convention was in Baltimore in 2000, he became the acting Judge Advocate at the St. Louis convention in 2001, and has served as our J.A. ever since.

Over the years, Blue Goose has faced many challenges in technology, membership, and social change. He praised Terry Maloney for leading us to successfully meet these challenges over the last twenty-five years.

We continually update Grand Nest protocol, the Constitution and By-Laws, membership criteria, our liability insurance program, and the way we communicate through e-mailing the Grand Nest Bulletin.

Ross spoke of our current regional structure, and noted that it is disruptive to our convention schedule. A re-alignment initiative to move from five regions to four regions will be voted on in St. Louis next year, and it is "imperative" that constitutional measures to re-align be adopted.

The role of the Grand Keeper will be redefined so as not to be aligned with any region, and that position will become similar to the GN Historian and Judge Advocate's role- a "permanent" officer that does not move up through the chairs. Ross urged us all to support the change. He acknowledged the successful membership year for the Order, and said it resulted from our PLRB Marketing and Publicity, and our Rush For Goslings campaign.

He spoke of Blue Goose charity, and how we support thousands of worthy causes to the tune of \$300,000 this year alone and \$50M since 1906.

He was honored and humbled to serve as our Grand Nest Judge Advocate, and after fourteen years, he turns his post over to Robert Cockerham of the St. Louis Pond.



Grand Keeper Kim Bilbrey spoke of her June visit to Grand Keeper Maloney's home in Wisconsin, and their tours of Milwaukee, Miller and Harley Davidson. She also viewed the very impressive Grand Nest archives in Terry's house.

Just as impressive, was last year's \$4,300 budget surplus, as stated in her Audit Report.

The Grand Nest Committee reports on Charity, and Communication / Marketing followed. Grand Guardian Linda Meik described our charity work as an incredible success story. "Look at what we've done in donations, scholarships, and gifts in kind". Based on information submitted by the Ponds, in 2014-15, Blue Goose donated over \$309,000 to charities, logged in 2,174 volunteer hours, and awarded \$6,400 in scholarships. That works out to \$79 per member!

Bill Olson's Communication and Marketing Report was next, and he reported that we are doing a much better job of communicating with each other now, than when he first chaired this committee in 2011. He cited the improved Grand Nest website with its "great content" and urged the Ponds to send their photos and articles to Terry Maloney.

The new budget will contribute \$2.50 per member for marketing in such areas as the PLRB Meet and Greet, printing, and advertisements in Claim Magazine. He asked every Pond to be diligent in creating and maintaining a website that at a minimum contains contact names, meeting dates, and lists Pond activities and functions.

Grand Supervisor Randy Wilson spoke about Blue Goose's recent success in attracting and retaining members, and how for the second consecutive year we have increased our number of active members.

The Rush for Goslings campaign will continue in 2015 as we hope to get new people active right away. The Ponds will receive a supply of twenty Blue Goose window clings to use in their Rush Campaign. Dustin Bales of the Manitoba Pond is the Rush Chairman, and his team will consist of a Regional Rush Chair from each region.



The subject of Pond websites and on-line payments was covered in a special presentation by Hartford Pond Webmaster Kevin Brady. He brought up the Hartford Pond's new website on the screen and walked the convention through some of its features including meeting payments and golf tournament registrations.

Michelle Fitzwater of the National Capital Pond's Convention Committee received a "Happy Birthday" serenade, and then offered some housekeeping remarks about the evening's scheduled Hospitality Suite (*Please keep the noise down*) and the afternoon's golf outing.



The morning's program continued with the presentation of the Grand Nest Awards. The **Membership Cup** for the greatest % of increased membership was won by the **Florida Pond**. The **Fellowship Cup** for the lowest % drops & resignations was won by the **Quebec Pond**. The **No Drop Out Cup**, awarded for no dropped members, was won by the **Florida Pond**. The **Peace Garden Award Cup**, awarded to the Pond with the most first time convention attendees, was won by the **Virginia Pond**. The **Link of the Year**, awarded to a Pond with an Outstanding Website, was won by the **Hartford Pond**. The **Gordon Crowther Charity Award**, for the Pond with outstanding charitable activities, was won by the **Dayton Pond**, and the **Regional**





**Challenge Cup**, awarded to the region with excellence in five combined membership criteria, was won by the **Southern Region**.

The Regional Awards were next.



The **West Region** Awards for the Highest % increase and Most new & reinstated members were both won by the **Utah Pond**.



The **Central Region** Awards for the Highest % increase was won by the **Dayton Pond** and the award for the Most new & reinstated members was won by the **Michigan Pond**.



The **Southern Region** Awards for the Highest % increase was won by the **Florida Pond**, and the award for the Most new & reinstated members was won by the **Texas Pond**



The **Eastern Region** Awards for the highest % increase was won by the **Penn Pond**, and the award for Most new & reinstated members was won by the **National Capital Pond**.



The **Canadian Region** Awards for the Highest % increase and the award for the Most new & reinstated members were both won by the **British Columbia Pond**.

After the awards, the golfers took off for the Rocky Point Golf Course, while others took advantage of two optional activities – a Seadog Boat Tour or a tour of Washington D.C. Our convention enjoyed a free evening to explore the local sights.

