

Some Questions People May Have About Joining Blue Goose.....

- What is Blue Goose?
- What is so special about Blue Goose, and the Virginia Pond especially, that I should allocate my time and/or resources to becoming a member?
- How will I benefit personally and professionally by joining this organization?
- I have a limited amount of time to devote to industry organizations. What is it about this one that should qualify it for my short list?
- Am I eligible to become a Blue Goose Member?

And Our Answers!

Blue Goose is a fraternal organization for individuals who work in the insurance related industry. Our members are called Ganders. There are presently over 60 of us in Virginia and over 3,700 in Ponds around the US and Canada.

The Honorable Order of The Blue Goose International (HOBGI) has a proud traditional dating back to 1906. The Virginia Pond, founded in 1907, is one of its original chapters. We have a story to tell: a story to inspire people who want to give back to their communities; a story to attract people committed to sharing their skills and talents without expectation of personal reward; a story to draw people into our organization.

As we seek new members to join our Pond in **Richmond** and our Puddle in **Northern Virginia**, one of the issues we face is that we are in competition with other organizations for every potential new member's time, resources and sweat equity.

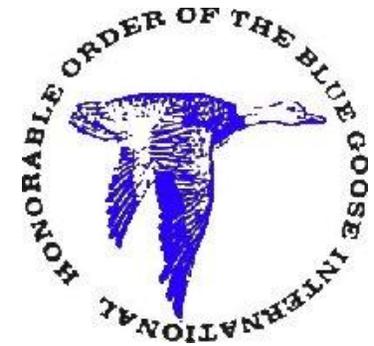
In this brochure, we present some of the highlights of our organization with a particular emphasis on the charitable activities which are at the core of our being and essential to the Community based organizations we support.

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“SO TELL ME.... WHY SHOULD I JOIN BLUE GOOSE?”

Virginia Pond Membership



Logo from the 2007 International Convention
in Williamsburg, VA

Visit us on the web at:

www.bluegoose.org (Grand Nest)

www.vapond.org (Virginia Pond)

www.northernvirginiapuddle.com
(NoVA Puddle)

Why We Are Special

CHARITY and FELLOWSHIP

- * Blue Goose offers the opportunity to be involved with worthwhile charitable endeavors, resulting in lasting long term friendships and a fulfilling sense of generous accomplishment. Our orientation towards charity and fellowship is one of the fundamental precepts of our organization.
- * The cumulative result of giving to charity through a group maximizes the effect of each individual's contribution.
- * The charitable work we do often has the side benefit of providing networking opportunities within the insurance communities we serve.

EDUCATION

- * Members of the VA Pond offer courses, some of which carry CE credit and which also provide networking opportunities for both Blue Goose members and the insurance community at large.
- * Our speakers are entertaining, informative and well versed on many topics of interest to today's insurance professionals.

TRADITION

- * Our members enjoy being part of an international organization that began in 1906 and now has over a century of tradition and history.
- * Our organization is flexible and loosely structured at Pond level so that each Pond can develop its own personality.
- * Our emphasis, which cascades down the organization from our Grand Nest, is on character, fellowship and charity, including family involvement.

NETWORKING and ELIGIBILITY

- * Membership is generally available to all members of the insurance community including Property, Casualty and Life carriers, agents, and the service professionals who support them.
- * Blue Goose meetings provide opportunities to meet fellow professionals in a relaxed social setting.

ACTIVITIES

- * We hold monthly evening meetings, occasionally replaced by social or charitable events. They typically start at 5:30 and last about 2 hours. In Richmond, we meet on the third Wednesday of the month. In Northern Virginia, we meet the second Thursday of the month. Our business meetings start with a social hour followed by dinner. Most business meetings include a guest speaker.
- * In recent years, we have supported many local charities, including:

- ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation – financial and other support toward programs for kids diagnosed with cancer, and their families.
- Operation First Response – financial support toward programs for wounded heroes and their families.
- USO of Richmond – in-kind and cash donations for the comfort center at Richmond Int'l Airport during the holiday season.
- Bladder Cancer Awareness Network – financial support toward research, education and support related to the 6th most commonly diagnosed cancer in the US.
- Comfort Zone Camp – dedicated annual fundraiser for their support programs for grieving kids
- Latisha's House Foundation – financial support for their holistic program to restore the lives of young ladies who fall victim to the sex trafficking industry.
- Serve Our Willing Warriors – financial support toward the Bull Run Market Retreat house in Haymarket, VA for warriors currently residing at nearby hospitals, and their families.

SOCIAL SETTING

- * Contact at meetings is informal and free of the competitive pressures associated with many other professional associations.
- * Annual International conventions, which are rotated between 4 regions in the US and Canada, include social events that provide the opportunity to develop relationships across diverse geographic areas.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- * Membership increases your network of both professional and personal friendships.
- * The number of members in individual ponds is small enough to provide many leadership opportunities, such as organizing and heading committees, establishing and developing relationships with local charities, or serving as a Pond officer.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

- * Blue Goose is one of the only professional organizations that is family-oriented. It provides members a chance to involve their families at international and local levels.
- * Our annual international conventions include a full program of activities for spouses and children. The value provided for families at these events far outweighs the actual financial outlay.
- * At individual pond level, many of our social events provide opportunities for member's families and friends to participate in the fun and charitable activities.