



# TEXAS POND HONKER

April 2016

Character, Charity, Fellowship

## DFW TEXAS POND

**DATE: Monday, April 11, 2016**

**TIME: 5:30 p.m.**

**PLACE: On the Border**



Come join us at “On The Border” 4855 Beltline Road, Addison, Texas 75254 (West side of the Tollway on Beltline). We are meeting in the private room on the west side of the restaurant.

We will be holding an initiation for all Goslings at this meeting. This will be our last initiation for this Blue Goose year of 2015-2016. So you fluffy little birds plan to wear the appropriate attire to take your first swim in the great big Pond of Texas.

Appetizers will be furnished by the Texas Pond.

Wayne Ottoway, Guardian of the Pond & overseer of the Golf Tournament will be providing a detailed status on our upcoming Charity Golf Tournament.

Kenna Johnson, Charity Chair will share a breakdown of what the Texas Pond has accomplished to-date for charity. It is an awesome story, and congratulations to everyone.

Daphney, our MLG, will go over the Scholarship program and provide details on our committee, who will be reviewing the applications.



She is singing our song ..... MLG, Daphney Elliott

**Our Newest Goslings Will Become Ganders on April 11<sup>th</sup>!**



April marks our third “Gosling Initiation” for this fiscal year. We are so happy to have our newest members become initiated into this great organization.

I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of why the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose is so unique in the world of insurance.

The *Honorable Order of the Blue Goose* was founded in 1906 at the annual meeting of the *Wisconsin Field Men’s Club* held at the Oakwood Hotel in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Today, consisting of over 3,500 members or “Ganders” in groups or “Ponds” across the United States and Canada, the Blue Goose has a long and storied history. Although each Pond has its’ own unique flavor, the Cardinal Principles of character, charity and fellowship are part of every Pond.

During initiation, the new Ganders will learn of the secret *key honk* (password) and a secret *salutation* that have existed since the flight of the first Blue Goose on June 19, 1906.

As you attend more Blue Goose meetings or events you will come across people from a wide range of careers within the insurance industry and have a chance to get a pulse on trends and changes in the industry. You will quickly see the relaxed and fun manner the members enjoy their relationships with each other. And you will certainly see the effort the group makes to make a difference in the community as well as help their fellow Ganders.

One way you can make a difference and have fun at the same time is to join us for our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament which will be held on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition to golf the day includes breakfast, Ball Drop, Cornhole Tournament, lunch, and awards. So go to our website and sign up! We would love to have you take part!!

We look forward to seeing you on April 11<sup>th</sup> for our meeting and third Gosling initiation. Don't miss a chance to see familiar Ganders and congratulate the new ones!

## Quotable Quotes

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." **Mark Twain**

" Sweet April showers do spring May flowers." **Thomas Tusser**

" Republicans believe every day is the Fourth of July, but the democrats believe every day is April 15." **Ronald Reagan**



Scholarship Applications  
Now Being Accepted Through  
Midnight May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

You will find the application along with the complete requirements and details on our Blue Goose Texas Pond website under the "Education" tab:

<http://www.bluegoosetx.org/>



## Rolling Towards the Southern Region Convention in 2017

At 211 degrees, water is hot.

At 212 degrees, it boils.

And with boiling water comes steam....

And with steam, you can power a train.

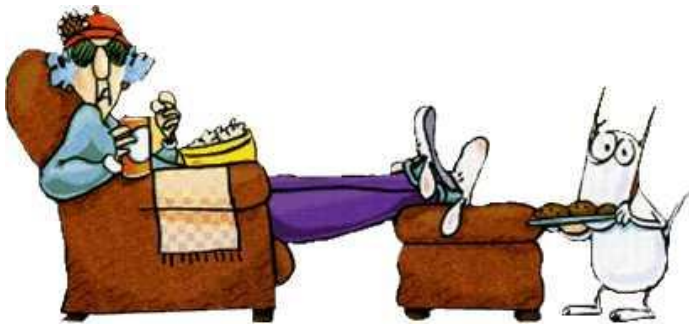
Over the last several months we have apprised you of the Southern Region's convention pin. The pin was shared with folks at the 109<sup>th</sup> convention in Baltimore.

