



# TEXAS POND HONKER

October 2025

Character, Charity, Fellowship



## Blue Goose – Texas Pond

Monday, October 10, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

Mesero - Prestonwood

5505 Belt Line Rd. Dallas, TX 75254

Our October meeting is set to initiate & welcome some unsuspecting Goslings as members into our Pond. Ganders, one and all, come welcome these goslings:

Elisa Botha  
Jessica Olson

Cole Cinton  
Emily Tomasik

Sherri Higson  
Jeff Zieber

Goslings, please note if you miss this initiation we will host another initiation in February for this Blue Goose year.

## LAST MONTH



At our September meeting we had 17 Ganders, 2 Goslings and 4 guests present!

## Charity



### Unspoken Motherhood

Rachel Most, Founder and Nurse Advocate for Unspoken Motherhood In. provided an overview and insight into this organization. She noted that they had only been operational for 3 years and currently only serve the Dallas metroplex. Unspoken Motherhood comes alongside mothers when they first receive the news that their baby is miscarried, stillborn, or receives a life limiting diagnosis and dies shortly after birth.

Nurse Advocates from Unspoken Motherhood are both nurses and loss moms, and they connect each mother they advocate for with valuable resources to help make the



journey post-hospital or doctor's office more survivable and a little less alone, and gift each mother with a gift basket (around \$150 value) with tangible gifts that include: jewelry, restaurant gift card, tea towel, pre-packaged snacks, figurine, mug, bookmarks, specially handmade soap, and sanitary napkin pads.

Doctor's offices are provided with miscarriage boxes (around \$50 value) to hand out to mothers when they first find out their baby is miscarried.

Based on yearly income of \$12,000: approximately 82% goes to recipients, 18% goes to overhead. The overhead is fixed and minimal, and there are times when specific donors donate to cover overhead costs, in which case a larger portion goes to recipients.



### ***Special Olympics***

Antonio Valenzuela, the Development Coordinator for the North Region of Texas, was our guest speaker for this organization.

Within the North Region of Texas there are approximately 12,000 Special Olympic candidates. Each activity requires many volunteers to help.

Special Olympics collaborates with multiple corporate companies to assist them in funding and volunteer needs.

As stated last month in the newsletter, Special Olympics at the 1982-1983 convention was voted on and became the charity of choice for Blue Goose, International.



When both entities finished speaking the Texas Pond presented each with a donation of \$1,500.



**The Big Proud Gander  
Mitch Williams  
Most Loyal Gander**

So, we've officially hit the beginning of Fall, although it's kind of hard to tell with the weather around here. We get a whiff of cooler air for a few days and then the blast furnace reappears to remind us that this is Texas after all, and Summer dies a slow painful death. For those of us on the property side of the industry, we're watching blobs in the ocean and wondering if they're ever gonna spin up to hurricanes. On the sports side of things, our Rangers whimpered through the last 2 weeks of the season, and the Cowboys seem to be dying a swift, painless death (How in the world can you trade Micah Parsons!).

At our October meeting we will be having an initiation and bringing new Ganders into the fold. It should be fun for all involved! Please join us at Mesero on October 13<sup>th</sup> for all the festivities.

See you then!

# Save the Date!



**Celebrating a New Year!**

**ATTENDEE REGISTRATION IS OPEN:  
WWW.BLUEGOOSETX.ORG**

Mark your calendars now for the Texas Pond's New Year kick-off on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The event will be at Mesero- Preston Hollow location. Stay tuned for further details. For those who live some distance from this location may want to consider checking on one of these hotels around North Central Expressway to spend the night: LaQuinta, Hampton Inn, Hilton Garden Inn or, Doubletree Campbell Center.

Here are the two corporate sponsors as of this date.



Photo Sponsor

**Resolve**  
Medical Claims Resolution

WWW.RESOLVECLAIMS.CO

Event Sponsor

For more sponsorship opportunities, contact Randy Webb at 214-801-9197 or rw0007@yahoo.com.



## Taking a moment to reflect back on time!

Following last month's historical adventure, the editor of this newsletter received several inquiries about other significant milestones in Blue Goose history.... the question of when women became members was the number one inquiry.

Here is what the archives tell us!



*The year was 1988-1989.*

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Grand Nest Convention was held at the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach, California. The Grand Nest Officers present were Harry Merrifield, MLGG; Timothy Holland, GSOF; John Zeldam, GCON; Bruce Bolton, GGON; Treavor Newitt, GKGGE; J. B. Gravenstein, PGWGQ; Terry Maloney, GWGQ; and Charles Palmerton, JA.

We ended tis year with our membership as follows:

Present Dues Paying Members 6,777

Total Life Members 1,277

Dual Members 156

Total Members a/o 6/30/89 8,210

Below is the excerpt from the Judge Advocate, Charles Palmerton's report.

