



ANNUAL REPORT



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2023 Executive Board



SUSAN STOCKER
Iowa
Chair



JOE MCCULLOUGH
Alaska
Vice Chair



AARON KERR
Wyoming
Treasurer



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Illinois
Board Member



ROB SENDAK
Washington
Board Member



WANDA ROBERTS
Georgia
Board Member



JEFF CLAUSON
Nebraska
Board Member

NASBLA is governed by an Executive Board consisting of the chair, vice chair, treasurer, and four board members. Each member is passionate about boating safety and is using his or her term in office as an opportunity to help further NASBLA's mission in support of safe, enjoyable and secure boating.



JOHN JOHNSON, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

a message from the **CEO**

On behalf of the Executive Board, our members, partners and staff, I am pleased to present the *2023 NASBLA Annual Report*. While every year brings its own challenges and opportunities, as we reflect back on the year in review, 2023 stands out as a watershed period in the history of our association. From the moment we bid each other farewell at the conclusion of last year's annual conference in the scenic foothills of southern New Hampshire, the trend in turnover among Boating Law Administrators (BLAs) has not only continued, it has accelerated.

By the time the gavel falls in Denver calling our *64th Annual Conference* to order, NASBLA will have seen an unprecedented number of retirements and promotions among our core members, resulting in as many as 13 new BLAs joining our circle of colleagues for the first time. While we have grown accustomed to seeing significant annual turnover among BLAs over the last several years, the churn in 2023 impacted nearly 20 percent of our member agencies. That means the median tenure for BLAs, overall, has fallen to a new low at just 2.67 years in service!

As the year unfolded, our association responded to this trend with a renewed commitment to training, education, and professional development programs to help get this new generation of members up on plane quickly to leverage more engagement and collaboration than ever before. Beginning with last year's conference itself, NASBLA introduced new measures and new methods to bring more rank and file members into opportunities for leadership development.

During the exceptional conference in Manchester hosted by Tim Dunleavy and our friends in the New Hampshire State Police Marine Patrol Bureau, the Executive Board announced new initiatives regarding the long-established *Boating Education Advisory Panel* (BEAP). Throughout its decades of existence, BEAP has served as an important semi-annual forum for bringing together state education coordinators and other boating safety professionals, to share new ideas, campaigns and tools for advancing boater education in the states.

This informal gathering that frequently featured award-winning programs, pizza and the sharing of public service announcements (PSAs) - where member states were encouraged to borrow and replicate in their own agencies - is morphing into a different kind of advisory panel with year-round charges and duties. (Don't worry, the pizza's not going away!)

Moving forward, the BEAP will take responsibility for implementing key, ongoing programs developed under our Education and Outreach (E&O) policy committee including hosting a new, NASBLA-led *National Education Seminar*, launching and maintaining the new *Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Instructor Certification Program* and ramping-up a new onboarding and orientation initiative for first-time State Education Coordinators. The official “hand-off” of the responsibilities from the E&O Committee to BEAP will happen at this year’s conference in Denver.

Tasked by the Executive Board with finding different ways to encourage more member engagement in all aspects of the association’s work, NASBLA staff and volunteers have worked together to drive more participation in committees, panels and key annual events. From the near record-setting attendance in Manchester last year, to a more than 50 percent increase in year-over-year attendance at the *State RBS Workshop* last winter, and robust participation at the “twin” *Leadership Academies* this summer, our association has risen to the challenge.

Growing from humble beginnings nearly 20 years ago where average attendance ran about 30-40 participants, the State RBS Workshop has become an integral component of our member agencies’ efforts to remain informed and engaged with our U.S. Coast Guard partners and each other. The workshop last March would prove to be the high-water mark in this significant mid-season, roll-up-your-sleeves meeting where more than 100 BLAs and state agency staff worked together with their federal counterparts to solve or advance issues of mutual concern. Responding in kind, our colleagues in the USCG Boating Safety Division continue to lean-in on the event as well, bringing more than a dozen staff to Lexington, Kentucky to help the states improve their respective agency programs.

This growth trend we are experiencing was on full display this summer when NASBLA hosted the first-ever, *dual* Leadership Academies in a single year. Conducted across one full week each in both June and July, the association was proud to see 40 aspiring, new leaders from across the country join our faculty and staff for the fast-moving, information-filled, interactive seminar about all things NASBLA and recreational boating safety. Many of our freshly-minted Academy graduates will be on-hand in Denver to receive their diplomas and network with peers who have also participated in this important leadership development program.