The Southern Region is kicking off a fund raiser for the Southern Region members utilizing these pins. Each member of the Southern Region that purchases a pin, can also be entered into a drawing by completing a registration ticket.

At the Southern Region Regional meeting in St. Louis two names will be drawn: 1<sup>st</sup> place will be a free registration (\$375 in value) to the 2017 Southern Region Convention in Savannah, GA.; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner will receive \$50 cash. One does not have to be present to win. The pin cost is \$20.



The Texas Pond's MLG will be presenting more details on this at our meeting.



**Hello -- I have a question!**

Have you signed up for the the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Pond Golf Tournament?????



## **TEXAS BLUE GOOSE POND'S 11th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

### **PROCEEDS BENEFITING THE FOLLOWING CHARITIES**

North Texas Food Bank      Scottish Rite Hospital  
Wounded Warriors

***Friday, May 6, 2016***  
**Bear Creek Golf Club**

3500 Bear Creek Court, Dallas, Texas 75261

For further details, contact Wayne Ottoway at 214-220-5683 or via email at [Wayne.ottoway@cna.com](mailto:Wayne.ottoway@cna.com).

***Signature Sponsor***



Check out what we have just added to our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament of activities!



This, we hope, will be the beginning of fun for our non-golfers. To register to play, just plan to show up at 9:30 with \$25 dollars in hand. (Note: This new event registration is not available on line this year. If you want to eat breakfast and/or lunch, please go on-line and purchase the breakfast and/or lunch option.)

Golfers, when you finish playing your outstanding game of golf, and you want to play in this Cornhole Tournament, we would love to see your great skills in action. Please note that the registration for this tournament is not included in your golfer registration

The registration fee of \$25 per person will be split in half: one half of the fee will be allocated to the scholarship fund and the other half to the awards for the top 3 winners. The award pool of money will be presented to the top three winning teams as follows: 60% of the pot for first place; 30% for 2<sup>nd</sup> place & 10% for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Other golf activities at the tournament are:



**Mulligans.....**buy as many as you want! Or, should I say need????



**Let the FUN Begin!**

**Putting Contest**, the winner will take home half of the proceeds collected for this event.



## 2nd<sup>t</sup> ANNUAL GOLF BALL DROP

COST: 1 BALL FOR \$10, 3 FOR \$20, OR 7 FOR \$40  
**MEGA DEAL 20 BALLS FOR \$100**

### PRIZES

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE - \$500  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE - \$300  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE - \$150  
FARTHEST - \$50

To purchase golf balls for this event, go to our website at [www.bluegoosetx.org](http://www.bluegoosetx.org). Buy as many as you want....the more the merrier. Remember you do not need to be present to win.



## The March Travels of the Grand Supervisor of the Flock Around Blue Goose Land

Yes, I have been here and there!

The first excursion was to the **Phoenix/Scottsdale** area on March 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. ON Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> after a super smooth flight and an exasperating visit to the Phoenix car rental location, I finally got to catch the Phoenix Pond folks at the very closing of their lunch meeting.

Even though I was late to the meeting, we had a great visit and discussed some of the current activities/issues facing Blue Goose today.

Following this meeting, I had the opportunity to meet with Kelton Busby at the Cavenhagh Law Firm, thanks to the great introduction by Dwayne Hermes. I introduced Kelton to Blue Goose and look forward to having him be part of the organization here in the near future. Also,

look to have him help bring some others to our relaunching/informational gathering in September.

Next stop was to Scottsdale and to explore what insurance related industries were in this area. Met up with Craig McCarthy, an attorney and a current member of the Arizona Pond. We discussed how to get the folks that are active in the insurance arena to a Blue Goose informational gathering.

