

USPS Educational Fund - Report to USPS Governing Board

Sat, 4 Sept 2010 – Hyatt Regency, Bellevue, WA

Thank you, Chief. Chief, Bridge, Past Chiefs, USPS Members, and Honored Guests:

- First, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Trustees of the USPS Educational Fund.

I have a few points to cover today:

First:

- The USPS Educational Fund continues to do well and provide the income to support new grants. As of 31 July 2010, the endowment fund and cash balances stood at over 2½ million dollars, not too different from our peak a short time ago.
- Total contributions received in 2010 thru 31 July were over \$25,800. This includes receipts from 108 individuals directly to our Administrative Assistant Barb Spraggins in addition to those received from the Headquarters Anniversary Billing, and we express our sincere appreciation to all of you for your contributions.
- As you know, all of these contributions go 100% into the Endowment Fund. Income earned from that fund is used to underwrite grants.
- You may continue to review summary financial data that is posted on our USPS Educational Fund website.

...and that brings me to the second point.

Point #2:

- The Educational Fund website has been greatly expanded. It now contains agendas of upcoming meetings with minutes being posted shortly after those meetings. Learn about the process for obtaining a grant, forms for applying for a grant, recent grants, and expense voucher forms to use for reimbursement for approved grant expenses. We now have an Honor Role included on our web site that lists those squadrons and districts that have achieved honor role status in 2008, 2009, and 2010 and provides a total of the number of times each has been on the honor role.

And:

- For my third point, I would like to provide you with a very brief background to illustrate just how significant the contributions of grants in recent years from the Educational Fund have been to USPS via the Educational Department. From its origin in 2006 USPS University gradually evolved and a new concept in Boat Operator Certification was added and with specialized training by US Sailing including on-the-water skills provided to a core group of 24 members who then trained additional members. All of this training was funded thru grants provided by the Educational Fund. A recent grant also supported the development and beta sessions of on the water navigation training and skills demonstration for the second level of Coastal Navigator.

As part of the original strategy, we sought to form alliances with other organizations and greatly increase the USPS presence in the overall boating community. We also sought to develop alliances with companies developing equipment for which USPS could provide training, and with boat manufacturers who could help support our training role through dealers to boating community. The financing of expenses for these meetings and our attendance at associated events was provided by the Ed Fund. The strategy was to extend to other means of outreach including on-line learning, greater hands-on training, boating events, and expanded use of the internet. The Ed Fund has supported the expenses associated with this outreach, funded the update of the USPS internet presence for America's Boating Course, and funded development of animations and video to support internet courses.

Just this year, the Educational Fund provided a grant for the purchase of a laser fire extinguisher training system that evolved into the awarding of a Coast Guard grant to procure another system and provide hands-on training at boating events across the country. The initial system purchased with Ed Fund support has been used non-stop by five districts, at USPS events, at IBWSS, and at the 100th Anniversary Boy Scout Jamboree.

Today, individuals have been selected from those who successfully completed a number of USPS courses during the past educational year, and those individuals were awarded marine products paid for via a grant from the Educational Fund.

Expanding outreach to new venues, the Ed Fund has supported planning for a full accredited course at Broward College which instructs marine engineering management as an associate degree program. It has also supported classroom training to Broward High School Marine Magnet program which serves as a feeder institution for Broward College.

Two days ago, the Trustees approved two additional grants totaling \$39,000 to continue the USPS course stimulus program for one additional year, and to revise the ABC3 internet course to meet new NASBLA standards that will enable our course to continue to be one of the approved on-line courses.

I have highlighted with just a few examples how the Educational Fund is supporting USPS – and that brings me to the final point.

- The only way the USPS Educational Fund can continue to underwrite vital programs such as these is through your continuing support. Perhaps, when you are reviewing our web site, you just might click on the button that says “Donate On-Line Now” and follow thru with a contribution that will continue to help USPS.

Chief, this concludes my report. Thank you for the time.