



# SLO NEWSGRAM

February 2016

*Greetings, State Liaison Officer!*

Welcome to the 2016 State Liaison Team! Whether you are a returning SLO or a new SLO, the States Program is hitting the ground full throttle! As SLO, your responsibility is to develop and expand the Auxiliary's relationship with the States along with other partners within the State. This is a very important part of the Auxiliary's Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) efforts. State Liaison Officers also need to continually work with other District Staff Officers also with their RBS missions. And if your State has multiple Districts, you will need to include both 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 add to the event. The SLO does not work alone, but networks with many other Auxiliarists and external partners. 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 your program with our volunteers and assist reducing your cost?" 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 any programs success. Your quarterly status reports assist your District(s) with state and local assets as real force multipliers.

## **NATIONAL BRANCH CHIEF PACIFIC WEST APPOINTED**

It is an honor to announce the appointment of Michael C. Johnson as the Branch Chief for Pacific West. Commodore Johnson brings over 20 years of Auxiliary experience which includes a USCG Captain's License on Lake Powell, several years as DSO and SLO along with many other DSO, SO and FSO positions. In his private life, he holds a Juris Doctor, Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science with a major in Marketing. Commodore Johnson's responsibilities will include Districts 11, 13, 14 and 17. He replaces Gail Ramsey who passed August of 2015. His email is [comojohnson@gmail.com](mailto:comojohnson@gmail.com).

Other National Branch Chiefs for the States Division will continue to serve in 2016.

Peter Boehler, [pab615@aol.com](mailto:pab615@aol.com), Area of Responsibility Districts 1 and 5

Mary Larsen, [mtlarsen@bellsouth.net](mailto:mtlarsen@bellsouth.net), Area of Responsibility Districts 7, 8CR and 8E

Pauline Longnecker, [winter\\_dreams@msn.com](mailto:winter_dreams@msn.com), Area of Responsibility Districts 8WR and 9

## **RBS SPECIALIST FOR 2016**

While the staff of the Coast Guard headquarters' Boating Safety Division function is at a strategic level, RBS Specialists work at the operational level to facilitate mission execution with a variety of stakeholders outside the Coast Guard. In fact, the majority of work related to the district-level RBS program is externally focused.

Here is a list of RBS Specialists.

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

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

Bruce Wright, District 7, [Bruce.R.Wright@uscg.mil](mailto:Bruce.R.Wright@uscg.mil)

Edward Huntsman, District 8, [Edward.L.Huntsman@uscg.mil](mailto:Edward.L.Huntsman@uscg.mil)

Michael Baron, District 9, [Michael.j.Baron@uscg.mil](mailto:Michael.j.Baron@uscg.mil).

Paul Newman, District 11, [Paul.L.Newman@uscg.mil](mailto:Paul.L.Newman@uscg.mil)

Dan Shipman, District 13, [Daniel.E.Shipman@uscg.mil](mailto:Daniel.E.Shipman@uscg.mil)

Kent Richards, District, 14, [Ivan.K.Richards@uscg.mil](mailto:Ivan.K.Richards@uscg.mil)

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

Here is a link for you to read about what the RBS Specialist responsibilities are along with information regarding each District. [http://www.uscg.mil/proceedings/articles/55\\_Jennings\\_Wright.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/proceedings/articles/55_Jennings_Wright.pdf)

## **STATE RESOURCES INFORMATION JUST A CLICK AWAY**

Whether you are a returning SLO or the newly appointed SLO, you should be familiar with the RBS Website: <http://bdept.cgaux.org/wp/> and what the States Division has available to you. Also on the RBS website there is a lot more available to you and it is just a click away - the RBS Affairs Liaison Division. Richard Risk is the Division Chief for RBS Affairs Liaison Division. The Liaison Division works with and supports partnerships in performing our RBS Missions. These partners are an extremely essential part of our day-to-day missions and should be a resource for you when promoting the RBS message in your state. Did you know the Auxiliary has National Branch Chiefs for Boat US, the Army Corp of Engineers, the Boys Scouts of America, and the American Canoe Association? They are part of the same RBS Outreach Directorate that includes the States Program. If your state needs help setting up a paddleboat safety program, you are just a click away from getting help. Check out the RBS website on a regular basis.

