



TEXAS POND HONKER

July 2020

Character, Charity, Fellowship



Our July Meeting Will Be Via Zoom

Come join us for a virtual meeting, Monday July 13th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. CST!

Grab your favorite beverage or snack and catch up on what is happening with everyone and what is taking place with one of the Texas Pond beneficiaries.



Community Partners of Dallas has been one of the Texas Pond's beneficiaries for several years and we have made the following contributions during this time.

Community Partners of Dallas
2017 - \$1300
2018 - \$2,032.25 (Began the School Supplies & Backpack Program along with a Toy Drive Program)
2019 - \$1,634.40
2020 - \$2,548.18

We are pleased to have Corrine Karp Corporate Relations Director of Community Partners, joining us to provide an update on how the pandemic has impacted them, what they need and what the changes there are for their 2020 Back-To-School Program. The Texas Pond has been a proud contributor for Community Partners Back-To-School Program.

If you are interested in attending, send an email to Linda Meik at lindameik9@gmail.com and she will forward the meeting info to you.



Blue Goose Dues Time

Dues process begins June 1st for the Texas Pond. One can choose to pay via credit card by going to the Texas Pond website at www.bluegoosetx.org under the Membership tab. Dues are \$70.00. Contact the Wielder if you prefer paying by check, so that she can send you the BG file information as we want to ensure we have all the up-to-date information for your membership record.



Mr. Create-or/Builder - Jim Devall, MLG

Greetings Ganders and Goslings.

Happy Birthday America! As I sit here poolside with my family, I reflect on how blessed I am and what it means to be an American. What makes America great in my opinion is out our indomitable spirit, courage in the face of adversity, diversity and yes, patriotism. While I believe it is right and just that we reflect on, learn from and make amends for the sins of our past, I too believe we should reflect on, learn from and praise our many great accomplishments. We tend to learn far more from our mistakes and I'm confident if we embrace both the good and bad from our history, we as a "United" people will work together make things right! We are an ever-evolving nation and people. We have come a long way, but we

“have miles to go before we sleep”. I’m proud to be an American!

I’m also very proud of our Blue Goose Family. Each of you has shown so much caring and compassion toward each other and those in need. Your selfless acts of kindness truly move me and I’m hoping to rub off on me. I feel blessed to be in the fraternity. I also feel blessed of how we have adapted in the face of COVID-19. I am so thankful that I have not heard of a single member that has contracted the virus. If you have heard of anyone, please let me know. We need to stay strong and vigilant. We need to keep looking out for each other. I’m sorry that we can’t meet in person but look forward to catching up on our next Zoom call. Stay safe and be well!



Membership or Belonging? The choice is yours to make.

The desire to be a member of a purposeful society, to be on the inside of a meaningful group, to participate in something larger than oneself is fundamental to human nature. People draw identity from their participation in communities of purpose, whatever form they might take. Without meaningful groups in which to participate, individuals usually experience not just loneliness, but a lack of fulfillment and a deep sense of separation or alienation. Longing for belonging is a powerful desire.

The Texas Blue Goose Pond is a community with purpose. Every decision and activity support our mission of advancing the insurance profession among its members, guests and business community through charity programs and networking opportunities.

Members of the Texas Blue Goose members do not get together merely to be together. We get together to do something together! Our goals include meeting needs of Insurance professionals by creating opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling educational, networking, and service needs where we work and live. We engage insurance professionals; encourage them to grow in knowledge and confidence; and instill a regenerative and creative spirit among all stakeholders that sustains the profession and organization benefiting each other and the community.

The real value of Blue Goose is the sense of identity, intimate connection, and purpose gained through pond participation with some of the best insurance

professionals in Texas, as well as throughout the USA and Canada.

Your Texas Pond Blue Goose Executive Officers and Committee Chairpersons want members to form relationships through participation in our events and service opportunities. We want to know you as more than a name on the membership roll.

Membership without connection is separation from the best Blue Goose has to offer. Belonging to the Texas Pond provides opportunities to enjoy the full benefits of a relationship with fellow insurance professionals engaged in meaningful purpose where you work and live. That is what a meaningful society does for its members.



Some things to Think About

“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.” Robert Kennedy

“Success is following the pattern of life one enjoys most.” Al Capp

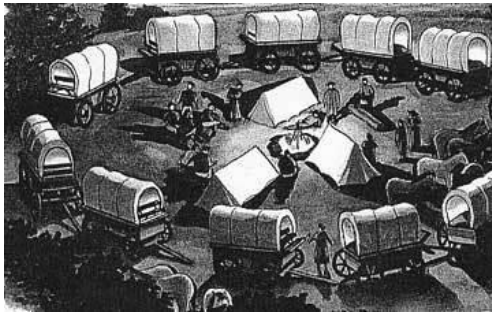
“The most I can do for my friend is simply be his friend.” Henry David Thoreau

“Common sense is genius dressed in working clothes.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.” Hugh Mulligan

ALERT NOTIFICATION

“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.”



