INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF REAL BEARDED SANTAS - FALL 2013

Over one thousand Santas united in brotherhood and friendship.
It is with a very heavy heart that I must inform you that our President Santa Rob Figley passed away Saturday evening September 21 in Vancouver, WA. He was recovering from surgery and developed an infection. Please keep his wife Diane in your thoughts and prayers.

Rob has been a leader in the Local Santa Community for over 10 years and a leader in the National Santa Community since his election to the FORBS Board in 2009. He was serving his second term as a Director of IBRBS and in his second year as President. He was instrumental in bringing the FORBS Santa Reunion to San Diego in 2012 and was a hard working Board Member helping to oversee the transition from FORBS to IBRBS this past year.

A Celebration of Rob's life was held on Saturday, September 28, 2013, at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver, WA.

This was a celebration for a man larger than life. He loved so deeply and unconditionally. He had so many friends in many different circles. The attendees wore happy, bright attire; Rob loved Hawaiian shirts. Many Santa hats were seen.

Diane is setting up a memorial fund in his name so children in the Portland/Vancouver area will not be without this Christmas Season. Further details will be released when available.

Santa Jac Grimes
Chairman of the Board
International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas
Remember: unless you are a new or lifetime member your ANNUAL DUES are payable on OCTOBER 1, 2013

Goto Website Join/Renew Form

I need a background check and liability insurance. How do I get it?

Join IBRBS. Go to their web page and follow the instructions. EASY
Why join IBRBS, The only International Santa Organization?

There is an old saying of, “United we stand. Divided we fall.” Well, here is a new and appropriate concept, “United we are a community and knowledgeable. Divided we are alone and uninformed.”

As a professional nothing is more important than networking with your fellow Santas. By joining IBRBS you are effectively affiliating with hundreds of Santas worldwide. We are far more than a fraternity. We are an association of professionals dedicated to the presentation of the Christmas Season through our role as Santa Claus.

By the size of our group we are able to provide a resource from which you can obtain at a group rate background checks and liability insurance. With the insurance and a background check you are also covered against molestation charges.

If you belong to a group of Santas that get together for lunch, dinner, etc...what happens if an incident occurs? Who is liable? answer: possibly everyone attending! As an IBRBS Chapter you can be covered by our $2,000,000 Liability Policy. Our IBRBS insurance automatically covers chapter events and meetings. Lessor of Premises, and Sponsors, are also included at no additional premium.

An IBRBS Chapter can be formed with the signatures of FIVE IBRBS members in good standing.

IBRBS is governed by an elected Board of Directors.

IBRBS members in good standing are eligible for election to the Board of Directors of IBRBS.

We have an IBRBS Facebook page where members can keep in touch.

IBRBS often receives requests for Santas to appear for photo sessions, charity events or commercial & stage production auditions. We are not a booking agency, but as a member in good standing, you would be eligible to receive notice of these requests.

Our quarterly IBRBS Newsletter is a gold mine of information. Back copies are archived for your quick retrieval.

All IBRBS members receive an attractive membership certificate and card.

You can reside anywhere in the world and be a member of IBRBS in good standing.

We have many IBRBS Chapters throughout the country where you can meet and network with your fellow Santas and others in the Christmas community. The Chapter meetings are the backbone of the organization and your opportunity to learn from your fellow Santa.

IBRBS Chapters are independent entities and are encouraged to retain their local character.

Many IBRBS Chapters aside from their regularly scheduled meetings will have an annual special event where Santas come from far and near.

IBRBS hosts a large international gathering every even numbered year, San Diego in 2012, Tampa in 2014 with an event in Branson scheduled for 2016. For 2018 and 2020 it will probably be the Pacific NW one year and New England the other. Our intention is to rotate the convention around the country so it will come to a venue near you at least once a decade.

IBRBS offers a scholarship program for members and their immediate families with two scholarships to a Santa School and two for higher learning.

IBRBS is a nonprofit 501(c) corporation.
From the EDITOR

Santa Allen Keeney

The Art of Joining

I have to admit I am a compulsive joiner. I have belonged to everything from the Multnomah County Republican Central Committee to the Columbia Basin Basketry Guild.

It started in grade school when I had a tank of tropical fish and joined the Jr. Aquarium Society. I have belonged to stamp collecting clubs, wine making clubs, rocket societies, basket weaving guilds, sunbathing associations, the senior center and the list goes on … In each occasion I came away richer in knowledge and experience as well as making lifelong friends.

As a result of socializing within the membership of these organizations I have received job offers, stock tips, real estate opportunities. It has always been a win-win situation.

There is always a core package of benefits that comes with all organizational memberships. It may be nothing more than a flashy membership card you use for bragging rights or there may be a whole package of benefits including insurance.

Most groups have a social component where you meet people and socialize as well as develop and fine true your mutual interests. The more you participate the more you benefit.

In 2002 I joined what was then AORBS and have been with the flow into FORBS which has evolved into IBRBS. At every stage the experience has been valuable and I credit my success as Santa to the affiliations and friends that have come from belonging.

"One of the penalties of not participating in politics is that you will be governed by your inferiors." Plato

Elections are coming and we need some good men to run for office. If you have been a member of IBRBS for two years or longer you are eligible to run for the board of directors.

Synopsis from the bylaws: To qualify for the election ballet, a Nominee must be endorsed by a minimum of five (5) members in good standing and accompanied by a head-shot photo, a candidate statement or resume, and a current, verifiable, clear background check.

The Committee shall certify each nomination and submit its finalized nomination list to the Board of Directors not later than the January 2014 Board meeting.

