



TEXAS POND HONKER

August 2026

Character, Charity, Fellowship

**DAVE &
BUSTER'S**

**DAVE &
BUSTER'S**

Blue Goose – Texas Pond

**HONK – HONK Ganders, Goslings
& Guests**

Monday, August 10, 2026; 5:30 PM

Dave & Busters

9450 North Central Expwy , Dallas, TX 75231

**No reservations are necessary. Cash Bar!
Food is at your own expense. Come prepared
to enjoy some good summer fellowship in
some airconditioning.**



2026 BGTx Pond

School Supplies Drive for CPD

**See the attached list, scan the QR
code or click on the link to Amazon
for the school supplies.**



https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/NJCFEYMLWY3?ref=cm_sw_r_apin_ggr-subnav-share_8CQWD2EGVXH3FEPZ1ZQ8&language=en-US



BACKtoSCHOOL2026

**At our August meeting our Charity focus will be
school supplies for Community Partners of Dallas.**

Here is a list of the items that CPD is requesting for the kiddos. You can go purchase these items at a store and bring them to our Blue Goose meeting. Include a receipt for the items you bring to the meeting. (Please do not combine the purchase with other items you maybe purchasing that day.

Or you can click on the link below and select/purchase them off this Amazon site. These supplies will be delivered to Charlotte Armstrong's home, along with a receipt.

SUPPLIES THEY NEED MOST:

Backpacks (CLEAR)	Safety scissors
Composition books	Highlighters
Glue bottles	Construction paper.
Pencil pouches	Scientific Calculators
Index cards	Blue & black pens
Colored pencils (12 ct)	1" 3-ring Binders
Markers (10 ct)	Rulers
Block Erasers	8 Tab dividers
24 count crayons	Pencil Sharpeners
Folders w/pockets & brads	Watercolors
1-subject spiral notebooks (wide ruled)	
Notebook paper (wide ruled, 100 count)	



Words from the Big Goose

Randy Webb, MLG

The world's largest soccer tournament is over and we in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex were fortunate to host more matches than anywhere in the world. Having said that, after watching match after match, I feel compelled to state what many fans are thinking.

What about the issue of fouls? While many are appropriately called, too many unsportsmanlike challenges go unpunished. I understand that these are among the most important matches these athletes will ever play, and emotions run high. But the professional players must remember that they are role models for young athletes. The way they compete matters.

Another thing, what acting school do professional soccer players attend? Soccer is a demanding and physical sport, and injuries are an unfortunate reality. Yet too often, players collapse dramatically, roll across the field clutching a leg, only to spring back to their feet moments later. This kind of embellishment has become an accepted part of the game, but it sends exactly the wrong message to young players.

Perhaps it's time for FIFA, (Federation International de Football Association), to step up. A strong statement to teams, coaches and players emphasizing integrity and sportsmanship would ensure that the world's most popular sport is remembered not only for its incredible moments, but also for the character of those who play it.

LAST MONTH



Fourteen Ganders gathered at Dave & Busters for some fellowship. Also, three of our Ganders were well on their way to the 120th Blue Goose Convention in Louisville, KY.



The Texas Pond awarded a 10-year membership anniversary pin to: Dave Janek....and the month before we awarded a 10-year membership pin to Mary Bramley.

THE HONORABLE ORDER OF BLUE GOOSE CONVENTION THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

Three years ago, I walked into my first Honorable Order of Blue Goose gathering in Grapevine, Texas, not really knowing what to expect. I figured I'd shake a few hands, collect a few business cards, and head home a little better connected. What I found instead was harder to categorize—a room full of insurance professionals who genuinely cared about showing up, for each other and for the people around them. There was the usual conference rhythm, sure: name introductions, small talk by the registration table, the polite hovering near the coffee at intervals. But underneath it was something real. These were folks who understood that being good at this work means more than settling claims and calculating damages—it means making a difference in others' lives and building relationships that actually last.

