

Government and Partner Relations Committee

1300 Thursday, 15 September 2011

Call to order by R/C Richard Gercak, AP

Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance

P/D/C Robert E. Canfield, JN	P/R/C Priscilla B. Clarke, AP	P/R/C Lewis Dance, SN
R/C Richard Gercak, AP	D/Lt/C Dawn Flynn, JN	N/FI/Lt Robert D. Holub, SN
P/R/C William E. Husted, SN	P/N/FI/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN	D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, N
P/C/C G. Leslie L. Johnson, SN	R/C Gregory Korstad, AP	Stf/C Howard Manly, AP
Stf/C Lawrence Rathbun, SN	P/C Devohn Rhame, AP	P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP
P/D/C Richard N. Spurr, SN	D/Lt Dana Tischer, P	P/R/C Gene R. Van Rhee, SN

Guests: P/R/C Ken Link, SN

Mary Larsen – USCG Auxiliary, America’s Waterway Watch
Tom Mallison, USCG Auxiliary
Mary Paige Abbott, D22, Cyber Squadron
Tom Kemp, USPS Headquarters
Jim Lichty, Anclote Key Power Squadron, D22

Approval of Bellevue Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 2010 Bellevue meeting were approved as presented.

Lobbying Policy Implementation

P/C/C Leslie Johnson reported that the format approved by the Board of Directors is working out well. This is a more efficient process. A lot more guidance is occurring. Ray Tsuneyoshi has a lot of resources and is very well respected in the United States.

Website

Tom Kemp raised the question: Why isn’t USPS on the state boating education websites? He make a request of this Committee to get USPS on these sites, especially the ABC3, NASBLA certified course, with the notation that proctored exams are given. He made the suggestion that the Committee should work with USCG Auxiliary to get both organizations’ classes on these websites with links.

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)

P/R/C David Daniels is no longer reviewing and updating the MOUs. R/C Greg Korstad stated that the Law Committee will help, especially with the State MOUs. It was noted that the Educational Department is responsible for review of the State MOUs and keeping those current. Once negotiated, the MOU moves to appropriate Department personnel for maintenance.

100th Anniversary

A special committee has been established to plan the 100th Anniversary activities. R/C Dick Gercak and D/C Mary Ann Jensen are the Committee’s representatives on this committee. The committee is asking for suggestions of what our partners can do to help. P/R/C Joyce Shaw and P/R/C Bill Husted agreed to submit suggestions.

Grants and External Funding

Stf/C Larry Rathbun stated that grants and external funding no longer belong with this committee. National Grant applications and oversight will be handled directly by the Board of Directors.

Homeland Security/Citizen Corps/ FEMA

P/R/C Bill Husted reported that the Homeland Security team is focusing on America's Waterway Watch (AWW) and Homeland Security. His full report is attached to these minutes.

D/Lt Dana Tischer gave a power point presentation on "USPS Aligned with State Homeland Security Offices".

Liaison

P/Stf/C Sellenraad's report is attached to these minutes.

State Legislative

The report from Region C is attached to these minutes.

Stf/C Howard Manly reported that 9 states have virtually no boating education laws and 16 are without Boating Education laws for all ages. Randy White has compiled a list of states with Boating Advisory Boards (attached). These Boards include people from all walks of life. They draft legislation, that goes to a legislative aide for review, then on to the legislature. It was noted that Illinois has entered recognition of USPS classes in state legislation. Therefore, no MOU is needed.

It was noted that Kentucky annotates the drivers license to show if the person has passed boating course. Alabama does same. P/D/C Robert Canfield asked if this is this licensing instead of education.

USPS Official Position on Mandatory Life Jacket Wearing

Stf/C Howard Manly stated that this position statement is in support of the National Boating Safety's Advisory Resolution. Position statement is attached to these minutes.

America's Waterway Watch (AWW)

Mary Larson, USCG Auxiliary, provided updates on AWW. There is now an enhanced AWW that includes a citizens action network. This network is provided with training, notified of specific boat(s) to watch for and who to notify if that boat is spotted.

