



SLO Newsgram

GREETINGS, STATE LIAISON OFFICERS!

Welcome to the 2017 State Liaison Team! Whether you are a returning state liaison officer (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. SLOs also need to work continually with other district staff officers to advance 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 state's natural resources department or marina, the SLO should work with the DSO-PA and DSO-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 coordinator of state agencies, "What can we do to help your program with our volunteers and assist in reducing your cost?"

Most of all, keep others in the loop. If you work with the education coordinator for the state or the U.S. Army 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 program's 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 Ron Fritz as the branch chief for Pacific West (BC-BDP). During his more than 43 years as a member of the Auxiliary, he has attained AUXOP status, and has held numerous elected positions including district captain and president of the Past Captains' Association. He currently serves as the area QE coordinator.

He is not new to the States Program since he has held District 13 staff officer state liaison position for several years, along with the state liaison position for Idaho. He has done remarkable work in District 13 with partnerships. His responsibilities include Districts 11, 13, 14 and 17. His email address is: captron63@cablone.net.

Other National Staff branch chiefs for the States Division will continue to serve in 2017:

- Peter Boehler, pab615@aol.com, Districts 1 and 5
- Mary Larsen, mtlarsen@bellsouth.net, Districts: 7, 8CR and 8E
- Pauline Longnecker, winter_dreams@msn.com, Districts 8WR and 9

NATIONAL BRANCH CHIEF STATE BOATING LAW

ADMINISTRATOR SUPPORT JOINS DISTRICT TEAM

COMO Thomas Venezio is a past deputy national commodore and his responsibilities include monitoring upcoming course offerings by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) that might benefit from U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary support along with identifying local Auxiliary re-

sources and connecting them to the partner organization's point of contact. These are just a few of his duties and assigned tasks. COMO Venezio transferred to the team and will continue to bring insight and assistance to the directorate.

RBS SPECIALISTS FOR 2017

While the staff of the Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division functions 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 current list of RBS specialists.

- Walt Taylor, District 1, Walter.H.Taylor@uscg.mil
- Dennis Sens, District 5, Dennis.M.Sens@uscg.mil
- Bruce Wright, District 7, Bruce.R.Wright@uscg.mil
- Edward Huntsman, District 8, Edward.L.Huntsman@uscg.mil
- Michael Baron, District 9, Michael.j.Baron@uscg.mil
- Paul Newman, District 11, Paul.L.Newman@uscg.mil
- Dan Shipman, District 13, Daniel.E.Shipman@uscg.mil
- Kent Richards, District, 14, Ivan.K.Richards@uscg.mil
- Michael Folkerts, District 17, Michael.R.Folkerts@uscg.mil

To learn more about the role of the RBS specialists, take a look at this article in the Fall 2010 issue of *Proceedings*:

<http://uscgproceedings.epubxp.com/i/85784-fal-2010/54>

STATE RESOURCES INFORMATION JUST A CLICK AWAY

Whether you are a returning SLO or newly-appointed SLO, you should be familiar with the RBS website,

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=B-DEPT>,

and what the Districts Liaison Division has available to you. There is a lot more available to you on the RBS website, and it is just a click away — the RBS Outreach Liaison Division. Nan Ellen Fuller is the division chief (DVC-BL). The division works with and supports partnerships in performing our RBS missions. These partners are an 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 Staff branch chiefs responsible for outreach to the BoatUS Foundation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Boy Scouts of America? They are part of the same RBS Outreach Directorate that includes the Districts Liaison Program. If your state needs help setting up a Youth Partners program, you are just a click away from getting help. Check out the RBS website on a regular basis.

PADDLECRAFT SAFETY DIVISION (DP)

Within the RBS Outreach Directorate, there is a newly created division — Paddlecraft Safety — with Donald Goff as the division chief. There are three branch chief positions that will focus on paddlecraft safety, which is a high priority in the Auxiliary Strategic Plan. Division Chief Goff and his team should be a tremendous asset as districts and the states develop paddlecraft safety

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information along with material for the public affairs booths that will be happening this spring. Future information can be found on the RBS Outreach Directorate website.

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 in a new job and may not even know about the Auxiliary.

Each state has its own unique characteristics. Your state may have more 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. For example, the number of students and kind of classes can be gathered by working with your DSO-IS 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. A couple of days later, send a follow-up email highlighting what you discussed. 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 and division chief know, and they may be able assist with getting the communication going.

AUXBWiki

Don't forget to check out the Directorate-B Wiki page at <http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org>. It contains a lot of valuable information.

OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES SETTING THE COURSE

■ SLO Greg Opdahl reports that Minnesota DNR is discussing partnering with some non-profits to provide loaner life jackets. The BLA mentioned that this would be at some state parks and public boat ramps.

■ Carroll Vogel, SLO for Missouri, reported a flotilla is working with the National Park Service in the Ozark National Scenic Waterway regarding RBS missions.

■ SLO John Van Dinter has been working with Division 45 for Sector Lake Michigan on revamping the procedures for operating on sole state waters. This includes formalizing procedures that were used for years but had not been well documented and improving radio communications by installing a shore-based marine radio for operations and position checks and non-emergency search and rescue. The finishing touches are being put on the written documents and the station was scheduled for installation on December 18. The space is being donated by the Dane County Sheriff's Office at the marine patrol's office on Lake Mendota.

■ SLO Mark Parmelee for Alaska reported that a memorandum of agreement between the Coast Guard, Auxiliary and the Office of Boating Safety specifies that the SLO organize an annual meeting for the parties to work together. Last year's meeting was held December 2, just prior to an Auxiliary leadership training event in Anchorage. Two of the Coast Guard participants flew in early to be able to attend this meeting with boating law administrators prior to the leadership training getting underway.

■ SLO Ronnie Fritz states that 13 new life jacket loaner stations were installed throughout the state by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, bringing the total to 95 stations in statewide. Additional stations are planned for 2017. Auxiliarists continue to assist the state and local agencies with maintaining vigilance on these stations.

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NATIONAL CHAIN OF LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

COMO Richard A. Washburn, National Commodore (NACO)
COMO Larry L. King, National Vice Commodore (VNACO)
COMO Edward M. Monaco, Deputy National Commodore for Recreational Boating Safety (DNACO-RBS)
COMO Robert T. Shafer, Assistant National Commodore for Recreational Boating Safety (ANACO-RB)
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=RB-GROUP>
Richard B. Risk, Director, Recreational Boating Safety Outreach (DIR-B)
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=B-DEPT>

DISTRICTS LIAISON DIVISION

Pauline G. Longnecker, Division Chief, Districts Liaison (DVC-BD)
Peter A. Bohler, Branch Chief, Atlantic North Region (BC-BDA)
Pauline G. Longnecker, Branch Chief, Atlantic West Region (BC-BDW)
Ronnie E. Fritz, Branch Chief, Pacific Region (BC-BDP)
COMO Mary T. Larsen, Branch Chief, Atlantic South Region (BC-BDS)
COMO Thomas A. Venezia, Branch Chief, State Boating Law Administrator Support (BC-BDT)

EDITORIAL STAFF

Richard B. Risk, Publisher (DIR-B)
Alexander S. Gulde, Editor (BA-BREW)
Brian Yip, Donald G. Lindberg

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 Longnecker, winter_dreams@msn.com.

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