

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

2011 NASBLA Conference

25 September 2011

During the period 10 to 14 September 2011, I attended and represented NBF at the 2011 NASBLA Conference at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, WI, As opposed to the 2010 conference in Honolulu, this year's conference was very well attended with 48 of the 54 BLAs attending.

As always, the NASBLA Conference was outstanding with lots of good information presented and excellent exchanges between attendees; however, this year there was only one controversial issue to be addressed and voted upon. This was a resolution that would require all state agency personnel to wear a PFD while on the water. Due to various concerns, it was deferred until the 2012 conference.

Below I have listed some major items brought up at the conference; however, one can go to www.NASBLA.org in the near future for presentations & full reports

NASBLA:

For full information, refer to Committee Products on the NASBLA Website

During the NASBLA Committee reports, the following was discussed:

Vessel Titling – No further action to change current HIN. Work with CG to develop guidelines re-vessel titles that would be incorporated into a NASBLA model act. This would also include a standard certificate of title.

Vessel Identification – 33 states & territories have agreed to format their vessel records to comply with the VIDS Program. Discussions are ongoing with Transport Canada to gain Canada's participation in VIDS.

Wear of PFDs – NASBA action needed to support mandate for state boating agency personnel to wear PFDs while on the water.

SAFE PORT ACT – NASBLA currently developing a white paper to address this issue.

Preparedness & Response – A NASBLA website has been established.

EPA – NASBLA is working with EPA as they develop EPA's position on recreational vessel incidental discharge.

PFD WEAR – 66% of the states participated in this year's WEAR IT CAMPAIGN. Need boater

views of the proposed mandate to wear PFDs...National Study or national poll?

Close Quarters Operator Training Course; the new on the water, hands-on course developed to enhance proficiency of law enforcement marine personnel has been very successful in training both BLA & CG personnel this year.

On Water Skill Based Training Standards developed and now being utilized by USPS in their new On the Water Public Training Course with a good number of instructors being certified.

The NASBLA Conf 2012 will be in Mobile, 7-12 Sept and the 2013 Conf be in Boise, Idaho, 15-18 September.

New NASBLA Officers for 2011-2012 are: Mike Fields – President, Toby Velasquez – Vice President, and Herb Angell – Treasurer.

COAST GUARD

2010 boating statistics showed improvement as deaths fell to 672; previous lowest in recent years was in 2004 – 676.

Expect reduction in Trust Fund monies in 2012 due to boat sales, etc. bring down. This means that the monies for grants will be less. Grants will be evaluated based on their impact in accomplishing the RBS Strategic Plan objectives.

Major Thrusts in 2011 are PFD Wear, Skill Level Training with emphasis on the development of public on the water courses, initiatives to increase awareness & basic safety knowledge assessment.

NBSAC recommendation on mandatory PFD Wear is under review.

CG will commence the study of the effects & safety of use of E-10 & E-15 fuel on marine engines as Congress directed over the next 2 years. Engines will be run to equal a boating season, then stored to equal a winter, and then run to stimulate a 2nd boating season. Then they will be torn down to examine the effects and a report of the findings will be published.

The long awaited National Boating Survey has now been funded and the initial surveys commenced in August. During 2012, surveys will be made every month. The results will help develop future strategic objectives & programs.

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

Required Cutoff Switch Use - Proposed Rule Making should be published for comment soon.

Change to “Shock-Type” Public Service Announcements & Ads has resulted in concern from the boating industry as to highlighting the dangers in boating and is under review.

Child Inflatable PFDs – CG proposed rule making to allow inflatable PFDs for children down to 12 years should be out this year

USACE PFD Test

The 3 Year Study ends this year.

In 2009/10 - 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 %

2011 results have not been announced.

The final report is being prepared and a decision by USACE leadership on mandatory wearing on Corps waters could be out later this year or in early 2012.

RECREATIONAL BOATING & FISHING FOUNDATION

Reported that participation in both fishing & boating has shown increased participation in 2011. RBFF is working with 4 states to focus on new and lapsed boat registrations. Initial result show that contacting the lapsed boat owners results in the registration being brought up to date.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Emphasis on all states having child PFD requirements as both Virginia & Wisconsin have no requirement.

Support mandatory PFD wear strongly on boats under 18 feet. Voluntary PFD Wear efforts over the past 5 and more years have shown no results.

Emphasis is needed in education courses on navigation rules as 3 nav rules violations caused serious incidents recently. Also, of great concern is cell phone use – distracted operator, poor lookout, excessive speed.

Other Items:

New Beyond Cold Water Boot Camp Video produced by NWSC & NSBC – Outstanding; very good for EMS training. Cold Water Boot Camp remains an excellent resource.

NSBC – The new book covering the history of recreational boating in the U.S. has received numerous favorable reviews & comments and is available from NABC.

NSBC – The second international PFD Inflation Day in May was more successful than last year. A third Day will be held in May during NSBW and greater participation is urged.

NSBC – Again offered to write an article for NBF's LOOKOUT upon request.

Everette Tucker, NBF Treasurer