Discussion of USCG Auxiliary – USPS MOU Implementation Plan (attached)

USCG Auxiliary incoming Commodore Thomas Mallison stated that both the Auxiliary and USPS are trying to breath some life into the MOUs. The organizations are on the same side, not at 'cross purposes. Both have endorsed this implementation plan. The personal security investigation implemented by the USCG after 9/11 caused the loss about 20% of Auxiliary membership. That means less hours spent in the public education area and a lot more time spent in the safety area. Both the Auxiliary and USPS want to strengthen partnerships and have greater cooperation between the organizations. He noted that the Auxiliary has set up a study group/committee to research education needs; i.e., what the public wants, needs, will accept. They will share the results with USPS.

Committee Remarks

R/C Greg Korstad stated this committee should work with environment committee on invasive species legislation.

There should be a policy statement on Boating Education vs. Licensing (e.g., Kentucky and Alabama). Someone should look very carefully at where these converge.

It was noted that, if an individual owns the Atlas brand of fire protection, it may not work properly.

Recess 1520

RECONVENE 0805 Friday, 16 September 2011

Call to order by Stf/C Howard Manly, AP and Stf/C Lawrence Rathbun, SN

Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance

P/D/C Robert Canfield, JN	P/R/C Lewis Dance, SN	D/Lt/C Dawn Flynn, JN
R/C William E. Husted, SN	Stf/C Howard Manly, AP	P/D/C Patrick A Pabouet, P
Stf/C Lawrence Rathbun, SN	P/C Devohn Rhame, AP	P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP
P/D/C Richard N. Spurr, SN	D/Lt Dana Tischer, P	

Guests: John Miller, D/17, Huntsville Sail and Power Squadron
P/R/C Kenneth Link, SN
Linton Arbaugh, D/21, Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron
Cdr. Vincent Cooley, D/9, Detroit Power Squadron
Raynor Tsuneyoshi, USPS Headquarters, National Program Director

Scheduled Remarks/Presentations by Special Guests

Raynor Tsuneyoshi, USPS Headquarters, National Program Director, talked about the importance of working with the State Boating Law Administrators. There was a lot of discussion. P/R/C Joyce Shaw suggested that we invite them to speak at District Conferences.

P/R/C Bill Husted talked about the Boat Operators Certification (BOC) program. The USCG Auxiliary is very interested in this program. The Auxiliary cannot offer it because of liability issues. This is another instance where cooperation between the two organizations is important.

P/R/C Joyce Shaw presented information on the **National Safe Boating Council (NSBC)**. The “Wear It” Campaign has continued to expand with new partnerships and opportunities. Her report to the Governing Board lists these new partnerships. NSBC received two awards this year for the “Wear It!” Campaign. The “Best Non-Profit Social Media Campaign” Internet Advertising Competition (IAC) award was presented to NSBC by the Web Marketing Association (WMA). The winning entry was the 2010 Life Jacket “Safety Dance” Interactive Campaign, designed to spread the important message of life jacket safety and awareness.

Among the many benefits and opportunities NSBC offers to its member organizations, the Council partners with member organizations to offer an annual award and a grant. These opportunities recognize individuals and organizational partners in the boating community that create innovative programs designed to improve boating education and raise awareness of recreational boating safety-related issues. Unfortunately, the 2012 budget for these worthy projects has been cut by about 1/3. P/R/C Shaw noted that squadrons can apply for these funds.

Morning Review/Concluding Remarks – General comments were invited from the members present.

