

Overview of the Blue Gavel Committee

The Blue Gavel Committee is an AHYC committee comprised of the current and all past commodores. It is included within a Chapter that is part of District 20 of the International Order of the Blue Gavel. The AHYC Blue Gavel Committee is informal and meets when the need arises but usually in preparation for the annual District 20 meeting. District 20 holds, at a minimum, an annual meeting.

As an interesting aside, AHYC usually has the largest number of Past Commodores at any District meeting because the AHYC Commodore's term of office is one year whereas other clubs have longer terms of office.

Somewhere around 2003, AHYC's interest in participating in the District 20 meetings steadily declined and was eventually discontinued. As of 2013, all interest in the Blue Gavel Committee had ceased. Perhaps in the future there will be a rejuvenated AHYC interest.

The following is a written history of the Blue Gavel as presented in the program guide used for the October 15, 1995 meeting that was held at the AHYC.

The "International Order of the Blue Gavel" is an affiliation of Past Commodores from yacht clubs all over the world.

Each yacht club forms its own chapter, which is within a regional district.

The Blue Gavel honors Past Commodores, and preserves the interest of this large group of seasoned persons who have worked their way up through the various flag officer ranks of their Clubs. The Blue Gavel provides a forum for these people to continue their valuable contributions to their Club, and to broaden their associations within the yachting fraternity, on a regional, national and even a worldwide basis.

Each Blue Gavel Chapter assists its Club to preserve the traditions and ceremonies, so that they may be passed on to future generations.

The Blue Gavel began in 1953 at the Rainier Y.C., in Seattle, and the idea rapidly spread down the West Coast, through the Middle West, the East Coast, and the, in 1954, to Canada, when the name was changed to the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

The growth continued, both nationally and internationally, with a current membership of more than 4,00 Past Commodores in 22 Districts in the United States, and Canada, plus Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Cook and Marshal Islands, as well as the Philippines and England.

Our District 20 was created in 1990, with 84 members in 8 Chapters, as a "spin-off" from District 12 in South Jersey. Currently, we have over 155 members in 18 Chapters. In the future, as we evolve, we expect to both add new Chapters, and "spin-off" new regional Districts.

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