



NASBLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Seattle, Washington
September 11-14, 2016

NBF Report

Submitted by Keith Christopher, President

Keith Christopher attended the NASBLA **Conference in Seattle, Washington September 11-14, 2016**. General sessions were held in 10 time slots for some key presentations on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. There were 14 breakout sessions also offered on topics of interest in boating. Exhibits were also available on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday for the participants to speak direct with the companies and organizations represented.

The conference was opened on Sunday afternoon at special ceremonies followed by the President's reception and stops by the exhibitors to see what programs, products and services are available to the participants to use in their boating programs. Monday's general sessions included a testimonial from Brody Young who talked about Nine Miracles. His recovery from an attack brought us all to understand how short life can be. His motivation and commitment to serve is beyond reproach. John Malatak covered details about a new national certification and credentialing program (Certified Recreational Boating Professional).

The rest of Monday's sessions before and after lunch were electives and deep dive sessions. The titles of those sessions are: 1) Application of K9 Teams to SONAR Searches, 2) Ohio Clean Marinas Program, 3) Tiny Critters...What you need to know about the changing landscape of aquatic invasive species, 4) Increasing Awareness of Safe Boating Practices—USCG Public Outreach Campaign, 5) History, Operations and Solutions for Rescue Watercraft, 6) Town Hall Discussion: The Implications and Opportunities of Proposed Changes to Sections 9 and 10 of NASBLA Course Approval Policy, 7) Every Day is Social Media Day: How to develop a social media calendar to effectively manage messages, graphics and audience engagement, 8) National Recreational Boating Safety State Financial Grant Training.

Tuesday's program opened up with visits to the exhibit hall and the NASBLA Annual Business meeting. That afternoon there were 6 breakout sessions in two time slots to choose from: 1) Recreational Boating Safety Media Toolbox—The 'Boat Beat', 2) Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Offerings and Capabilities, 3) Embracing Washington's Water Trails, 4) Are you Ready? Test Your Knowledge of the Recreational Boating Program by participating in the CRBP Readiness Assessment Exam, 5) Leveraging Unique Partnership to Promote Boating Safety, 6) USCG Egress/Buoyancy Study on Sinking and Overturned Boats. Late afternoon there were On Water Demonstrations followed by a special boat ride to Blake Island State Park for dinner and a

special program about the Northwest Native American storytelling.

On Wednesday, the program included general sessions all day. The sessions included: 1) Lesson's Learned – North Woods Law, 2) Public Health Approach, 3) Key Features for Law Enforcement & First Responders/Raymarine Nav-System User Interface, 4) What States Need to Know About the January 1, 2017 Implementation Deadline, 5) Partnerships and Multiplying Your Workforce, and 6) The Boating Safety Dashboard. A special awards program luncheon broke the day in two parts and recognized many individuals for their support of boating.

The conference closed with the Passing of the Fid, as well as highlights of next year's conference in South Dakota.