Adjourn 1115

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Homeland Security Team Report
Government and Partner Relations Committee
Governing Board – Greensboro, North Carolina
Thursday, 15 September 2011
P/R/C William E. Husted, SN, Team Leader

The Homeland Security team continues its involvement in the following ongoing activities:

- ▶ Focus on the team's two priority objectives: 1) coordinate Citizen Corps activities with all USPS members, and 2) support the USCG and USCGAux in promoting "America's Waterway Watch."
- ▶ Distribute FEMA Alerts and Citizen Corps news to all D/HS/Os, D/L/Os, D/Cs, D/XOs and HS team members
- ▶ Provide GPRCom/USPS contacts within the 10 FEMA regions in a widespread effort coordinated by new HS team member, Dana Tischer
- ▶ Coordinate AWW news and activities with Mary Larsen, the primary USCGAux contact for this program.

In the months ahead, the following activities will be priorities for the HS team:

- ▶ Search for and implement mutual areas of cooperation with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in concert with the new USPS-USCGAux memorandum of understanding
- ▶ Finalize contact familiarization between USPS and USCG Sector leaders
- ▶ Match up USPS liaisons with counterparts in the USCG districts.
- ▶ Initiate HS/AWW-concentrated seminar for presentations to yacht clubs, boating organizations, civic groups, and other interested parties.

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LIAISON REPORT
October, 2011

Since Liaison and Homeland Security overlap to some extent, Bill Husted has forwarded FEMA communications to all District Cdrs, XOs, HS and Liaison Officers. This year, there are 22 D/L/Os, but seven of those combine Liaison and Homeland Security. Eleven districts do not have a D/L/O. Twenty five districts have appointed a Homeland Security Officer.

It is interesting to note that the general Liaison concept, as explained in "Liaison Guidelines," is not widely understood or adhered to. My attempts to remedy this situation over the last years have not been very successful, as far as I know. What did evolve is a narrower focus on specific Liaison activities. For instance, many districts have:

- A designated Point Of Contact with USCG Sectors. Ten, by last count.
- USPS members appointed to work with CG or CGAUX officers.
- Joint Vessel Safety Examinations with USCGAUX.
- Joint activities with U.S. Agencies (Immigration & Border Patrol, etc.)
- USPS members serving on Harbor Commissions or similar groups.

Some Examples are:

- D/5 - A joint USPS/CGAUX vessel examination effort in Annapolis, MD as start of National Safe Boating Week on 21 May.
- D/22 - During the Fall Conference, a joint Liaison/Homeland Security Round Table discussion will be held. This is the first time. Sanibel/Captiva squadrons have organized a Squadron Emergency Response Assistance Team (SERAT) to assist local law enforcement officers on the water, upon request. R/C James Struthers will explain this program in Greensboro.
- D/23 - Appointed a USPS member, who also belongs to the CGAUX, as USCGAUX Liaison reporting to DXO. A one hour long seminar during the Spring 2011 District Conference motivated 6 squadrons to invite local AUX Flotilla Cdrs to speak at one of their meetings. During the Fall District Conference, the Jacksonville CG Sector Commander was guest speaker. Word is spreading to the four remaining squadrons. Several AUX members have attended USPS elective courses.
- D/27 - CG Sector North Carolina moved to Wilmington and the XO is getting local Squadrons involved.

Other local initiatives exist that are not reported to the G&PRCom. I only received four responses from D/L/Os, despite several reminders. In conclusion, we need to keep reminding all officers to follow proper reporting procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

P/Stf/C Fred C. Sellenraad, SN
Liaison Team Leader, G&PRCom

**Government and Partner Relations Committee
Region C Legislative Report
Greensboro Governing Board**

Loyd Walker- WASHINGTON

Pending Legislation-

- 1) Resource Agency Consolidation: proposal combining of the Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Recreation, Recreation Conservation Office and the enforcement Wings of Natural Resources. At this point it is pure speculation on how this will affect boating issues. Oregon is pushing something quite similar.
- 2) Copper bottom paint phase out. The elimination of copper bottom paint on boats under 65 feet by 2020.
- 3) 2nd quarter there is no further information on Agency Consolidation or copper bottom paint.

