



GPRCom Legislative Leadership Initiative

A proactive opportunity to influence opinion and policy

Headline note: With the approval by the Board of Directors of new policy facilitating legislative lobbying, Government and Partner Relations Committee (GPRCom) is seeking your help in delivering our policy messages to local legislators, promoting boating safety and education. GPRCom provides training, orientation and messaging. We need you to be the presenter. This is your opportunity to meet with your legislator and be an advocate for USPS and our Board Approved Policies—Mandatory Boater Education, Wearing Life Jackets, Environmental Best Management Practices, etc. Members interested in serving as the “eyes and ears” of USPS and becoming spokespersons for USPS Policies should contact Stf/C Greg Korstad at gkorstad@comcast.net or (612) 867-7040.

Details: GPRCom is charged with executing the governmental relations function of USPS and is now expanding that function to include proactive government relations and lobbying activities. More than monitoring the goings on at the legislature and reacting to legislation, a proactive approach allows USPS to be involved in legislative initiatives early on.

As a non-profit organization USPS limited in what it can do with respect to lobbying and political activity, but importantly we are not prohibited from policy advocacy. The Board of Directors recognizes this in developing the USPS Policy on Lobbying (Policy Appendix G-10 in the Operations Manual). We are able to lobby policy issues. It is an important complement to our education and safety promotion mission to encourage policy makers to adopt our policies as their priorities.

The way this will work is to have local members meet with legislators periodically to communicate our priorities and volunteer to be a resource on boating issues. GPRCom will help members identify key legislators with which to meet. GPRCom will provide talking points on policy issues and other support.

In addition, GPRCom seeks volunteers to aid in developing policy recommendations relating to the improvement of recreational boating generally as well as boater education and boating safety with a view to presenting those positions to the Board for consideration of adopting position statements. This task would include evaluating identified issues for benefits to the interests of USPS members and the boating public.

There is no prerequisite skill set required for participation in this program, other than an interest and willingness to serve. Training and help will be provided as needed.

Thanks for your consideration.

R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN
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