

SLO NEWSGRAM

July 2014

Greetings, State Liaison Officer!

The first half of 2014 and your hard work in preparation for National Safe Boating Week is now over. However as a State Liaison Officer, there are always activities that need attention. Many National Safe Boating Week missions need to 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 Administrator and/or their staff 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 attend. 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 it is not essential that participate in an activity but you should be knowledgeable about 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), there are multiple resources that SLOs can use. But you can expand this list. As new partnerships and contacts are made, you should update your list. Each SLO should have their own list of names 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 a bordering State if you have multi States within a District. 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. Look outside the box but within our Auxiliary Missions. Websites are normally included instead of a contact name. And remember to include your local RBS 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

NABLA 2014 National Conference will be held in Bar Harbor, Maine from October 11 to 19, 2014. If you live close or want to attend, please go the NASBLA website and register. For over 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. If you have not seen or read this magazine in the past, it is available online on the NASBLA website.

Another website with a lot of good information is National Safe Boating Council website 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.

Right along that same line of information, your BLA needs information from you as the SLO. This information is something that you can gather by AUXDATA/AUXINFO and the SO IS can assist with this along with the DSO-PE officer if needed. As SLO you probably have been providing the BLA with some numbers including:

- Number of NASBLA approved course certificates issued.
- Number of State Certified Boating Classes held.

- Number of State Approved active instructors who have taught this year.
- Number of Public Affair Events.
- Number of Vessel Safety Checks completed.
- Number of Marine Dealer Visits.
- Number of all (Marine Events, Navigation Aids and Maritime Observation) patrols.
- Number of all hours (from Marine Events, Navigation Aids and Maritime Observations).
- Number of Aviation patrols (Search and Rescue and Aviation support) missions.
- Membership Volunteer Hours from Public Affairs, RBS, Vessel Safety Checks, Marine Dealer visits, Aids to Navigation Verification, Public Education, and Marine Safety).

This is not a new request but is needed by your BLA for reporting purposes.

OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES SETTING THE COURSE

- The SLO for Massachusetts reports that the 75th Anniversary of the AUX was brought out to the public during the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade with a brand new banner designed and produced by D1.
- A boating safety partnership in North Carolina is coordinating "Life Jacket Zone" stencils painted at boat ramps across the state and in southern Virginia, along with boating safety educational events and an online life jacket photo contest.
- National Safe Boating activities were held in every state along with National Safe Boating week being written in many cities and state with too many to name.
- In Puerto Rico, On May 21 the Coast Guard Barque *EAGLE* arrived at San Juan as part of its training schedule. A local TV show character and crew boarded the *EAGLE* to record some clippings of its operations and quarters.
- SLO Michael Williams reports the Auxiliary continue to enjoy a great partnership with the State of Utah in which we have six (6) facilities, 2 PWC and 4 boats that are official facilities, discussion is underway in which a 5th facility may be added to the program. They continue to manage a \$10,000 RBS grant to Division 7 from the State of Utah to assist in meeting their boating safety mission for 2014 boating season.
- Division Chief Longnecker presented to the BLA 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. Those in attendance included:
 - Captain Drew Aydelotte, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environment Control Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement
 - Zachary Campbell, Boating Education Coordinator, Kentucky Department of Fish

and Wildlife

- Shane Carrier, Assistant Director, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Division of Law Enforcement
 - AnnMarie Cruz, Program Coordinator, Guam Police Department
 - Ramona Fernandez, Boating Law Administrator, California
 - Captain John Girvalakis, Massachusetts Environment Police
 - Randolph Henry, BLA, Oregon State Marine Board
 - Aaron Kerr, Law Enforcement Coordinator and BLA, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
 - Mike Miller, Acting Chief, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft
 - Lieutenant Marlowe Sonksen, Maine Marine Patrol
 - Tamara Terry, Recreational Boating Accident Program Manager, Ohio Department of Natural
 - Lt. Kenton Turner, BLA Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 - Kris Wahlers, Boating Safety Program Manager, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Wildlife
 - Ryan Walt, Boating and Watercraft Safety Manager, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Coordination of ATON Verification with Pennsylvania: The activities of Edward Hilscher, ADSO-NS (W) have been reviewed regarding coordination with the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) and the Auxiliary relative to the Aid Verification Program. Pennsylvania has sole State ATONS, Corps of Engineer Impoundment Aids, and Aids placed by private individuals. Private aids can only be placed upon receipt of a permit to place such an aid in a specific location in coordination with CAPT Thomas Burrell of the PFBC the issuing authority.
 - Georgia SLO George McGill says Thanks to Bruce Wright, USCG-Miami, as we were able to distribute several “If found-Contact” stickers for distribution to canoe, kayak or rowboat owners. In fact, with Bruce and our own Public Affairs ace Roy Crittenden, our RBS part of the job is much easier – thanks guys!
 - In Arizona, Commodore Michael Johnson reported Kevin Bergersen and Kim Jackson indicated the relationship between the Auxiliary and the State of Arizona was very good and valuable. Ms. Jackson indicated the AZGF was considering the possibility of having the Auxiliary operate two AZGF boats, one at Lake Havasu and the other on Central Arizona sole state lakes. She is working on setting up life jacket loaner stations at various Central Arizona lakes, and will be requesting that the Auxiliary check those stations when members are at those lakes, to see if they are well stocked, and that the jackets are serviceable.
 - In Idaho, SLO Ronnie Frits states that three operational facilities and crews assisted the Idaho BLA with the annual Idaho Sheriff’s Marine Deputy Training Academy.
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AUXBWiki

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

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

Kelly & Pauline

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