The moment that stuck with me most was the service project. A whole group of us—not just adjusters, but insurance professionals of every stripe—spent the time assembling food and relief items for families in need. We rubbed elbows, got a little dirty, and did some genuinely good work together for a good cause, and honestly, it was beautiful. That shared effort impacted how I think about this profession—I wasn't there because it looked good on paper. I was standing shoulder-to-shoulder with people I'd met that same week, all of us pointed at something bigger than ourselves. It reminded me that this line of work, at its core, is about helping people when they're at their most vulnerable—and that instinct shouldn't stop at the property line.

What strikes me now is how much of what I'm doing today traces back to those few days in Texas. Those relationships didn't pack up when the convention did—they've shaped the last few years of my career, changing how I do business and who I get to do it with. The network I started to build there has kept growing, and it eventually opened a door I'd been hoping to walk through for years: the chance to teach in Louisiana, in a place I'd long wanted to reach and the Blue Goose community welcomed me with open arms. So, if you're not yet in the Grand Nest mindset, let me tell you now: Get geared up and let's go. Not for the business meetings or the cocktail hour, but for the people who remind you why you got into this work in the first place. That is a kind of rare company, but it's worth every mile of the distance.

**Jamey Bennett is Director of Education and Strategic Development at DDA Forensics and is based in South Florida, where he lives with his wife and two kids. **

The 120th Blue Goose Convention!



Texas Gander, Jamey Bennett, Ashley Hansen & Jim Devall. We welcome two Goslings from South Texas who got initiated at the convention: David Tamayo and Matthew Worthington.



Here is a glimpse of the 2026-2027 leaders of our organization at the Grand Nest level..... the first pictures depict the true & honest reflection of these officers....and then we dress them up and tell them to act professionally!



Stephen Hagen – MLGG



Chris Powers- GSOF



GCON – Jimmy Latham



GGON – Chris Porter

Blue Goose Annual Convention Brings Members Together and Looks Ahead to Halifax

The 2026 Blue Goose Annual Convention hosted by the Southern Region in Louisville, Kentucky brought members together for fellowship, remembrance, new member initiation, regional collaboration, and planning for the future of the organization. With nearly 100 attendees at the opening night reception, the event offered a strong opportunity to reconnect with longtime friends, welcome newer members, and celebrate the continued strength of Blue Goose across the regions.

Texas Pond was well represented throughout the convention. New Texas Pond members Jamey Bennett, Matthew Worthington, and David Tomayo attended, along with Bryan and Denise Pope and Ashley Hansen. Linda Meik also participated virtually, helping ensure Texas Pond had a meaningful presence both in person and online.

The Wednesday morning session opened with a memorable appearance by the Churchill Downs bugler, who shared stories and played “My Old Kentucky Home.” The program continued with the presentation of colors, the Canadian and U.S. national anthems, and an invocation. A memorial service followed, with candles lit for each pond in remembrance of members who passed during the year. Texas Pond honored two members listed from the previous year.

One of the highlights of the convention was the Virginia Pond model initiation, which featured a baseball and ballpark theme. The presentation included Cracker Jacks, baseballs, an Abbott, and Costello “Who’s on First” routine, and a spirited version of “Ole Blue Goose” sung to the tune of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” Seven goslings were initiated, including Matt and David from Texas Pond. MaryKay issued the admonition, and Gene Newman delivered the charge.

The regional meeting focused heavily on membership growth and engagement. Chris Porter encouraged members to refine their “elevator speech” when inviting others to join Blue Goose and suggested reconnecting with past members as another opportunity for growth. The group also discussed future convention planning following the departure of Cheryl and Chris, including the idea of developing a practical “cheat sheet” to help guide future conference management.

Updates from ponds across the region highlighted a variety of ways members are keeping their organizations active and connected. Virginia Pond reported strong monthly meeting attendance, quarterly social events,



Stephen Hagen, Most Loyal Grand Gander; Chris Powers, Grand Supervisor of the Flock; Jimmy Latham, Grand Custodian of the Nest; and Chris Porter, Grand Guardian of the Nest.