For the Candidate — You will have to submit a short statement that covers the following:

- What experiences have you had that you could bring to the Board as a Director?
- How would you propose to foster the growth & development of IBRBS?
- Have you had experience with budgeting for not-for-profit organizations?
- What IBRBS activities have you participated in and/or could propose for the future?
- Please tell us about your vision & direction you think IBRBS should take.

Once you are certified by the Elections committee you will be contacted for a ballet statement that will be part of the members electronic ballot packet, and will include your photograph. For full details:

Nominating Form
International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas Scholarship Programs

Two scholarship programs have been established for our members and member’s families. They are a Higher Education Scholarship and a Santa School Scholarship.

Higher Education Scholarship:

Two $500.00 Scholarships will be awarded to members or their direct descendants to continue their education past High School. Applicants for the scholarship must be enrolled in a University, College, Community College, Trade School or qualified Job Retraining Program.

This scholarship can be used for tuition, books, fees or any expenses related to the recipient’s continuing education and are paid directly to the recipient.

Those eligible for this scholarship are Santas, their spouses, children, grandchildren or great grandchildren. Applicants must be a Member in Good Standing with dues paid in full for the 2014 season.

Santa School Scholarship:

Two $500.00 Scholarships will be awarded to a Santa or Santa and Mrs. Claus to attend the Santa School of their choice. Applicants for the scholarship must be enrolled in a recognized Santa School.

Tuition will be paid directly to the school and the remainder will go to the recipient to assist with meals, lodging, travel and other related expenses.

Special consideration will go to Santa or Santa couples that have not been to Santa school.

Santa or Santa couples active in and recommended by their local IBRBS Chapter will also receive priority.

Those eligible for this scholarship are Santa and Mrs. Claus’ and the Santa must be a Member in Good Standing with dues paid in full for the 2014 season.

Scholarship Recipients will be announced at the International Santa Celebration in May 2014 in Tampa FL and will be introduced if present.

Board Members, Officers and their families are not eligible for either program while serving their term of office.

Applications will be available on the IBRBS website on or about January 6, 2014 with completed applications due by March 1, 2014.

Scholarship winners will be announced at the May ISC Convention in Tampa.
Due to illness this issue is a bit abbreviated and late,

We will try to have another brief Newsletter out before we are in our Christmas season.

Freddie’s Forum will be back with an article by Gordon Bailey on talking with children.

We will also launch a Santa’s Health column with Dr Lawrence Goodstein.

There are several Santas who have published books with Santa and Christmas themes. We would like to list them and their availability. Send info. to: <News>,

Your comments are always welcome.
Chapter News

Every issue we will feature different chapters.
Send us your information so we may include your chapter in a future issue.

ANATOMY OF A CHAPTER

Last winter five Santas all members of IBRBS in good standing got together to organize the Inland Empire (CA) Chapter of IBRBS. A petition signed by those present was submitted to the board of directors and quickly approved. It was decided we would not have officers and bylaws but be open to all in the Santa community who wished to join us in our activities, Gordon Bailey who served as organizing chairman was to be the group chairman and organize the activities.

Our July get together was at Harlequin Costume where the proprietress Kristie Peters gave us a talk on the care of our Santa suits with emphasis on avoiding the pink ermine syndrome after cleaning.

Lori DiBenedetto was there recruiting for Worldwide Photography (Sepia)

After the presentations and the question and answer sessions we adjourned to Coco’s for a bit of nourishment and camaraderie.

By being a Chapter of IBRBS we were covered by liability insurance, We had used the IBRBS Facebook page to publicize the event and were happy to see a couple of out of area Santas. We had enriched our knowledge, had an opportunity to apply for employment and enjoyed the company of our Santa community.

Remember it only takes FIVE members in good standing to petition for chapter status.

Chapter Application Form
At a joint meeting of the Long Leaf Pine Santas and the North Carolina Chapter of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas, The Long Leaf Pine Santas voted to petition the Board of Directors of IBRBS to become the Long Leaf Pine Santas Chapter of the IBRBS replacing the NC Chapter. With a quorum of members present the vote was 30 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions. Several out of town guests participated in the discussion but did not vote. LLPS will continue to serve Santas and Mrs. Clauses in NC, SC, VA and TN. Independent Santa Groups in surrounding states are not affected by this decision.

In a second motion the LLPS Chapter of the IBRBS voted to request the Board of IBRBS to work to offer full membership to all Santas and Mrs. Clauses dropping the requirement of a Real Beard.

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Norpac Santas
Seattle WA area

Our next meeting will be the November Conference held at Great Wolf Lodge at Grand Mound, Washington. Please contact Santa Dennis Simpson if interested in registration materials. Santa Dennis can be reached at 360-871-1241(toy shop), 360-621-1493(sleigh) or email dsimson@wavecable.com. He would love to share what is happening with anyone interested or visit the Norpac Santas website: Nor-Pac Santas.

We are an active Santa and Associates group that meets 5 times per year and holds a conference/convention in conjunction with the November meeting. We currently have 42 active dues paying members for 2013.

NORPAC SANTAS 4th ANNUAL GREAT WOLF LODGE CONFERENCE November 7-9, 2013,

Grand Mound, Washington

Norpac Santas at Great Wolf Lodge 2012

The SoCal Santas will be hosting the annual reunion luncheon that has been a Southern California tradition for two decades. It will in the old tradition, be a no host event. We are in the planning stage and open to ideas and suggestions. It will be a memorable event for all attending. Email SantaSteve
Summertime for Santa!