

## Charities Supported by the Virginia Pond

These are some of the charities the Virginia Pond supports on a regular basis:

Comfort Zone Camp

<https://comfortzonecamp.org>

ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation

<https://askccf.org>

USO Of Hampton Roads and Central VA

<https://hrcv.uso.org>

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

<https://bcan.org>

Latisha's House Foundation

<http://www.latishashouse.com>

The Virginia Home

<https://thevirginiahome.org>



*Presentation of funds raised at the Virginia Pond's annual October "Shuckin' & Jivin' for CZC" event.*

## VA POND OFFICERS

### Executive Committee Officers 2022-2023

**Jet Thomas**

Most Loyal Gander

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**Kevin Streit**

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**Keith Strohecker**

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**Mary Kay Marchetti**

Wielder of the Goose Quill

[wielder@vapond.org](mailto:wielder@vapond.org)

## The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International



## Virginia Pond

For more information about the Virginia Pond or to become a member, please contact any of the board members listed above.

[www.vapond.org](http://www.vapond.org)

[www.bluegoose.org](http://www.bluegoose.org)

## What Blue Goose Is All About

### Who Are We?

**We are a fraternal organization of men and women who work in the insurance 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.

**OUR FORMAL NAME** is the Honorable Order of The Blue Goose, International. We have local groups, called Ponds, throughout the United States and Canada.

**WE ARE CALLED GANDERS.** Our officers have titles such as Wielder of the Goose Quill, Guardian of the Pond, and Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. We have a sacred initiation ceremony.

**EVERY POND** has its own unique blend of members and of activities. Some Ponds meet in the evenings, some at lunchtime, and some mix it up. There are charity fundraisers, dinner-dances, golf outings, and socials. There are events involving multiple Ponds.

**WE HOLD** an annual convention each summer in a different US or Canadian city, hosted by a region on a rotating basis.

**OUR CONVENTION** is a family affair. Ganders bring their spouses and children. Activities are planned for the Ganders, non-Gander spouses/guests, and for the children.

### Why do we do what we do?

**We have each found reasons to give our time to Blue Goose when we all have other demands on our time.**

THERE IS **FELLOWSHIP**. We are a community of interest, experience, activity, and feeling. This community nature is something larger and yet more intimate than a business association or networking group. We are genuine friends.

THERE IS **CHARITY**. The Ponds, each in its own way, provide needed support for a variety of charities. Some spread donations over several charities. We focus on local charities serving our communities.

THERE IS **LEADERSHIP**. When we give ourselves in the work of Blue Goose, and when we are elected to office in Blue Goose, we gain experience in new areas. Poise and confidence is gained in the administration of activities and in the management of others. We acquire leadership skills.

THESE ARE NOT ALL OF THE BENEFITS of membership, but they provide an idea of what we are about.

WE WANT YOU TO VISIT WITH US, to meet our Ganders, and to find out about Blue Goose for yourself.

THE VIRGINIA POND'S REGULAR MEETING NIGHTS are the third Wednesday of the month. Visit our website for a calendar of events or [email\\_wielder@vapond.org](mailto:email_wielder@vapond.org) to join our email list.



VA Pond members at the 116th HOBGI Grand Nest Convention in Texas: (L-R) Fiona and Keith Strohecker, Dana Cullen, Mary Kay Marchetti, Barbara Curtis, Jet and Dianna Thomas.



Woody Harrison receiving his 50-year membership pin from MLG Jet Thomas.



Golfers teeing up for the Virginia Pond's annual charity golf tournament in June.