CIRCLE THE WAGONS IT IS TIME FOR THE 2019-2020 YEAR WRAP-UP

Each year the Texas Pond Officers meet and set goals to try an achieve during the year. Below is the summary of our 2019-2020 achievements for the Blue Goose Year!

Membership - Maintain current membership at 100 or better in active DFW Ganders & seek/recruit 20+ new members.

Thorough social media the Texas Pond undertakes the promotion and enhancing our footprint on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and, other social media notices for the Texas Pond. The focus has been to get at least one or two events/meetings added to each site each month.

Facebook. With our 60 active members, this is the premier platform for providing photos and summaries of our amazing events. We have up to 45 views on our posts with up to 12 likes.

LinkedIn. With our 58 active members, we get up to 8 likes on our posts. We find more meeting related comments provided on this site.

Twitter. With our 29 active followers, mostly companies and non-profits (local and national), we get up to four likes on our posts.

Instagram. With our 160 followers, consisting of insurance professionals, companies, and non-profits, we get up to 24 likes on our posts.

In addition, the Texas Pond maintains a website which houses the monthly newsletters, notices of Pond meetings, and provides an avenue for individuals to register for upcoming events, pictures, membership information, etc.

A monthly newsletter is published each month, providing a summary of prior months activities, information on upcoming events or committees, information from Southern Region and any information from Grand Nest.

Golf - Seek at minimum a goal of \$5,000 to be distributed to our beneficiaries from the proceeds after expenses are paid

Results:

The 14th Annual Golf Tournament for 2019 - 2020 was scheduled to be held at Bear Creek on June 4th – a 8:00 Shot Gun with A Ball Drop preceding the golf, but the COVID-19 pandemic created a situation whereby we pushed the date of the 14th annual golf outing to Friday, September 4th. After some in depth discussion the tournament for 2020 was cancelled all together. We will look to 2021 to schedule a tournament.

Communication -Update each month the Pond’s social media accounts: Facebook, Linked-In, Instagram & Twitter pages. Maintain a monthly /Pond newsletter.

Results:

We ended the year with a total of 94 active/initiated/life/dual members for the Texas Pond. The DFW area had 77 active – dues paying Ganders, 14 Life and 3 Dual members, along with 4 Goslings as we ended the year. Under the Texas Pond is the “Retirement” Puddle with 12 Life Ganders from Oklahoma, Washington, Arizona & Colorado.

Over the past year the DFW area initiated 10 new Ganders.

Lisa Douglas	Melissa Snyder	Abby Hamblin
Tim Gibbs	Lauren Lowery	Jay Hawkins
Jennifer Steele	Stephen Keithly	Daniel Bouchard
Meegan Alexander		

At the Indy Convention we initiated 3 new Ganders, who are placing their membership with the Texas Pond: Tom Blackwell, Victoria Wicks & Stacey Brown

Colorado Pond choose to close. The members were given a choice to join another Pond and 6 Colorado Life members choose to take flight to the Texas Retirement Puddle. In addition, 2 active members choose to join the Texas Pond.

Over this past year our meeting attendance in Dallas was 304 (June numbers not included), which averaged out to 30 folks in attendance per meeting. This year was a challenge for meetings due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The Texas Pond cancelled their April meeting and held a Virtual meeting in May, as well as we will in June.

Charity - Continue with the four beneficiaries of: North Texas Food Bank, Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Community Partners of Dallas, and The Family Place. Goal is to have our charitable contributions equate to \$200 per active dues paying member

Results:

The Texas Pond supports these 4 – 501 c 3 charities: North Texas Food Bank; Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children; Community Partners of Dallas; and, The Family Place. In addition, the Texas Pond has established a Scholarship Fund that part of the event proceeds help fund.

The Texas Pond set a goal for 2019-2020 to have its' charitable activities equate to \$200 per member. We averaged \$449.24 per member, not including the volunteer hours or the scholarship dollars we collected! This was an increase of \$266.94 per member from previous year.

The funds to each 501 c 3 entity broke down as follows:

North Texas Food Bank = \$25,505
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children = \$3,116.08
Community Partners of Dallas = \$2,548.18
The Family Place = \$3,422.48

At the Indy Convention in July 2019 the Texas Pond received an award for their Scholarship program.

Scholarship - Award Scholarship(s) to a member's child or grandchild. Member must adhere to publish guidelines.