Frank Radomsky - CALIFORNIA

Pending Legislation -

- 1) SB49 Emergency response fees. Prohibit any level of government from charging a fee to any person for the expense of an emergency response including boating responses.
- 2) SB152 General Leasing Law - Would delete an existing law that requires free rent for private, individually - owned recreation piers built over state

land. Approximately 1600 piers would be affected.

Reported and submitted by
PIRIC Lew Dance, SN
 September 15, 2011

States with or without MOUs
 Including the presence of a State Advisory Board

STATE	REGION	MOU	RB ADVISORY BOARD
Alabama	B	N	N
Alaska	C	N	Y
Arizona	C	Y	Y
Arkansas	B	Y	y
California	C	y	
Colorado	C	y	y
Connecticut	A	Y	y
Delaware	A	Y	N
Florida	B	Y	Y
Georgia	B	y	y
Hawaii	C	y	
Idaho	C	y	
Illinois	A	N	
Indiana	A	Y	N
Iowa	A	y	N
Kansas	A	Y	N
Kentucky	B	N	
Louisiana	B	Y	
Maine	A	Y	N
Maryland	A	y	y
Massachusetts	A	Y	
Michigan	A	Y	N
Minnesota	A	y	N
Mississippi	B	y	
Missouri	B	y	
Montana	C	y	
Nebraska	A	N	
Nevada	C	y	N
New Hampshire	A	Y	
New Jersey	A	N	
New Mexico	B	N	
New York	A	Y	Y
North Carolina	B	Y	

North Dakota	A	N	
Ohio	A	Y	Y
Oklahoma	B	Y	
Oregon	C	Y	
Pennsylvania	A	Y	Y
Rhode Island	A	Y	
South Carolina	B	Y	
South Dakota	A	N	
Tennessee	B	Y	
Texas	B	Y	
Utah	C	Y	
Vermont	A	Y	N
Virginia	B	Y	Y
Virgin Islands	B	N	
Washington	C	Y	Y
Washington DC	B	N	
West Virginia	B	Y	
Wisconsin	A	Y	
Wyoming	C	y	



R/C Richard E. Gercak, AP
Chairman
Government & Partners Relations Committee



Date: 5/14/2011

Subject: USPS OFFICAL POSITION OF MANDATORY LIFE JACKET WEARING

The official position of the USPS is to endorse the National Boating Safety Advisory Resolution regarding mandatory life jacket wear for certain boats and that USPS actively promote mandatory life jacket wear through surveys, engaging with the public, and lobbying Congress.

The following is supporting information for above USPS Board official position.

Advisory Council 87

Resolution 2011-87-01

Appropriate Regulations for Life Jacket Wear by Recreational Boaters

United States Power Squadrons Position Paper: In more than a decade of boating accidents leading to fatalities, it is clear that 80 percent of deaths were due to drowning. Of those, the United States Coast Guard determined that more than 80 percent of victims would have survived had they been wearing a life jacket. In spite of more states and territories adopting various mandatory boating safety education requirements, there has not been a significant decrease in the annual accident, injury

and fatality rates. Both Congress and the Administration have made it clear to the Coast Guard that this is a priority.

In 2010, the United States Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety brought a request to the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) to evaluate whether the Coast Guard should pursue legislative measures to establish mandatory wear of life jackets for boats under 26 feet or to come up with any other recommendations regarding boat type or activity. There followed in a series of meetings of a specially appointed subcommittee presentation, analysis and discussion of data based on 11 years of boating accident statistics.

The widely debated issue was brought to the full National Boating Safety Advisory Council and a vote taken to pass on a Resolution to the Coast Guard for action which passed by a majority vote on 2 April 2011. The Board of Directors for the United States Power Squadrons has voted unanimously to endorse this resolution by conducting surveys, engaging with the public and lobbying Congress. This will include support to the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety as appropriate with instituting draft legislation, public comment periods, passage of the bill and implementation. Following are some of the factors leading to the decision to support:

