



# SLO NEWSGRAM

*June 2015*

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

For many parts of our country the 2015 boating season is just coming upon us while other parts enjoy boating year around. Nevertheless, 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 Summer 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.

## **NASBLA HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE FOR 2015**

There have been several great informational articles sent to us from NASBLA. If you are not already linked to their website, this is a great way to keep current with that is happening in all of the states. Here is just a short list of what you can review:

- Raw video footage from a rescue of Kayakers providing lessons for all boaters
- Have you really tried on an inflatable life jacket?
- NTSB releases parasailing safety video
- US Coast Guard releases boating safety app
- 2014 Recreational Boating Statistics

As a reminder Operation Dry Water is coming upon us very rapidly June 26-28, 2015. Check with your BLA to see if they want Auxiliary to be involved with this yearly event.

## 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!

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- SLO Sopko from Ohio had a discussion ODNR about how better to inform/educate paddle craft operators in rivers such as the Cuyahoga and Maumee about the dangers posed by large commercial ships. The Division's partners such as USCGAUX can be helpful in this regard.
- Illinois SLO Chris Ware is beginning to work closer with the Power Squadron and the Chicago Yachting Association on publicity of this year's events and coming up with a poster to be used for mandatory education.
- Wisconsin SLO John VanDinter reported that with the advent of Rescue 21 coverage and the need to place an additional tower on the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago the Auxiliary has now been tasked to increase their presence on that lake.
- SLO Michael Johnson from Arizona reported that BLA Baumgarten indicated he would be relying more heavily on the Auxiliary and Power Squadron to conduct classroom based boating education classes, and it would be putting more focus on online courses. The AZGFD has experienced some difficulty getting the necessary volunteers to teach its boating courses.
- SLO Jerry Mershon from Hawaii reports that DLNR/DOBOR has provided Coastie robots for the USCG Aux to use at events and school outreach as well as trailers for transporting the four Coasties. Coastie I II III and IV and the trailers are used year around. DOBOR provides support for the Coastie robots for and maintenance above \$50. DOBOR also provides insurance coverage for all the trailers and documentation so the trailers can receive safety inspections each year.
- SLO Ronnie Fritz reports that Idaho now has a total of 68 Life Jacket Loaner Stations located around the state by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). Additional locations for additional stations have been identified for future projects.

### 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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