Visited with several other industry folks, who all believe we can have a very dynamic/vibrant group of Blue Goosers in the Scottsdale area.

On Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, I drove up to **Oklahoma City** to visit with Bill Hawk and his lovely bride. Bill has been a Blue Goose member for 45 years. Currently there are only 5 members in the Oklahoma Pond. Bill and I want to be sure that the Oklahoma history & records are not lost, so we are making plans for me to gather them all up & retain them. We are not looking to rebuild Oklahoma at this time and will just let this Pond slowly fade away. Bill, presented me with a great historical piece....the very first Charter of the Oklahoma Pond signed by the our founders in 1906.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, I jumped on a Delta flight and flew to Birmingham, Alabama. The Alabama Pond has been on life support for some time and we decided to take a good look at who was still a member, who has departed this world and then begin to rebuild. Several of us put our heads together and began rounding up folks that we knew in the Birmingham area to come learn about Blue Goose. This great group consisted of: Cathy Hester, who is a complete gem, along with Jim Pattillo (another attorney Dwane Hermes put me in touch with), and Crystal Gordon, a real pistol of a marketer. But one cannot forget Estelle Smith, who has been a long time Alabama member, for holding the group together.....now we are getting her some help. We hosted a Blue Goose Gala on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Aloft Hotel. We had awesome food and a gathering of 20 folks, of which 4 were Blue Goose members and 8 completed applications to become members, while another 4 asked to take an application and would be filling it out/ mailing it along with their dues in the next couple weeks. Alabama is coming alive!!!!!!

Following the Birmingham event, I flew to Atlanta to meet with a group that is organizing the rebirth of the **Georgia Pond**. Wow, what an awesome bunch of enthusiastic folks!!

This group had organized an informational gathering which took place on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the 5 Seasons Brewing location. There was plenty of food, plenty of beverages and a room filled with tons and tons of great fellowship. We believe that we had approximately 70 folks in attendance. After, I gave everyone an introduction to Blue Goose, we asked who wanted to be part of this organization & be initiated. A total of 32 new applications were received, along with 4 old members asking to be reinstated. All 36 of these folks took part in the initiation.

The Georgia Puddle is off to a great start. They are going to be working hard to build this Puddle up to a giant Pond with a focus on charity, fellowship & character. They anticipate getting to Pond status at the Southern Region Convention in Savannah,, GA in 2017. I truly believe they will achieve this endeavor under the leadership of Cheryl Zozoli, Betsy Rogers, Christopher Groen, Jessica Curl, Michael Shryock & Crystal Gordon.

You ask what are the plans for tomorrow? First, I will be off to San Antonio for the PLRB – meet & greet at the bar. Following this adventure, I am headed to Savannah, GA for the Mid-Year meeting of the Grand Nest Officers. Ray Wicker will also be attending.

Following the Mid-Year meeting, I am looking to try scheduling a visit to Charlotte and Raleigh, hopefully in May. In June, I will be off to the Western Regional PLRB in Sacramento....and then in July to the Grand Nest Convention.

With all of this one half of 2016 is gone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



**Blue Goose Advertisers for 2015- 2016**

The Texas Pond “Honker” (Blue Goose) newsletter is published 12 times a year, so each month your ad will appear in the newsletter.

A Business Card size ad for a year is \$240 for the year, just a mere \$20/month. A quarter page size ad is \$600/year; Half Page ad is \$900 for the year; and a Full Page size ad is \$1,200 for the year.

Anyone, wanting to advertise in our Blue Goose newsletter contact Linda Meik at 817-269-6516 or via email at lsmeik@aol.com.

## 2015 – 2016 ADVERTISERS



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## Last Month



A room full of great insurance industry folks.



