

# SLO NEWSGRAM

July 2011

*Greetings, State Liaison Officer!*

As we reach the midpoint of 2011, I'm pleased to report that there are many tremendous Auxiliary State Liaison Programs and projects underway. SLOs in every district are developing state RBS partnerships with the help of other district staff. This is a very important part of the Auxiliary's recreational boating safety (RBS) efforts. By having every State Liaison report state activities, the programs' successes are recognized by Coast Guard active duty and Auxiliary leadership. National Safe Boating Week is a great example of RBS program success. Communication is the key to keeping others engaged.

## STATE RESOURCES INFORMATION UPDATES

The RBS Outreach website <http://bdept.cgaux.org> has lots of information that can be used by State Liaison Officers. There are weekly and sometimes daily additions to the website that can help you succeed. An important part of RBS Outreach is the Liaison Division, headed by Kelly Townsend, Division Chief. The Liaison Division develops and supports the Auxiliary's RBS partnerships. In the last *SLO Newsgram*, we introduced some RBS partners. Below is additional information for you. Make a point to become familiar with what the Liaison Division does to help you promote the RBS message in your state.

- **American Canoe Association.** The Liaison Division's newest partner is the American Canoe Association (ACA) The ACA provides guidance and assistance to the Auxiliary on *all* aspects of paddlesports. The ACA has also contributed to updating our Vessel Examination Manual for inspecting canoes and kayaks during Vessel Safety Checks. The ACA has also assisted the National V Department with developing the new Auxiliary 7012A form for canoes and kayaks.
- **Youth Services.** RBS Division works with the Sea Scouts of the Boy Scouts of America, as well as with the U.S. Navy League's Naval Sea Cadets. It offers Auxiliary FCs and coxswains the opportunity to provide shoreside and underway training (as per the *Auxiliary Crew Manual*). This can also serve as a recruitment tool, as it would allow 17 year old Sea Scouts & Sea Cadets the opportunity to join the Auxiliary as fully trained Boat Crew members.
- **NASBLA 2011 National Conference** will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from September 8-15, 2011. If you live close or want to attend, please go the NASBLA website and register.

## STATE LIAISON REPORTING ACTIVITIES

This is a friendly reminder that as SLO you are required to submit written, quarterly reports of your state's RBS-related activities. These reports should include the meetings you have with your BLA or their staff, other state agencies and Auxiliary activities (public education, training, public affairs, and vessel safety) within your state. This can be more than just your district or division if your state has more than one in their boundaries. As SLO you should be working with staff officers in all the affected districts or divisions. The reports should *not* contain legislative information unless it is regarding laws affecting public education, life jacket wear, or other RBS-related topics. These reports should also include information if you are working with the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), water safety councils, or other water safety agencies. If you are not able to report these RBS activities or do not have the time to support the SLO program, please let us know. The RBS program is an extremely important part of the Auxiliary mission. Your next report will be due to your Branch Chief and DSO-SL on 1 Sept 2011.

## OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES STAYING ON COURSE

- **California SLO Gail Ramsey** reports the "Wear It Campaign" life jacket wear rates have more than doubled in the first four years of the campaign. On the Friday before Memorial Day, the state and several sponsors provide a trade-in day for old and outgrown life jackets. Life jackets turned in that are in good condition are re-distributed to loaner programs.
- **Virginia SLO Ev Tucker** states the Auxiliary supports the Navy, Army and Coast Guard on their "Safety Stand-Downs," providing thirty minute RBS briefings to several thousand military personnel.

- *Utah SLO Joyce Bell* reports that Utah held a “ROCKIN’ UTAH” event where youth and parents participated in water safety activities, were fitted with life jackets and rode sailboats and canoes furnished by the Williard Bay contributors. Boaters who passed VSCs received a coupon for a free entry to a state park at a later date.
- *Oregon SLO Danny Dadil* reports the Auxiliary supported Oregon’s Marine Deputy Training program SLO by providing personnel and facilities.
- *New York SLO Louis Liotti* attended BLA Conference and gains RBS boating safety issues and law enforcement partnerships with active duty, state agencies, and many others.
- *South Carolina SLO Barbara Burchfield* has been appointed DNR Instructor to manage, develop policies and procedures for online boater education courses published on their website.
- **Dan Maxim**, *Branch Chief RBS Outreach BAIRAC and Waterways*, prepared a memorandum for the Coast Guard that contained estimates of lives saved as a result of various policies requiring mandatory life jacket wear. The estimates depend on the assumed provisions of the mandatory life jacket regulation and the compliance rate of the public. However, it is noteworthy that all estimates are substantially greater than the anticipated lives saved under the present Strategic Plan. Mandatory life jacket wear is certain to be controversial and it is time for the Auxiliary to consider taking a position on this possible regulation.

### Highlights of National Safe Boating Week

- Ready, Set, Inflate Program across the nation
- Proclamations were signed by governors in most states
- National Safe Boating Week kicked off at Cabala’s in several states
- ‘Got Caught Wearing a Life Jacket’ in several states.
- Many public affairs events, vessel safety checks, and education opportunities.

### AUXBWiki

Don’t forget to use “AuxBWiki” at <http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org> .

Let us know how we can help you!

**USCG - AUXILIARY - STATES - PARTNERING FOR RBS! MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

### Bruce & Pauline



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