



# SLO NEWSGRAM

*April 2014*

## *Greetings, State Liaison Officer!*

The first quarter of 2014 is now behind us and we are rapidly approaching the busy time of the boating season. Some areas of the country are fortunate to boat throughout the year. However many parts are just now dipping their boats in water for the 2014 season. As your State's Liaison Officer, you should have been working with the Boating Law Administrator or their staff and the District Public Education officer along with the Public Affairs officer regarding the Spring activities of boat shows and public education classes along with other RBS missions. Remember to partner with other agencies in your area if possible. As those contacts vary among states and parts of the country, your DSOs and Branch Chiefs can assist if you are unsure which agencies are already established in your State. The SLO does not work alone, but networks with many other Auxiliarists and external partners. As an SLO, your responsibility is to develop and expand the Auxiliary's partnership with your state, as well as with other partners in your State. This is a very important part of the Auxiliary's RBS efforts. The US Power Squadron is a close partner with the Auxiliary. They are located in most States and already may be working with the Boating Law Administrator. They are just one of our established external partners.

If your State has multiple Districts, you will need to include all Districts' Staff Officers in your RBS efforts. What does this mean? If there is a public affairs event held by the local DNR/marina, the SLO should be working with the DSO PA and PE to see how the Auxiliary can assist or otherwise contribute to the event. What response do you get when you ask the Boating Law Administrator or the Coordinator of Department of Fish and Games, "What can we do to help their program to succeed?" Most of all keep others in the loop. If you work with the Education Coordinator for the State or Corps of Engineers, you need to report it to your DSO SL and DCO(s) in your monthly or quarterly report. Remember that communication is the key to program success. Your quarterly status reports assist your District(s) with state and local assets as real force multipliers.

## **RBS SPECIALISTS FOR 2014**

RBS specialists are key resources for your efforts. Here is the list of RBS specialists in each district:

Walt Taylor, District 1, [Walt.H.Taylor@uscg.mil](mailto:Walt.H.Taylor@uscg.mil)

Dennis Sens, District 5, [Dennis.M.Sens@uscg.mil](mailto:Dennis.M.Sens@uscg.mil)

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Michael Folkerts, District 17, [Michael.R.Folkerts@uscg.mil](mailto:Michael.R.Folkerts@uscg.mil)

## **READY – SET – WEAR IT**

### **National Safe Boating Week EVENT**

May 16, the annual READY – SET – WEAR IT kicks off National Safe Boating Week. What in the world is this? The idea is to get a group of people together either wearing life jackets or inflatable life jackets and pull the rip cord on those inflatable's. POP, they inflate and your photographer snaps a picture. Obviously, more people, more fun. It's as simple as that, but as they say in the ads "wait, there's more!" Go to the National Safe Boating Council's web page: <http://www.readysetwearit.com/> learn about the event by clicking on "about". This will give you the background on how it started and what's it all about. Click on "resources" and you'll get checklists and tips on how to have an event.

By now as SLO, your proclamations should be in the final stages of getting signed and ready for a Kodak moment with your Boating Law Administrator, members of your Division leadership along with you and your Governor or Mayors for NSBW. If you have not gotten a Proclamation submitted for a local Mayor, you may still have time. There are two websites with sample proclamations: <http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/iproclamation.htm> and [bdept.cgaux.org](http://bdept.cgaux.org)

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

There are many positive activities that are taking place in the SLO program. Each Area has some outstanding programs being developed along with new partnerships being built. Public Affairs boat show booths are being held across the nation along with request for classes including Paddleboat, On-the-Water and many others. The SLOs are beginning to work with other staff offices in their units. This can be seen by the better reporting of activities which cross over between staff responsibilities. More of us are working with other agencies in the states. The relationship with the BLAs and their staff is improving along with many other water agencies. We are making a difference! We are being included in Water Council meetings, Marina Meetings and related venues. Kudos to each SLO for doing an outstanding job with our partnerships!

- In New Hampshire the Auxiliary is training more Instructors in Division 2 so they could learn how to offer our Boating Education students the NH Certificate along with the USCGAUX certification at our PE classes. The SLO also wanted to refresh those instructors who are already doing that with any changes and updates to the program. This is in accordance with the D1NR MOU.

- The BLA-NJ and Staff, presented a State mandated Public Education Instructor workshop, which resulted in the recertification of members of D1SR New Jersey Certified Auxiliary PE Instructors. The SLO also agreed to support the BLA-NJ D5NR, with the recertification of D5NR Public Education Instructors by assisting the BLA-NJ.
- In Hawaii, the SLO reports a new requirement for all recreational boat operators to take a safety course such as the ABS or BS&S will be implemented on November 10, 2014.

### **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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