"This year began as the last year ended with the most compelling issue being the question whether qualified female workers in the Property and Casualty Insurance

Industry should be eligible to become members of the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, Int'l.

Many letters have been written and discussions held on the subject and yet the Order has not arrived at a conclusion that seems acceptable to all Ponds. There is no doubt that this issue has caused more dissension, upheaval, and lack of good fellowship than we have seen in the last 35 years. Each of us has the right to express our views and give dissenting opinions, but when the discussion leads to insults, character assassination and degrading remarks, then I believe we have gone too far. Perhaps we need to revisit the precepts of Character, Charity, and Fellowship upon which this Order was first founded.

The Contingent Defense Committee spent a great deal of time trying to determine how Blue Goose might defend itself if someone outside the Order might press for a legal determination of membership eligibility. The Committee was preparing a report to the Grand Nest when the challenge from the State of Michigan was presented to us. It was my decision as Chairman of the Committee not to report to you until the Michigan problem was resolved. The State of Michigan has an "equal opportunity" statute that is very broad covering many types of organizations and businesses. In fact, it was this statute and a Michigan Court that ordered the Kiwanis Organization to open its membership to females. There has also been pressure from other regions within Blue Goose because of similar "equal opportunity laws."

The Michigan Pond has been under extreme pressure from outside Blue Goose as well as from within the Pond for a change in membership eligibility for females. Some of this pressure has been exerted by the employers of members regarding female employees and other business associates.

As Judge Advocate, I was invited to attend the Michigan Pond Semi-Annual meeting to listen to and view firsthand some of the challenges the Pond was facing. On November 10, 1988, at the Pond meeting it became very aware to me that this issue could not be set aside again. It was apparent that if Blue Goose did not act to solve the eligibility issue in favor of females that a court of competent jurisdiction would act for us and force us to change our membership rules. The Michigan Amendment was proposed and accepted by the Michigan Pond at their mid-year meeting. No one believed that this amendment would solve all the

problems, but all hoped that it would allow Blue Goose to continue to exist in all regions of Blue Goose.

The demeanor and the dedication towards the welfare of Blue Goose by the Michigan Ganders was most impressive. I was treated with great hospitality and was able to input to the members the problems we faced internationally with this issue. It was made immediately clear to me by all ganders that the Michigan Pond was fully committed to hosting the 1991 Grand Nest meeting and their commitment to Grand Custodian John Zeldam was very strong. It really makes you wonder why these Michigan Ganders were called "scabs" and renegades after presenting their proposal at the last Grand Nest meeting. I don't blame them for being angry.

We received two legal opinions from non-Blue Goose law firms in Michigan which verified the perils that faced us in Michigan and elsewhere on this issue. It was at this time that I gave you and the other Grand Nest Officers the opinion that Blue Goose must act within itself to change our membership requirements before some force outside Blue Goose changed it for us.

The Grand Nest Officer's proposed amendment was adopted at the mid-year meeting and has been submitted to all Ponds for their consideration....."

*Proposed Constitutional Amendments were then taken up with JA Palmerton presiding over the discussion. The first amendment to be considered was that of permitting female membership, and issue long debated and contested. A roll call vote was taken with the issue unresolved until Westchester Pond cast its two votes in favor of the amendment. The final tally was 74 in favor and 34 opposed. Motion passed.*



## TEXAS POND MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2025

### NOVEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**SECOND MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

**MEETING: MESERO- PRESTONWOOD**

### DECEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**SECOND MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025**

**MEETING: MESERO- PRESTONWOOD**

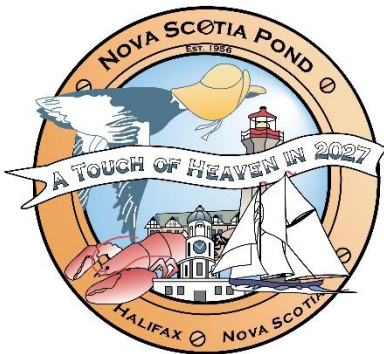


## MORE HONORABLE ORDER OF BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS



**July 12-16, 2026**  
**The Galt House, Louisville, KY**

***The 2026-2027 Honorable Blue  
Goose Convention will be held  
July 17<sup>th</sup>-22nd at the Prince Hotel  
in Halifax, Nova Scotia***



**MLGG & SOF**



**GOP & COP**



**WGQ & KGGE**

### Here are the 2025-2026 Texas Pond Officers

**Most Loyal Gander** – Mitch Williams (M) 214-213-5751  
[williams.mitch@yahoo.com](mailto:williams.mitch@yahoo.com)

**Supervisor of the Flock** – Randy Webb (M) 214-801-9197  
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**Custodian of the Goslings** – Matt Arnold (M) 210-473-7443  
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**Guardian of the Pond** – Valerie Wilson (M) 870-213-8192  
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**Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg** - Ashley Hansen (M)  
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**Wielder of the Goose Quill** - Linda Meik  
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