

## United States Power Squadrons Governing Board Meeting—August 25-30, 2015

1. Attended the Board of Directors Advisory Council meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons updated on their virtual training and their brand identity focus. A boater survey completed a few years ago guided them to target their market and do blended learning.
  - a. Ernie Marshburn discussed an update of the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan for Recreational boating with the Coast Guard. He is serving to support the effort. The new plan will be for 2017-2021. Part of the new plan will include: engaging boater operation education, not licensing but certification level of skill, and an emphasis on human factors to mitigate accidents.
  - b. NSBC developing a plan to work with boating accident victims for grief counseling.
  - c. On the water education standards will be released soon for us all to live by.
  - d. NASBLA has joined forces with the IBWSS, along with NWSC and NSBC partners, to deliver the annual boating and water safety summit. In 2016, it will be in San Diego March 6-9.
  - e. District conference visits will be done by Town Hall meeting format with a video message and a webinar.
  - f. Third simulator being added through a Coast Guard grant to help facilitate more use, as well as upgrading of the digital media library of resources.
  - g. Fall 2016 Governing Board meeting not set but looking at Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Louisville, and others.
2. Basic public education – questions to be asked approved by NASBLA. The courses will be online and in Spanish as well as English. The education standards panel works through NASBLA and continues to add new people and roll others off the group to keep it fresh. Human power standards are currently in review.
3. At Saturday's governing board meeting, Keith Christopher gave the National Boating Federation report. We represent the recreational boaters and are an alliance of recreational boating organizations which includes boating and yacht clubs and their associations. We promote safe boating through education and act as a legislative watchdog with boating issues. We advocate for favorable boating legislation, regulations, and best management practices. We support adequate access to our waterways. Our monthly eBulletin provides updates on issues of interest to the boater including, but not limited to: ethanol, navigation/visual aids, EPIRBs, etc.

Jeff Hoedt representing the Office of Boating Safety for the US Coast Guard was present and gave an update on the status of the work his office oversees. Paddlecraft use continues to grow. They are updating their strategic plan. Record lows were recorded for deaths due to boating for this past year. Trust fund extended short-term.

Ev Tucker gave report for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Making good progress with their partners. He stressed the open opportunities with the MOU with joint arrangements for the future.

The California Governor's office presented a proclamation recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USPS. Mentioned their mandatory boating education law and the Vessel Operator Card which goes into effect 2018.

Other items of business included: increase in dues for membership, financially in good shape, chartering of a new Mississippi Gulf Squadron, and recognition of individuals, squadrons, and districts for their accomplishments.

#### 4. Other areas of interest:

Membership Committee meeting stressed the importance to everyone to be proactive, not passive or reactive. Promote the importance of membership. Of 32 districts, 6 maintaining or growing in membership. Vessel safety checks can help with getting new members. Training courses should also bring in new members if a person is asked to join. The new Web should help to embrace marketing. Videos promoting training courses should be used when possible. A new member pamphlet is available to help sell the reason for belonging.

BoatUS Peer to Peer boat rental market announced. New squadron developed in Puerto Rico, Salt Lake City, and one in Anchorage being formed. Leadership development redesigning the Web site. Mentioned an online registration form needing to be developed. Cabela's has grants available for boating safety.

Safe Boating application for the phone developed with float plan, rules of the road, and reporting of suspicious activity. Orion supporting getting flares off the boats as they expire. Blended learning being strengthened. Lobbying about E15 showing the damage. Urging of congress not to increase the amount allowed in fuels. Presentation made by SPIN (Stop Propeller Injuries Now) to be monitored by state legislators.

Other issues covered included: 1) inter-barrier transfer of invasive species, 2) ending taxpayer exemptions for yachts, 3) registration requirements, and 4) education requirements expanding.

Submitted by:

Keith Christopher

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