Speaking of boating safety professionals, NASBLA is delighted to announce the five newest recipients of the coveted Certified Recreational Boating Professional (CRBP) designation. Created as a means of helping the states and their partners cultivate a new generation of RBS trailblazers, in 2023, the CRBP program really seems to have taken off. This year we are proud to acknowledge and honor the achievements of five individuals including Stacey Brown (VA), Wendy Flynn (CT), Jeff Lane (IL), Eric Tynan (MA) and NASBLA Chair Susan Stocker (IA). Congratulations to all our new CRBP recipients for your hard work and dedication to our profession!

Among the association’s top accomplishments this year, a delegation from the Executive Board met with RADM Todd Wiemers, Deputy Commandant for Capability, U.S. Coast Guard and staff of the Office of Boat Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters in March. The purpose was to sign a revised Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming both parties’ commitment to the national standard embodied in the Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program. Coast Guard recognition of the BOAT program as the national standard for the training and credentialing of state, local, county and tribal maritime law enforcement officers and rescue personnel is essential to the success and expansion of this vital national training program.

Taking full advantage of their time in Washington, D.C., Chair Susan Stocker also led the delegation in meeting with CAPT Amy Beach, Director of Inspections and Compliance, to discuss the dynamic partnership among and between the Office of Auxiliary and Boating

Safety, NASBLA and the states. This conversation led to a subsequent meeting between Chair Stocker and RADM Wayne Arguin, Jr., Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, during the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Little Rock, Arkansas in April.

Joining the nonprofit associations partnering with NASBLA for management services, we are excited to announce the formation and launch of the *Paddlesports Trade Coalition* (PTC). Since its first organizing meeting in Bentonville, Arkansas last January, NASBLA staff has worked with an interim Board of Directors to develop the new association's founding documents, government filings and initial bylaws. The PTC is on the fast-track to becoming an invaluable resource, not only for the multiple national brands that make up the fast-growing paddlesports industry, but also to boating and outdoor recreation professionals throughout the RBS community. *Congratulations to the PTC and its founding leadership!*

Over the last 12 months, NASBLA's personnel cadre has also seen its share of change. Going all the way back to last September, I am very pleased to announce the continued career achievements of our staff beginning first with Kaci Christopher, who passed the Kentucky Bar exam. Along with continuing her work as a policy analyst, Kaci now also serves as the association's General Counsel.

The great news on staff accomplishments continued into this summer when we learned that Taylor Matsko, Communications and Marketing Director, had earned her *Certified Association Executive* (CAE) credential, the premier association management certification from the American Society of Association Executives. Congratulations to Kaci and Taylor for your hard-earned and notable career advancements!

I encourage you to seek out and introduce yourselves to conference first-timer Garrison Toy, our new Communications Coordinator and recent graduate of *Morehead State University* who joined the NASBLA communications team in January. As we bid a fond farewell to long-time accountant Marlene Mason who retired this spring, we could not be happier with our new accountant, Gladys Thompson, who joined our finance and accounting team earlier this year as well. Gladys comes to us from *Kentucky Humanities*, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, where she served for nearly five years. Both Garrison and Gladys have become indispensable members of the NASBLA staff. Welcome aboard!

Finally, I am privileged and extremely grateful to extend our heartfelt appreciation to NASBLA's Mission Partners, Strategic Partner, Equipment Partner, and Conference Sponsors without whose support – *both financial and programmatic* – the annual conference and key member programs would not be possible. Our special thanks to Mission Partners *FLIR/Raymarine* for their ongoing financial and technical support for the BOAT Program, to Strategic Partner *Kalkomey* for their financial support and professional counsel on our online education programs, to Equipment Partner *First Watch Gear* for their in-kind support of equipment and life jackets for the BOAT Program, and to the *Water Sports Industry Association*, the *National Marine Manufacturers Association* and the *Personal Watercraft Industry Association* for their generous support of the Annual Conference.



We look forward to engaging and collaborating with each of you in the coming year!

