



SLO NEWSGRAM

October 2015

Greetings, State Liaison Officer!

With the end of 2015 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 Annual Conference was held in Wichita, Kansas in September. There was a lot of good feedback regarding SLOs who are doing their job well. There were a few comments that SLOs are not reporting what the Auxiliary is doing in their State. Those of you who are not sending in quarterly reports need to look at the job you are performing. The SLO is the heart of the RBS program and if you do not have the time or commitment to do the job right, please let your DCO know you need to be replaced. We all have several jobs in the Auxiliary and the SLO position can not just sit on the sideline when you have time. So if you do not have the time to meet with the BLA or their Staff there maybe another Auxiliarist who does have the time to work that office.

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. 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. 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

- SLO Harry Otto announced the License Agreement between the Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (5NR) has been successfully re-negotiated.
- US Virgin Islands SLO James Kreglo met with Director of Natural Resources to discuss their request Auxiliary extend program to train DNR personnel in boating safety courses starting Nov 2015
- SLO Richard Ives reported Michigan ranked third among other states for the number of registered recreational boaters.
- SLO Greg Opdahl reports that Minnesota DNR wants to better partner with the Auxiliary in the offering of and promoting of safe boating courses. The DNR may be able to have a link to our Public Education webpage.

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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