Results:

The Texas Pond awarded one, \$3,000 scholarship to an outstanding recipient in 2019-2020 Blue Goose year. The recipient awarded the scholarship was Emma Hansen, daughter of the Texas Pond's Auditor, Ashley Hansen.

The scholarship fund received \$1,000 in proceeds from the 2020 New Year Kick Off Event and an anonymous donor placed a \$1,000 in this account.

Southern Region Grand Nest Convention - Financial Commitment of \$2,500/year (minimum)

Results:

The Texas Pond made the \$2,500 contribution plus \$5.00 per member to the Southern Region Convention Fund in 2019-2020 which equates to: \$3,383.19 for the 2019-2020 Blue Goose year.

Committee Development - Continue to build service goals for the Texas Pond Committee formality, ownership, and independence – follow the Texas Pond Operating Procedures to get these committees fully operational in 2019-2020.

Results:

Each year the Texas Pond Officers assemble for a half day retreat to review the past year and establish a plan/budget for the upcoming year. One of the goals is to further define the committees and get them functioning. Each committee is assigned an officer assigned by the MLG to oversee & coordinate activities for which that committee is responsible. The Texas Pond Officers recruited members for their committee with no member serving on more than one committee. The Officer is charged with developing their committee members to carry the load for which the committee is responsible for and take an active role in guiding & achieving successes for the Texas Pond, as well as for HOBGI.

Encourage Ganders to attend the Blue Goose Convention.

Results:

We had 8 Texas Pond members (Jim Devall, Ray Wicker, Randy Webb, John Sterrantino, Jason Znoy, Daphney Elliott, Ashley Hansen & Linda Meik) who attended the Grand Nest Convention in Indianapolis in July 2019. Jim Devall and Jason Znoy acted as the Texas Pond Delegates.

The 2020 GN Convention was cancelled & moved to 2021. The convention will be in Hartford, CT.

Support the Southern Region in hosting of the 2021 Convention.

Results:

At the 2019 Grand Nest Convention Linda Meik (Texas Pond), PMLGG and GKGGE stepped in to oversee the Southern Region Convention which would be held in 2021. Linda stepped into the role of Grand Custodian.

The 2021 Southern Region Convention was to be held in Grapevine, Texas, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic all conventions were pushed out one year. The Southern Region Convention will be held in 2022 in Grapevine, Texas.

The Texas Pond has been asked to perform the Model Initiation for the 2021 Convention & now will undertake this at the 2022 Convention.



See what's cooking for the Texas Pond Blue Goose

JULY MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY JULY 13, 2020

ZOOM MEETING

THE BLUE GOOSE YEAR 2020-2021 BEGINS

AUGUST MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2020
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

SEPTEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

OCTOBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2020
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

NOVEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2020
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

DECEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2020
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX



Texas Pond Officers 2019 – 2020

Most Loyal Gander – Jim Devall (C) 940- 703-1423
jimdevall60@gmail.com

Supervisor of the Flock – Sharon Wilkins (W) 469-213-4316
Sharon.Wilkins@sedgwick.com

Custodian of the Goslings – Jason Znoy (H) 214-563-8875
jason.znoy@sedgwick.com

Guardian of the Pond – Sheri Deaton (C) 214-282-5246
sheri.deaton@genexservices.com

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Daphney Elliott (W) 972-342-8728
Daphney.Elliott@gmail.com
And
Ashley Hansen (w) 817-788-3008 ashansen@aol.com

Wielder of the Goose Quill - Linda Meik
(M) 682-715-5341 lindameik9@gmail.com



Last Laugh



With all the turmoil in the market today this might be some good advice. For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks.

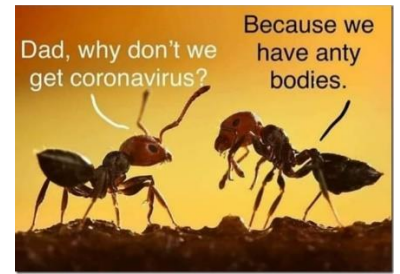
Watch for these consolidations later on this year:

- 1.) Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W R. Grace Co. will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
- 2.) Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: Poly, Warner Cracker.
- 3.) 3M will merge with Goodyear and become: MMMGood.
- 4.) Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: ZipAudiDoDa.
- 5.) FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become: FedUP.
- 6.) Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.
- 7.) Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: PouponPants.
- 8.) Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW.

And finally...

- 9.) Victoria's Secret and Smith & Wesson will merge under the new name: TittyTittyBangBang.

QUARANTINE SIGNS



Lockdown can only go 4-ways. You'll come out a monk, a hunk, a chunk or a drunk. Choose wisely. 🤪



Home schooling science lesson went really well this week.



Next week - marketing and distribution.