

# ***SLO NEWSGRAM***

## ***August 2013***

### **Greetings, State Liaison Officer!**

The first half of 2013 is now part of the past. However, as a State Liaison Officer, there are always activities that need attention. Many National Safe Boating Week missions can be done throughout the year. By working with the District Staff PA, VE, OP and PE officers, you could make this a record breaking year as you partner with the State Boating Law Administrators and/or their staffs as well as other agencies. If you have not been included in Water Safety Council meetings in your area or a Lake Association meeting, you may want to make some contacts to those various agencies or groups to attend one of their business meetings or planning sessions. Your Boating Law Administrator may also have some suggestions for agencies for you to meet with. If you are unable to participate during the working day, ask one of the District DSOs to attend and give you feedback from the meeting. As SLO you do not need to participate in an activity but should be knowledgeable of what is happening in your state as it relates to the RBS missions. By including others, they will be more likely to be engaged in working with our Partners.



### **RESOURCES AND NETWORKING FOR THE STATE LIAISON OFFICER**

On the RBS Website ([bdept.cgaux.org](http://bdept.cgaux.org)), there are multiple resources that SLOs can use. Please contact us to expand this list. Each SLO should maintain a list of names and contact information which could be divided by District if your State has more than one District or by area of the State. The list may include information from neighboring States. The list could include local places that are willing to hold a public education class or a marina that is willing to allow a Public Affairs booth once a year. Think outside the box but within our Auxiliary Missions. Websites are normally included with the contact information if available. And remember to include your local partnerships with groups like the American Canoe Association, Boat US, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and West Marine. Networking between these partnerships can make a tremendous difference in building a RBS program in your State. Remember we are all boaters and members of the public promoting water safety. Who can you network with in your area that you know about but never attempted to contact?



### **PARTNERS INFORMATION**

**NASBLA 2013 National Conference** will be held in Boise, Idaho from September 14-18, 2013. If you live close or want to attend, please go the NASBLA website and register.

For the past 25 years, NASBLA has published *Small Craft*

*Advisory*, a bimonthly magazine devoted to recreational boating laws, safety, and education. The award-winning magazine utilizes news articles, features, standard columns, and news briefs to highlight successful recreational boating safety programs, organization activities, professional news, legislative updates, upcoming events, and other recreational boating-related safety, education, and law enforcement matters. The magazine reaches more than 10,000 boating law administrators, education specialists, law enforcement officers, legislators, and other boating safety and security partners and organizations. This is a great publication, available online at <http://nasbla.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3300>.

Another website with a lot of good information is National Safe Boating Council website [SafeBoatingCouncil.com](http://SafeBoatingCouncil.com). The information found on this site provides tips on teaching boating safety classes along with numerous other tips regarding water safety.

### **STATE LIAISON REPORTING**

Each SLO is required to submit a report to their DSO-SL or Branch Chief quarterly. The report should include the RBS activities your Districts have done for the State or other Partners. As SLO, keep in contact with your DSOs and what they are reporting monthly to their Chief of Staff. We still have some State Liaison Officers who report no activity as it relates to Public Affairs, Public Education, Vessel Examinations or Operations for a three month period. Most Districts are extremely busy during the boating season and the various RBS missions. Remember these reports are gathered by area which includes every State and distributed to the National Commodore, Chief Director of Auxiliary, numerous Active Duty along with many National Board and Staff members. Your quarterly status reports assist your District(s) with state and local assets as real force multipliers. This is an opportunity to let other Districts know what a great State program you have.

Please remember also that your BLA needs information from you. This information is something that you can gather by AUXDATA/AUXINFO. As SLO you probably have been providing the BLA with some numbers including persons attending a State/NASBLA course, persons successfully completing a State/NASBLA approved course, number of RBS instructors, total number of volunteers hours for the State along with Instructor hours teaching State Classes. This request was presented at NACON SLO training in 2012.

### **WEAR IT CAMPAIGN**

The Wear It! campaign is seeking volunteers to conduct in-person surveys throughout the month of August to better understand boater behavior and the impact the campaign has throughout the United States. The NSBC will provide the surveys and shipment items as well as incentives to hand out to survey participants all free of charge. Next week, the NSBC will be hosting three conference calls to brief the state coordinators and interested volunteers on the effort. If you (or any of your volunteers) are interested in joining in on one of the calls and



committing as a volunteer (the information will be the same all three times), here are the times and call-in information:

*Please call 1-866-625-9936, participant code: 5197890 **Rachel Johnson** asking that interested volunteers RSVP with ([outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org)) so they know how many people to expect on the call and become a volunteer for this effort.*

## **OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES SETTING THE COURSE**

- BLA for New Mexico continues to have the Auxiliary provide nearly 100% operational support for the state due to lack of state funding.
- In Virginia, all Divisions continue a variety of surface operations for different local Coast Guard units including air ops with the USCG Special Missions Training Center, Deployment Training Center for overseas deployment.
- Just returned from the Leadership Academy for the New Boating Law Administrators with a very positive report that several states are already working with their SLO. The new BLAs are very impressed with the service the Auxiliary provides and already have plans to the Auxiliary with additional services since my presentation.
- Several states are having the Auxiliary educate the boating public on kayaking equipment and safety regarding the sport along with paddleboat education. This is due to the lack of water in states that normally had normal water for power boats.
- South Carolina and Texas continues to be very involved with partnerships with Lake Associations and the Auxiliary along with other water agencies.
- In Colorado an Auxiliarist, Ted Kibes was named Colorado Educator of the Year acknowledging his work on the Denver Boat Show involvement, Marine Dealer Visits, Public Education Classes, and working with the Colorado Drowning Prevention Program.
- In Idaho, the BLA is requesting the Auxiliary to provide additional paddleboat safety education since that is an extremely fast growing program in the state.
- In California, Gail Ramsey continues to build and support various water safety missions as California National Resources Agency and the Department of Parks and Recreation mergers.
- Ed McGill, SLO for Georgia continues to work supporting the state with his expertise as the boating laws are now changing.
- Bill Griswold, SLO for Florida is very involved with the National Safe Boating Council along with many other water related agencies in Florida including the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers meeting.
- In New Hampshire, the SLO reports there have been more Auxiliary activities with the State in the past two months than in the last several years.
- SLO Carolyn Belmore reports the First District Northern Region obtained a donation of 400 children's life jackets. Each state in the First District Northern received some of these children's life jackets to be used on the loaner program and the inland officers on the lakes.
- In Tennessee, the SLO reports that a very large donation of personal protection equipment was by SLO John Whelan from Frham Safety in Nashville for the tornado victims in

Moore Oklahoma. Equipment included coveralls, rubber boats, gloves and goggles. This was in partnership with the USCG MSD Nashville Office by DCAP Ventress.

- In Idaho, Larry Kelly DCDR11 received an award presented by Idaho BLA in recognition of his outstanding efforts to further the partnerships between the Auxiliary and the State of Idaho Boating program and for providing valuable serve to recreational boaters in the state.
- SLO Bonnie Harding for Washington State sent a notice to all Washingtonians the ‘You Tube’ version and where to obtain the video ‘Almost a Perfect Day’ without cost.
- Division Chief State Program Pauline Longnecker was again funded by NASBLA to presenting to the New Boating Law Administrators Leadership conference on what services the Auxiliary can provide.

### **AUXBWiki**

Don't forget to use "AuxBWiki" at <http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org>.

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

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