



SLO NEWSGRAM

September 2014

Greetings, State Liaison Officer!

With the end of 2014 just a few months away and in many parts of the country the boating season is drawing to a close. 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), 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? Within the National RBS Outreach Department in the Liaison Division, you will find contact information for many of these organizations if you are not sure if these agencies are in your area.

PARTNERS INFORMATION

The **NASBLA 2014 National Conference** will be held in Bar Harbor, Maine from October 15-19, 2014. If you live close by or otherwise wish to attend, please go the NASBLA website (<http://nasbla.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4325>) 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 <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org>. The information found on this site provides tips on teaching boating safety classes along with numerous other tips regarding water safety.

NATIONAL WATER SAFETY CONGRESS

This is another outstanding organization that works hand in hand with the Auxiliary. The National Water Safety Congress is committed to continuing their leadership role in advancing the promotion of education for the safety of recreational water activities throughout the United States, and internationally, by addressing water related recreational accidents and drownings throughout the nation on private and public recreational water resources. They support programs like Cold Water Boot Camp USA and Beyond Boot Camp USA Rescue, Recover and Rewarm. They also host the Water Safety Summit each year. In 2015, the Water Safety Summit will be held March 29 to April 1 in Destin, Florida. To become a member or find out more about this organization, here is the website <http://www.watersafetycongress.org>.

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 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. Work with your BLA as to what numbers they may have or need for their annual reporting.

OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES SETTING THE COURSE

- In Louisiana, SLO DC Jensen reports this past quarter the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Auxiliary participated in boat shows and hurricane preparedness events sponsored by Home Depot and other commercial concerns. Attendance at the hurricane preparedness events was heavy, and the Auxiliary distributed healthy amounts of literature and did a fair amount of recruiting.
- Michigan SLO Richard Ives reports that MICHIGAN RECEIVED GRANT FROM NOAA. An observation system that provides real-time data on the health of the Great Lakes' Coastal ecosystems, is getting a federal grant to improve its online presence.
- SLO Michael Johnson reports the Arizona Game & Fish Department has provided Division 10 with whistles, Type 4 PFDs, floating key chains, some first aid kits, and sunscreen to use as “give aways” when they talk to boaters on the water at Lake Powell.
- In Idaho, SLO Ron Fritz reported the Fall District 13 Auxiliary Training Conference will be held in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, September 19-21. The theme will be “Auxiliary in Motion” and will provide outstanding full programs on motivation and leadership for both new members and old hands.
- SLO Michael Williams reported the State of Utah has extended the \$10,000 RBS grant to Division 7 to assist in meeting their boating safety mission for 2014 boating season.
- In New Jersey, SLO Gus Formato reported with the efforts of the New Jersey BLA staff as well as the DSO-PE, they created New Jersey state specific slides. These slides were added to the ABS PowerPoint presentation, thereby eliminating the need for PE IT’s to make and distribute New Jersey Addendum handout outs for each PE class.

AUXBWiki

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

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

Pauline Longnecker, winter_dreams@msn.com.

Kelly Townsend, Director for RBS Outreach – – uscga@embarqmail.com

Pauline Longnecker, Division Chief, RBS Outreach States Division – dvc-bs@bdept.cgaux.org

bdept.cgaux.org

auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org

**Distribution: ANACO - PR
ANACO - RB
DCOs
States BC
DSO-SL
SLO**