



## National Capital Pond 2020/2021 MLG REPORT

The officers and leadership team that took office in May 2020 during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic had no idea at that point how the year would go due to the severe restrictions in place at the time. The team met in person, socially distanced, in August to plan for the year, and at that time it seemed the pandemic may have been lessening a bit. The team tentatively planned the year's meetings and events with the assumption that The Pond would be able to have them all, albeit with restrictions. Unfortunately, the pandemic once again worsened, and the severe restrictions would be in place for almost the entire Blue Goose year.

While the worldwide pandemic had a big impact on the Pond's ability to enjoy the tenets of our organization; charity, fellowship, and education, despite the adversity the Pond was able to accomplish a significant amount for the year. The perseverance and creativity of the leadership team in this year was truly an outstanding effort to keep the Pond viable for members regardless of limitations.

Despite the pandemic the Pond accomplished the following:

- In September, the Pond held an in-person business meeting to start the year, 17 Ganders were in attendance.
- In October, the Pond was able to hold the 2020 golf outing which had been postponed from June when all golf courses were closed. 86 golfers played in the outing, and 23 companies supported the outing by sponsoring or golfing with Ganders and guests. The Pond raised almost \$9K to fill the Pond's coffers and allow us to make charitable donations going forward. A fun day was had by all.
- In November, the Pond held had a day of service at the Second Chance in Baltimore. There the Pond assisted with the mission of deconstructing reclaimed building products for recycling them into new structures. 15 Ganders were in attendance.
- In December, the Pond's biggest event had to be canceled, so the committee adjusted by holding a virtual 50/50 and prize raffle that raised over \$11K from 22 companies allowing the Pond to donate \$3K each to our selected charities, For the Kids and Camp Inclusion, after payouts and prizes. A toy drive was also held, and three truckloads of toys were donated to St. Vincent's and the Children's National Medical Center. Lastly, the Pond planned a day of service at the Maryland Food Bank that was unfortunately canceled due to weather.
- In January, the Pond had to cancel its business and initiation meeting, and initiation was postponed until May. The Pond held an education event via Zoom with PMLG Jim Kern offering to inform membership about pandemic recovery programs and resources available to assist their companies during the trying pandemic time. 16 Ganders were in attendance on the call.
- In February, the Pond held a virtual Zoom Happy Hour to stay in touch and have some fun. 20 Ganders participated in the enjoyable evening activity.
- In March, The Pond had to cancel the planned March Madness event once again. The committee instead conducted an online bracket challenge to raise money for the selected charitable organization. There were 89 brackets purchased and the Pond raised over \$7K, donating \$4K to Heroes, Inc. after payout to bracket winners.
-



## National Capital Pond 2020/2021 MLG REPORT

- In April restrictions had lifted a bit and The Pond was able to hold a Rush Party for new members who would be initiated in May. The party was at a local bowling alley, and 36 people attended. Of those in attendance there were 14 prospective members, and The Pond received a paid signed application for 13 of them.
- In May the Pond held its annual business meeting jointly with The Southern Maryland Puddle and conducted an initiation ceremony. 12 new Ganders were initiated, two of whom will be Southern Maryland Puddle members. Additionally, the Pond has 7 applications outstanding for new members who could not attend the initiation meeting, and who will be initiated in January 2022.
- In June, the Pond held its Annual Golf Outing which was almost sold out. Details on attendance and monies raised are not yet final, however the chairperson reports the Pond raised about \$12K from the very well-attended event.

In addition to the \$10K donated from events during the year, The National Capital Pond also donated \$500 to Athletes Serving Athletes, spent over \$500 in hospitality to members suffering from death, sickness, and injury, and Ganders volunteered 124 hours of service time.

The Pond membership grew by 34 Ganders for the year, 28 new members and 8 reinstatements. As of May the Pond had 138 total members.

I will conclude by saying it has been an honor to be your Most Loyal Gander in this crazy year. I want to thank the officers and members for all the support - especially the PMLGs who have helped me along all four years – and I wish the incoming leadership team and new officers much luck and success in the year to come.

I am very pleased I will be able to continue along with you as Wielder!

Sincerely,

Andrea Dawes  
2020/2021 National Capital Pond Most Loyal Gander and PMLG