

## NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

24 September 2011

To: President, NBF

From: Everette Tucker, NBF Treasurer

Subject: Trip Report – **2011 USPS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

During the period 15 – 17 September 2011, I attended and represented NBF at the 2011 USPS Governing Board Meeting at Greensboro, NC.

As always, the USPS Conference was outstanding with lots of good information presented and excellent exchanges between attendees. It was very well attended with over 500 members present plus a significant number of boating related organizational representatives.

Below I have listed some major items brought up at the conference; however, one can go to [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) for presentations & full reports

### **NBF:**

I was given 10 minutes by the Chief Commander to address the 500 plus attendees. I started by giving a brief overview on NBF covering its mission, who it represented, current initiatives, and why NBF was a valuable resource to recreational boaters. I closed by covering the NBF E-Alert system. Afterwards, I had a small number of USPS members who asked for additional information re-NBF and out E-Alert system.

### **USPS:**

I met with former California BLA, Ray Tsuneyoshi, who is the newly appointed National Program Director for the USPS. One of his missions is to draft a Risk Management Grant for the USPS.

During the Public Education Open Session, an excellent briefing was given by Bob Sweet – USPS NEO, and Bob Palmer on their “On the Water Training” Program. The USPS continues to expand the number of certified instructors and squadrons who are interested in conducting this type of training. The USCG fully supports this as a priority initiative as it holds great promise to foster greater safety on the water. So far the USPS has been unsuccessful in gaining participation of the Auxiliary due to CG liability concerns, but continues to seek ways the Auxiliary can obtain the necessary liability protection.

Work continues to offer USPS short courses using cell phone apps.

## **CG:**

The CG Report commences with a review of the Boating Statistics:

2004 – 676 deaths; 2010 – 672 deaths

Attendees were asked to review the newly approved RBS Strategic Plan that is on the Office of Boating Safety Website.

Major Thrusts for 2011 will be PFD Wear, Skill Level Training with emphasis on the development of public on the water courses, public outreach, Nav rules, required safety equipment, accident reporting, **effectiveness of grants (What did a grant directly contribute to attaining a safety objective)**, initiatives to increase awareness & basic safety knowledge assessment

Estimated 82 million adult boaters in the U.S. and only 100,000 volunteers & professionals to provide education

Funds have finally been provided to initiate the long awaited National Boating Survey. This survey should materially assist us in designing future objectives & programs.

Unfortunately the CG's proposed legislation for federal mandatory education, which would give them oversight, is still awaiting Congressional passage; however, the CG will continue to pursue its passage.

On Water Skill Based Training – USCG Grants to support US Sail & USPS

Required Cutoff Switch Use - Proposed Rule Making expected this year

Although there has been some negative feedback from the change to "Shock-Type" Public Service Announcements & Ads, the CG still plans to utilize this approach as feasible

Child Inflatable PFDs – No mention was made of the anticipated newly developed and CG approved PFDs that were expected during 2011. This would allow wearing down to 12 years

Mandatory PFD Wear – Mixed opinions have been received!! The issue will be further discussed at the October BSAC Meeting. Also waiting for the USACE Report on the 3 year test of mandating PFD wear on selected lakes.

EPHIRBs – Will discuss this issue at the BSAC meeting. Requiring EPHIRBs appears to have the potential for saving a small number of lives, but a great potential in reducing SAR costs

## **USACE PFD Test**

3 Year Study – 2009 to 2011

In 2009 - 70% Wear Rate Achieved; no tickets issued in the test lakes and no decrease in

boaters on these lakes

Previous wear rate on the test lakes was less than 5 %

In 2011 additional lakes have been added

The test ends in 2011 and a USACE policy as to mandatory wear on their lakes will be promulgated as early as September/October.

## **NASBLA**

Focus is on educational standards as NASBLA will implement procedures to better manage proposed changes through the use of a National Standards Advisory Council. Decisions to change will be consensus based. Emphasis will also be on the improvement in quality of the Internet courses.

Another major project recently completed was the development and field testing for BUI. A training module for BUI testing will be out soon for field use by LE officers.

## **NSBC**

New video released on "Stressors" – "ALMOST A PERFECT DAY." Excellent 10 minute video for use in public boating courses and presentations

The new book covering the history of recreational boating in the U.S. is available.

The first international PFD Inflation Day in May was very successful. The second Day was held on May 21, 2011, and achieved much greater participation. A third day is planned during NSBW in 2012

Their 2012 CG Grant was reduced by 1/3 compared to 2011!

In closing, perhaps the most valuable outcome of my attending was the opportunity to network and renew friendships with the USPS leadership and with representatives of the USACE, BOATUS Foundation, ACA, CPS, NASBLA, NSBC, BSA, and others. During these interactions, I was able to stress the role and importance of NBF and its work in supporting the recreational boaters and all recreational boating stakeholders on some of the most critical issues facing us today and in the future.

Everette Tucker

NBF Treasurer