**Wednesday July 22, 2015**



After breakfast, Patty Semke introduced a video made by the St. Louis Pond to highlight some of the cultural and entertainment sights and attractions that will serve as a backdrop to next year's St. Louis Convention.

She thanked Baltimore for a great convention and said Bill Olson has been a valuable advisor to the St. Louis Convention Committee.



Next year's convention will coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the St. Louis Pond.

The Convention will be held at the Marriott Renaissance from July 20 to 24. The convention hotel will be the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, where the room rate will be \$140.

The hotel is in the heart of downtown St. Louis next to Ballpark Village, Busch Stadium, and the St. Louis Arch. Some of the city's attractions we can look forward to include the City Museum, Science Center, Forest Park, Saint Louis Zoo, the MUNY (Municipal Theater), Six Flags St. Louis, Anheuser-Busch Brewery, the Magic House (children's discovery & educational center), musical venues, botanical gardens, and architectural tours.

Terry Maloney made an announcement about Canadian Relief, reminded everyone that Grand Nest dues are payable in September, and roll called the delegates. A formal motion was made to hold next year's Convention in St. Louis, and it was accepted by acclamation.



Outgoing Judge Advocate Robert Ross received a Distinguished Service Award from Terry Maloney in recognition of his fourteen years of service and leadership as a Grand Nest Officer.

Nominating speeches and the installation of the 2015-16 slate of Grand Nest officers ensued. The new officers are Randy Wilson of the St. Louis Pond as Most Loyal Grand Gander, Linda Meik of the Texas Pond as Grand Supervisor, Mark Robertson of the Edmonton Pond as Grand Custodian, Kim Bilbrey of the Dayton Pond as Grand Guardian, and Dan Rich of the Hartford Pond as Grand Keeper.



The Grand Nest's newest officer, Dan Rich, shared his thoughts with the convention. He spoke about how fortunate he's been to have been mentored by two Hartford Pond MLGGs, Jerry Hale and Gordon Crowther. He recalled his family's first convention, in 1996 in Omaha, and how he was welcomed by hundreds of people he had never met before. He spoke of the many positive





signs of growth and renewal across our Order and “promise(d) to do everything I can to see Blue Goose grow and thrive, so that future generations of Ganders can experience what my young family and I did in 1996”.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Randy Wilson’s stepped to the podium and made a special presentation, as he gave an autographed Cal Ripken baseball to Bill Olson.



In his Address of Acceptance, Randy spoke of the goals our Blue Goose founding fathers set when they created this organization 109 years ago, how they valued *“giving back to the community in charity...good fellowship and the development of character and friendships throughout the US and Canada”*.

The Grand Nest is dedicated to staying *“true to these virtues”* as we continue to *“grow our Order, increase our Charity, foster new relationships and communicate more effectively”*.

Randy’s goals for his term as MLGG include:

- 1.) Continued support of building stronger Ponds and Puddles throughout our Order,
- 2) Achieve a third consecutive year of growth in active membership,
- 3.) Promote better branding of our Order through the byline, **“Character, Charity and Fellowship since 1906,”** in the window clings and as the signature for Blue Goose emails,
- 4.) Reach out to the insurance industry with a public relations effort to communicate to them that we are unique in the industry... a focus on giving back!
- 5.) Visit as many Ponds and Puddles as I can throughout our Order,
- 6.) Continue to provide materials to each of you to help you succeed in your Pond or Puddle ...some plans include distribution of Rush for Goslings materials, Communication and Charity Guides, and some new materials like the Blue Goose training power point slides and an updated Pond Operations Guide.

Randy concluded by thanking his wife and daughters (*Thank God for the women in our lives!*), and the St. Louis Pond and Convention Committee. He is dedicating *“my year in office to my dear friend, PMLGG Chuck Cramer (whose) leadership was an inspiration to me in accepting to serve the Grand Nest”*.



PMLGG Joe Coccia reported on Bill Olson’s year in office and Terry Maloney presented Bill with his PMLGG pin and plaque.



The Members Luncheon was held at nearby Phillips Seafood where we enjoyed a great buffet lunch with coconut shrimp, crab cakes, baked fish, pasta, veggies, fries, salad, and chicken. We had the back dining room, and there were well over 150 people there.

That evening, the Convention culminated with a cocktail reception and Grand Banquet and Ball. We enjoyed great food, great music and great fellowship.



The National Capital Pond hosted an outstanding convention and we were all impressed by the history of the area and the many attractions of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. We are very grateful to the Convention Committee for their efforts to plan and produce such a successful and thoroughly enjoyable event.

*Photos courtesy of Neil Miller, Bill Olson*



AS OF JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> DUES WERE DUE!  
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### The recipient must be:

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### Donations are to be made in:

- February (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)
- May (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
- September (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
- November (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)



For an application go to

<http://nationalcapitalpond.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/National-Capital-Pond-Charity-Committee.pdf>

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10/3 – George Nardone, Charles Coutu  
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10/24 – Jeff Lake  
10/28- Marvin Ward  
10/29- Rebecca Seubott  
10/30 Wade Baugan

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Get your goose on!