Here are the other appointed Grand Nest Officers:



Grand Historian
Dan Rich

Not pictured is the
Judge Advocate



Grand Wielder
Mike Nardulli



Grand Keeper
Steve Carson

industry speakers, charity-focused programming, and a golf tournament as a major fundraiser. Louisiana Pond continues to support homeless veterans as its charity while working through membership challenges. Kentucky Pond has found success with trivia nights, food and toy drives, golf outings, scholarships, and a shift from lunches to happy hours. Tennessee Pond noted leadership changes, while Charleston, South Carolina and Tampa, Florida were discussed as possible new pond locations.

Looking ahead, members received an exciting preview of the 121st National Convention, scheduled for July 19–22, 2027, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. With the theme “A Touch of Heaven in 2027,” the event will be based at the Prince George Hotel and will feature a rooftop “Kitchen Party” opening reception, a golf tournament at Grandview Golf and Country Club, a lobster dinner and music at The Shore Club, and opportunities to explore Halifax attractions such as Peggy’s Cove, the Harbour Hopper tour, Citadel Hill, the Halifax Public Gardens, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, and Alexander Keith’s Brewery.

The convention also included encouraging news for the organization overall. Blue Goose membership grew by 56 during the 2025/26 year, reaching 2,076 members. A new database rollout is underway, and Dan Rich is working to digitize historical documents, helping preserve the organization’s legacy while supporting future growth.

Overall, the convention reflected the best of Blue Goose: fellowship, tradition, service, and a shared commitment to building a stronger future. From honoring members who have passed to welcoming new goslings and preparing for Halifax in 2027, the gathering provided both a celebration of the organization’s history and a forward-looking vision for continued success.

Write up of convention provided by Jim Devall, Texas Pond Delegate to the convention.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE TEXAS POND WAS ON JANUARY 30, 1907! WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 119TH BIRTHDAY!

At the time of the first charter there were 132 ganders in the Texas pond.

Charter was surrendered in 1914.

2nd Charter was granted on January 14, 1921.

The 2nd time around there were 190 Ganders in the Texas Pond.

Following the issuance of the 2nd Charter the Texas Pond was divided into four Ponds: South Texas (Houston); Alamo Pond (San Antonio); West Texas (Lubbock); and three Puddles: Austin, El Paso & Corpus Christi.

In 1992, the 2nd Charter was surrendered.

The 3rd Charter was issued at the Grand Nest Convention in New York City in 1995.

Texas is part of the Southern Region, which is made up of the Ponds in Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Under the Texas Pond umbrella there is a “Retirement” Puddle made up of Life members of Alabama, Arizona, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Colorado, Seattle members.



TEXAS POND MEETINGS FOR 2026 - 2027

AUGUST MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: DAVE & BUSTERS

SEPTEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: TBD

OCTOBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: TBD

NOVEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: TBD

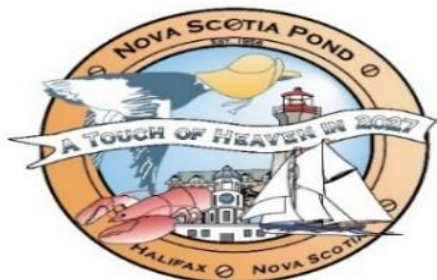
DECEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: TBD

**MORE HONORABLE ORDER OF BLUE GOOSE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS**



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

**AFTER THE HONORABLE ORDER OF BLUE GOOSE CONVENTIONS
WILL BE IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI IN THE SUMMER OF 2028**

**FOLLOWING IN SUMMER OF 2029 A POSSIBLE CRUISE OUT OF
BALTIMORE**



MLGG & SOF



GOP & COP



WGQ & KGGE

Here are the 2026-2027 Texas Pond Officers

Most Loyal Gander – Randy Webb (M) 214-801-9197
rw0007@yahoo.com

Supervisor of the Flock – Doug Hubby (M) 214 448-1734
Doug.hubby@catpro.us.com

Custodian of the Goslings – Matt Arnold (M) 210-473-7443
Matthew.Arnold@Sedgwick.com

Guardian of the Pond – Charllotte Armstrong (M) 817-673-7995
cdarmstrong85@gmail.com

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg - Ashley Hansen (M)
214-212-8547 ashansen@aol.com

Wielder of the Goose Quill – Daphney Elliott (M) 972-342-8728
delliott@resolveclaims.co