Ray Wicker sharing the latest and greatest details on our upcoming Southern Region convention in Savannah, GA - 2017



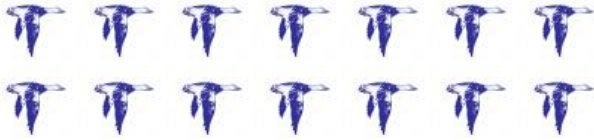
Nick Carlson, Kenna Johnson, Neil Ullrich, Mary Jo Sebastiani, and Daphney Elliott showing off some of the great Easter Baskets that were assembled at our April meeting by all present.



A table filled with Easter Baskets that were assembled for the Family Place children. Kenna Johnson delivered all the baskets to them following our meeting.



Appetizers were sponsored by the Texas Pond.



*“During any of the Texas Pond events, photos and videos may be taken for the benefit of HOBGI – Texas Pond. By attending, you consent to the taking of these images and to the use of your likeness within the images for HOBGI’s use, including but not limited to promotional, charitable and commercial, among other uses.”*

## MEMBERSHIP

*Extending the hand of friendship.....* No matter where you are.....remember membership recruitment is key to our organization, and each of us must do their part!



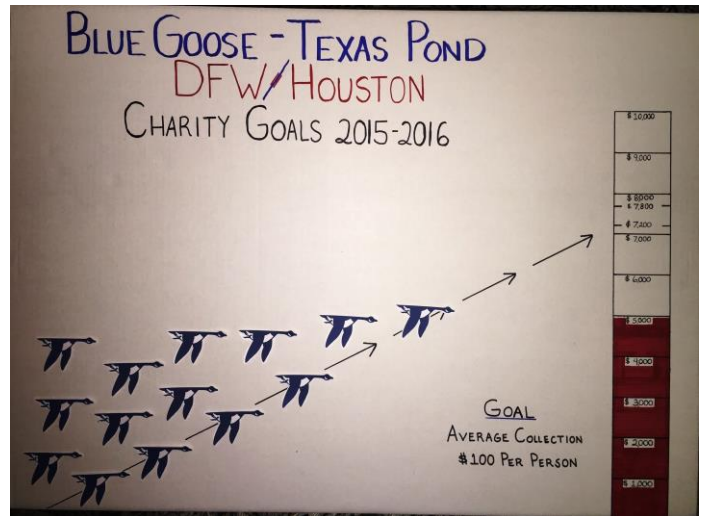
### Did You Know?

The Blue Goose Organization has 39 Ponds & several Puddles across the USA & Canada in its organization and as of to-date we have 3832 members.

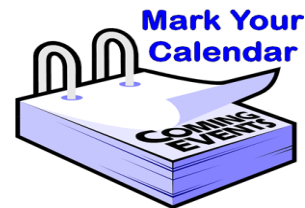
The Texas Pond, of which Charlotte is a Puddle of, has 138 members: Texas has 82; Georgia has 30 & Charlotte has 26 members.

## Charity Works

The Texas Pond is soaring high in its Charity endeavors. At the close of our December meeting, the Texas Pond has made donations to our various beneficiaries totaling \$7,066. Note this does not count any of the volunteer hours that the Pond members have so graciously been part of.



Our charity goal for 2015-2016 is an average of \$100 per member. We currently are at \$86 per member in charitable donations.



## Calendar of Events

### 2015- 2016 Blue Goose Year

**BLUE GOOSE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**HOLD THIS DATE: MAY 6, 2016**

#### **MAY MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**BEGIN DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017**

**PRESENTATION OF 2016-2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

**SECOND MONDAY MAY 9, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

#### **JUNE MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017**

**INSTALLATION OF 2016-2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

**SECOND MONDAY JUNE 13, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

**2015-2016 BLUE GOOSE YEAR COMES TO AN END!**



## 2016-2017 BLUE GOOSE YEAR BEGINS

### **JULY MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017**

**SECOND MONDAY JULY 11, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

### **AUGUST MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017**

**SECOND MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

### **SEPTEMBER MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**SECOND MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

### **OCTOBER MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**SECOND MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

### **NOVEMBER MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**SECOND MONDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

### **DECEMBER MEETING - DALLAS**

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**SECOND MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2016**

**ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX**

## ***Upcoming Grand Nest Events***

### **July 2016**

110<sup>th</sup> Grand Nest Convention

*St Louis Pond*

<http://www.bluegoosestl.org>

**July 20-23, 2016**

### **July 2017**

111<sup>th</sup> Grand Nest Convention

*Southern Region Convention*

*Savannah, Georgia*

<http://bluegoosetx.com>

**July 9-15, 2017**



## **Texas Pond Officers**

**2015 - 2016**

**Most Loyal Gander** – Daphney Elliott (W) 972-342-8728 [Daphney.Elliott@HospitalBillReview.com](mailto:Daphney.Elliott@HospitalBillReview.com)

**Supervisor of the Flock** – Vacant – TBD

**Custodian of the Goslings** – Roger Foltz (C) 214-914-3733 [Rbfoltz@aol.com](mailto:Rbfoltz@aol.com)

**Guardian of the Pond** – Wayne Ottoway (W) 214-220-5683 [wayne.ottoway@cna.com](mailto:wayne.ottoway@cna.com)

**Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg** – John Sterrantino (w) 972-931-8307 [johns@williamsripa.com](mailto:johns@williamsripa.com)

And

Ashley Hansen (w) 817-788-3008 [ashansen@aol.com](mailto:ashansen@aol.com)

**Wielder of the Goose Quill** - Linda Meik (M) 817-269-6516 [lsmeik@aol.com](mailto:lsmeik@aol.com)



## **THE TEXAS POND WEB SITE**

Check out our website, we have made several exciting updates to our website.

Our web site address is: [www.bluegoosetx.com](http://www.bluegoosetx.com) or you can also go to the Blue Goose Grand Nest: [www.bluegoose.org](http://www.bluegoose.org)





## Our Grand Nest Officers 2015-2016

**Most Loyal Grand Gander**  
**Randy Wilson, St. Louis Pond**

**Grand Supervisor of the Flock**  
**Linda Meik, Texas Pond**

**Grand Custodian of the Ganders**  
**Mark Robertson, Edmonton Pond**

**Grand Guardian of the Nest**  
**Kim Bilbrey, Dayton Pond**

**Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg**  
**Dan Rich, Hartford Pond**

**Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill**  
**Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest**

**Judge Advocate**  
**Robert Cockerham, St. Louis Pond**

**Grand Nest Historian**  
**Jerry Hale, Hartford Pond**



## Some More Humor

While I was in Arizona visiting that Pond, I discovered that their MLG hands out a little quiz for some light-hearted

fun to everyone at the meeting. He shared a copy with me.... see below:

1. Hugh Hefner holds the world record in which craft:  
\*\*Basket Weaving\*\*Scrapbooking\*\*Needle Pointing  
\*\*Quilting
2. Who kept Thomas Edison dying last breath in a bottle?  
\*\*Albert Einstein\*\*John D. Rockefeller\*\*Sigmund Freud  
\*\*Henry Ford
3. What was Michael Jordon's major in College?  
\*\*\*Criminology\*\*Zoology\*\*Psychology\*\*Geography
4. CVS stands for:  
\*\*Customer Value Service\*\*Consumer Value Store\*\*  
Certified Value Source

Answers will only be available at the meeting on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, or, you can email Linda Meik at [lsmeik@aol.com](mailto:lsmeik@aol.com) and she will provide the answers to you.



**We are** a fraternal organization of individuals who work in the insurance related industry.

**We are** home office executives, field claims reps, auditors, underwriters, general adjusters, agents, brokers, investigators, contractors, regulators, appraisers, salvors, attorneys, engineers, and a host of others.

**We meet** socially, and not as a part of any insurance or industry group. Our mutual link is the career experience we have in our chosen field

**Blue Goose** offers the opportunity to meet and know individuals from the U.S. and Canada, and to be involved with worthwhile charitable endeavors resulting in lasting, long-term friendships and a sense of generous accomplishment.