## **SLO TAKING THE HELM WITH A NEW BLA**

Whether you are a first time appointed SLO or even a seasoned SLO when you have a newly appointed Boating Law Administrator or Education Coordinator for your State, what do you do? The new BLA is as buried as anyone on a new job and may not even know about the Auxiliary. Each State does have its own unique characteristics. Your State may have more state lakes instead of rivers or snow for several months. As the Coordinator for RBS Missions with the State, gather information from the past couple of years including success stories and highlight any improvement over the years. This number of students and kind of classes can be gathered by working with your DSO IS officer and/or the past SLO. Be ready to provide information about the Auxiliary's various programs like VE, PE, PA and OP and how your role assists the State. Be sure to **LISTEN** to the BLA. Ask the BLA what their expectations are. Then send a follow up email highlighting what you discussed a couple of days after you met. Be sure to contact the BLA by phone or email to see how the Auxiliary can incorporate the BLA's expectations and the RBS missions. This is when you have an opportunity to work with your SO PEs to focus on increasing public education classes and implementing other requests that may include PA and OP. Keep in touch with the BLA and keep your DCO informed about the progress you are making. It doesn't always go fast you are constantly returning phone calls or emails. If this happens for several weeks, let your Branch Chief know and Division Chief know, and they may be able assist with getting the communication going,

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT 2015 SIGNED**

Congress passed highway bill, reauthorizes Sportfish fund LEXINGTON, Kentucky (December 8, 2015) – NASBLA is happy to report that on Dec. 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law the five-year, \$305 billion Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015. The act includes reauthorization language for the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (SFRBTF). With enactment of this new law, the Trust Fund is funded for the next five years. NASBLA, in collaboration with the Angling and Boating Alliance, has been actively involved in the development and negotiation of the trust fund reauthorization "package" for nearly a decade, working to provide greater parity with the Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) side of the trust fund, as well as securing continued stable Federal

funding for our state Recreational Boating Safety Programs including administrative funding support for our U.S. Coast Guard partners.

Although the SFRBTF is a relatively small component of the behemoth national transportation bill, the consequences are hugely important for our member-state programs, to NASBLA's national, nonprofit research and training grants, and to the initiatives and collaborative efforts of hundreds of agency and NGO partners throughout the RBS community. Here are a few key policy and funding outcomes resulting from this legislation:

NASBLA and the ABA were successful in reconfiguring the trust fund allocations to permit the RBS program "set-asides" and USCG administrative funds to be taken "off the top" of the trust fund in an effort to provide parity with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's administrative costs.

NASBLA, the USCG and the RBS community will benefit from a new provision allowing the USCG to set aside \$1.5M annually for periodic iterations of the National Boating Survey exclusive of any other USCG program areas - and importantly - exclusively of the national nonprofit public service organization grant program (5% Nonprofit Grants Program).

Based on current financial forecasts, reauthorization of the SFRBTF will result in approximately \$625M in total trust fund receipts, with a net available for distribution to the RBS program (after administration and program set asides taken off the top) totaling approximately \$105M. Of that amount, roughly \$100M (\$99,526,565) will be available to the states for allocation in FY16, along with roughly \$5M (\$5.24M) for the 5% nonprofit grant program.

The amount set aside for the USCG-led Manufacturer's Compliance Program was increased from \$2M to \$2.1M annually. 4% of the trust fund will be allocated toward the COMBINED CVA (pump-out program) and BIG (boating infrastructure grants) programs. Previously the two programs were funded at 2% of the trust fund each and this slight modification allows states the ability to spend a little more or less (than 2%) on the two respective programs as long as neither program exceeds 75% of the total allocated for the two programs.

The Executive Board expresses its deep appreciation to the Angling and Boating Alliance for its leadership, commitment and persistence in seeing this reauthorization initiative through to a successful completion. The ABA represents a dynamic and diverse community of trust fund stakeholders and we appreciate the stewardship and unity the Alliance has displayed in searching and advocating for better policies and a more equitable and effective distribution of the trust fund resources.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SLO PROGRAM**

In the Fall *RBS Job #1* there is an article regarding the SLO program. It presents a concise overview of the State Liaison Program and our SLO responsibilities. The entire publication can be viewed at: [http://bdept.cgaux.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/RBS-Job-1-2015\\_Vol-1-4c-Linked.pdf](http://bdept.cgaux.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/RBS-Job-1-2015_Vol-1-4c-Linked.pdf).

Among our other success:

- Arkansas SLO Strobel reports that the first Life Jacket Loaner Station was installed.
- District of Columbia Wells reports they have posted signs at area marinas in English and Spanish denoting "Life Jacket Zone".

## **AUXBWiki**

Don't forget to use "AuxBDeptWiki Wiki" at <http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org>. There is a lot of good information to read.

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

Stephen & Pauline

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