1. The Coast Guard through the grant program has funded many different outreach and educational programs, for at least the past 15 years, all aimed at getting boaters to wear life jackets.
2. Most states and territories have partnered with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) to hold outreach programs emphasizing the need to wear life jackets while boating. Most notable was the recent "Wear It!" campaign conducted in several states.
3. Many advertisements from the National Marine Manufacturers Association now show people wearing life jackets.
4. For years the United States Power Squadrons training courses have emphasized the need for wearing life jackets, especially on small open boats. The United States Guard Auxiliary training courses have also emphasized the wearing of life jackets.
5. Many other organizations involved in recreational boating have also carried the message of the importance of wearing life jackets.
6. The U.S. Coast Guard contracted with JCI to survey life jacket wear in states with large numbers of registered boats, heavy numbers of accidents or both. The result during the last 11 years is that the wear rate for adult boaters in open boats has ranged between 5 percent and 6 percent.

7. Congress and the Office of Management and Budget are starting to pressure the Coast Guard to deliver better results for the money spent on promoting life jacket wear.
 8. With millions of dollars in outreach, advertising and education having been spent with no measurable results in increased life jacket wear, the majority of the members of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council saw the need to seek out other means to achieve positive results.
 9. In focusing on open boats under 18 feet, the NBSAC was told that it would cover approximately 83 percent of boaters at highest risk of unexpectedly entering the water without a life jacket and drowning.
 10. During the past three years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked on establishing mandatory life jacket wear policies on two lakes near the Mississippi River. One lake received signage, radio and television ads. The other lake received only minimal attention and enforcement. On the lakes with heavy outreach, the wear rate for life jackets exceeded 70 percent for the last two years. In the minds of many of the NBSAC members, the results bolster the case for mandatory life jacket wear.
 11. The NBSAC Life Jacket Subcommittee will be reconvened to deal with issues including which types of boats and or activities would be exempted from the mandatory wear requirements such as sponsored events, races and regattas.
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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadrons MOU-MOA Implementation Plan

The following document outlines proposed steps that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (“Auxiliary”) and the U.S. Power Squadrons (“USPS”) will take to implement cooperative agreements signed in 2000, 2005, and 2006. The focus of these agreements is to commit the Auxiliary and USPS to coordinate our efforts to promote recreational boating safety (“RBS”).

1. Vessel Examination (VE) / Program Visitation (PV) coordination

- Cross-train vessel examiners and program visitors
 - Make VE & PV training interchangeable between the two organizations
 - Hold joint VE & PV workshops at the district, sector, and/or division levels
- Coordinate where local VE and PV efforts are performed
 - Encourage VE and PV staff officers at the district, sector, and division levels to regularly communicate with their counterparts to assess where vessel exams and program visits should be held and who is available to perform them

2. RBS manpower – It is important to get more members involved with vessel examinations, program visitation, and public education efforts.

- Promote RBS qualifications to newer members as a desirable mission

- Develop targeted marketing materials for members with less than 12 months' experience
- Encourage members who have become inactive for whatever reason to recommit themselves to using their experience and knowledge in the RBS missions
 - Develop targeted marketing materials for members who have become inactive stressing the RBS mission

3. Recruitment – Our two organizations represent the two largest U.S. boating organizations but only a tiny portion of the overall boating community.

- Joint efforts to reach the boating community may have recruiting and RBS benefits for both groups
- Develop materials that promote Auxiliary and USPS membership to basic boating students including locally-customizable fliers and PowerPoint presentations
- Develop materials that promote Auxiliary and USPS membership to boat owners who have just taken a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) including a brief training packet to teach members how to utilize these materials

1. Organizational Confidence-Building – There is a general lack of awareness of among Auxiliary and USPS members and leaders about what the other organization is doing and what it has to offer.

- Providing members of both organizations information that will explain the missions of each
- Encourage Auxiliary and USPS districts to invite their counterparts to their district conferences, meetings, and events

2. MOU – Establish measurable benchmarks for determining whether Auxiliary-USPS agreements are successful

3. Sharing missions – Share training opportunities consistent with the regulations of both organizations

(Signatures not included.)