



SLO Newsgram

GREETINGS, STATE LIAISON OFFICERS!

The second quarter of 2017 is upon us and we are rapidly approaching the busy time of the boating season. Some areas of the country are fortunate to boat year round.

As your state's liaison officer (SLO), you have been working with your boating law administrators or their staffs and your district public education and public affairs officers on such spring activities as boat shows, public education classes, and other RBS missions.

Remember to partner with other agencies in your area if possible—they are *your* "force multipliers." Which agencies can become your actual or potential RBS partners or who might be your best contact at those partner organizations can vary among states and parts of the country, but your DSOs and BCs can assist you in identifying them and making the contact in your state.

The SLO does not work alone, but networks with many other Auxiliarists and external partners. As 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 [United States Power Squadrons®](#) (USPS) is a close partner with the Auxiliary. They are active in most states and already may be working with the boating law administrator. They are just one of our established external partners. By teaming up with your USPS counterpart, you can both improve your reach and effectiveness. (Contact [Dave Fuller](#), liaison to the USPS, BC-BLO, for the name and contact information of your USPS counterpart.)

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 state boating agency (e.g. Department of Natural Resources) or local marina, the SLO should be working with the DSO-PA and PE to see how the Auxiliary can assist or add to the event.

What response do you get when you ask the boating law administrator or the education program coordinator, "What can we do to help your program succeed?" Most of all, keep others in the loop. Whether you work with the state's education coordinator or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 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 program's success. Your quarterly status reports assist your district (s) with state and local assets as real "force multipliers."

NASBLA AND OTHER PARTNERS

Most of us receive information from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) on a regular basis. However, if you take a minute to look at their [website](#), you can find a nearly endless stream of information from Dry Water Operations, to each state's education requirements, to life jacket

wear age requirements. In the past month, they have added information regarding global warming, new marketing materials, and announced the approval of electronic charts. Whenever you want to know what is happening, click on the NASBLA lighthouse and you will find some interesting information.

Along the same line, if you go to the [Coast Guard's website](#) you can select down to your District and keep up to date with activities that have happened or are happening with the active duty side. You will also find lessons learned on most of the district's websites. And there is abundant information that you can include in your newsletters and introduce to your public education classes.

The [National Safe Boating Council](#) is another great resource for state liaison officers to gather information while working with the BLAs or their staff who are already very familiar with this organization.

These are just a few of our many partners who have information that we can use to help us work with our partners and reach the boating public.

PLAN AHEAD FOR 2018 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

The annual READY—SET—WEAR—IT! National Safe Boating Week 2017 has come and gone. But, it's not too early to start planning for next year's events in May—the week before Memorial Day.

What in the world is this? The idea is to get a group of people together, wearing either conventional life jackets or inflatable life jackets and pull the rip cord on those inflatables. POP, they inflate, and your photographer snaps a picture. Obviously, the more people, the more fun. It's as simple as that. But wait, there's more!!

Go to the National Safe Boating Council's [web page](#) and learn this year's events by clicking on the "about" tab. This will give you the background on how the event started and what it is all about. Click on "resources" and you'll get checklists and tips on how to hold an event. (Also, check out NSBW's history in the May-June 2017 issue of [RBS Job One](#), page 4.)

It's really quite simple to submit a proclamation for signature by your state or local officials. But, this needs some lead time. Sample proclamations can be found at the following websites: [National Safe Boating Week Resources](#) and [B-Directorate's website](#). Then go for the "Kodak moment" with your boating law administrator and members of your division leadership standing beside you and your governor or mayors as they signed your NSBW proclamation.

CHECK OUT THE AUXBWiki

Don't forget to check out the [B-Directorate wiki](#) page. It contains a lot of valuable information.

OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES SETTING THE COURSE

There are so many positive activities taking place in the SLO program. Each area has some outstanding programs being developed along with new partnerships being built.

- SLO Thomas Morrissey reports that activities in New Jersey continue to run smoothly. This is the third anniversary year for state instructor certification renewals. Already, they have processed over 70 renewal applications for state instructors.

- In Pennsylvania, SLO Richard Raudabaugh reports continuing boating safety course enrollment continues to decrease. As in the last several years, they are seeing a continual and gradual decrease in PE students and classes due to the promotion of online alternatives to meet the state's mandatory legal education requirements. They are increasing efforts to educate paddlecraft users as the number of accidents and fatalities continue to rise.

- In Vermont, SLO Jean Miguel Bariteau reports that Rear Admiral Steven D. Poulin, commander, 1st District, visited USCG Station Burlington, Vt., on Feb. 17, participating in ice rescue training. Several Auxiliarists participated and met with him.

- Past NACO Ev Tucker stated paddlecraft safety was the USCG Sector Hampton Roads (Va.) Safety and Security Subcommittee's major agenda item, based on the continued growth of paddlecraft along with the increased number of fatalities. Another matter now being studied by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is the concern regarding wake surfing due to resulting shoreline erosion and increased vessel wakes striking docks, boat houses, and moored vessels. There are some recommendations from several Virginia lake committees and county jurisdictions to increase the current 50-foot standoff distance from the shore.

- Indiana SLO Ted Herring reports that, during the Indiana Boat Sport and Travel Show, the Auxiliary and Indiana Department of Natural Resources had adjoining booths in an area known as "Tackle Town." They found this arrangement worked very well, as people could ask questions pertaining to boating laws and get information about Auxiliary activities. The other

benefit was that conservation officers and Auxiliary personnel had a chance to get together and talk.

- U.S. Virgin Islands SLO James Kreglo is working to develop a better relationship with the Marine Safety Detachment to set up procedures to contact Auxiliary coxswains with requests to transport MSD personnel on the water for accidents or spills. Division 16 members attended two operations meetings at Air Station Borinquen and Sector San Juan this quarter. They participated in planning sessions with the commanding officers and other operational personnel from both stations. Division 16 members participated in maritime observation missions (MOMs), logistics, and search and rescue (SAR) patrols. The most recent patrol was a SAR patrol to Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands.

- SLO Pam Chaffee for Kansas reports that the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, invited Division 31 to participate in the Week of Heroes event in Wichita in March, and to assist with several of the annual combination classroom and on-the-water courses for Ft. Riley staff and family, on two week-nights in April and the following Saturday, at Ft. Riley and Milford Lake, respectively.

- Idaho SLO Ron Fritz attended the Idaho Marine Advisory Council meeting in Boise on Jan. 24-25 and gave a briefing on the Auxiliary. This meeting was attended by over 50 statewide marine law enforcement personnel, the state boating law administrator and his staff, two District 13 USCG officers and the RBS specialist. This group meets every other year to share boating program information and to coordinate the state RBS program and planned activities.

- COMO Mike Williams reports on joint state-Auxiliary RBS cooperative efforts regarding the assignment of state-owned and Auxiliary borrowed facilities, including initial assignment to Legacy State Parks, Bear Lake, Jordanelle, Deer Creek, and Utah Lake. National Safe Boating Week activities focused on VSCs at Jordanelle and Utah Lake. They received a support request from the manager of Jordanelle State Park for 14 surface patrols and VSC stations.

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by Pauline Longnecker

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The *SLO Newsgram* originates in the Districts Liaison Division. Its primary purpose is to report the activities of state liaison officers (SLOs), who are appointed by the district commodores (DCOs), and disseminate information important to the SLOs in the performance of their assignments. It is also a means of sharing best practices among a wider readership. *SLO Newsgram* is published quarterly reporting on the previous three months. Contact: Pauline G. Longnecker, winter_dreams@msn.com.

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