John M. Johnson, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

meet the **STAFF**



JOHN FETTERMAN
Deputy Executive
Director



HANNAH HELSBY, CAE
Chief Operating
Officer



TOM HAYWARD
Chief Financial
Officer



ANGELA BALDWIN
Office Manager



RICK BARRERA
Committee Staff



MARK CHANSKI
Education Director



**KACI CHRISTOPHER,
ESQ.**
General Counsel



DAVE CONSIDINE
BOAT Program Director



DR. DEB GONA
Research Consultant



SAM LYNCH
Membership
Services Director



TAYLOR MATSKO, CAE
Communications &
Marketing Director



RON SARVER, CAE
Chief, Knowledge & Learning
Management Systems



GLADYS THOMPSON
Association Accountant



GARRISON TOY
Communications
Coordinator

2022 FINANCIALS



2022 REVENUE BREAKDOWN

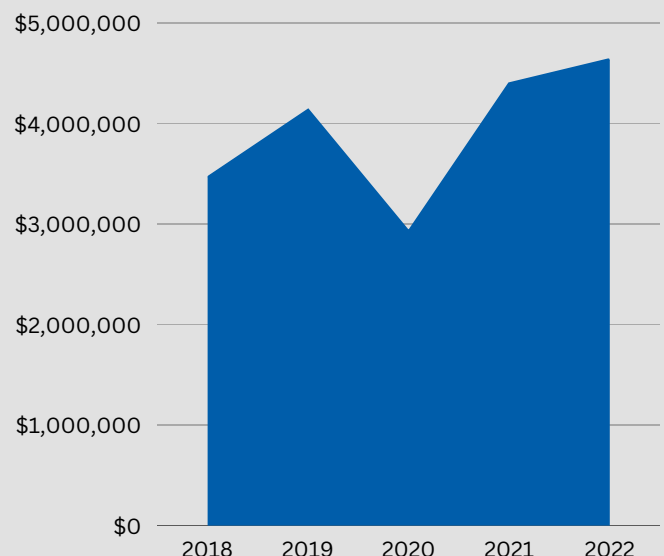
Federal Grants	\$1,534,271	33%
Training Programs	\$2,031,924	44%
Member Dues	\$336,000	7%
Association Management	\$67,834	1%
Sponsor Income	\$63,760	1%
Rental Income	\$277,218	6%
Employee Retention Tax Credit	\$161,000	4%
Other	\$162,689	4%
2022 Total	\$4,634,696	

In 2022, NASBLA made continued financial strides, building on the successes of 2021. Demand for training courses remained particularly strong. Revenues for 2022 were a record \$4,634,696, an increase of 5.5% from 2021, and a 59% increase compared to 2020. BOAT Program revenue in 2022 increased to \$2,031,924, or 44% of association revenues. Federal grant revenue for 2022 was \$1,534,271, or 33% of overall revenues. Rental income from the Lexington headquarters building provided \$277,218. Expenses for the year were \$4,433,009, up 13% from 2021. NASBLA ended 2022 with net assets of \$1,511,815, an increase of 15% over 2021 ending net assets.

(Audited financial statements and the 2022 990 tax filing are available on the NASBLA website on the "About NASBLA" page.)

5-YEAR REVENUE

Year	Revenue
2022	\$4,634,696
2021	\$4,396,537
2020	\$2,922,992
2019	\$4,133,907
2018	\$3,469,679



BOAT PROGRAM

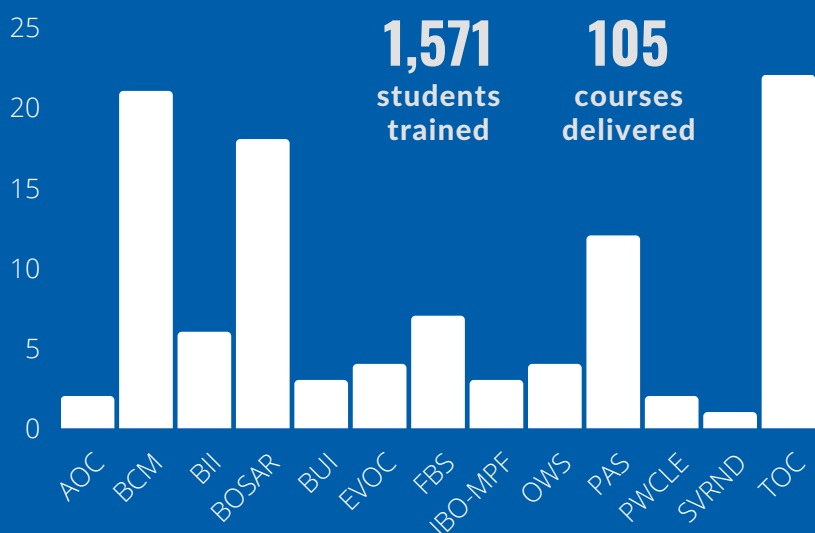


With new courses available and a record number of courses delivered, the NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program continues to expand its positive impact on recreational boating safety and security. From October 2022 to September 2023, the BOAT Program has delivered a total of 230 courses to 3,443 students. Through direct delivery courses, indirect delivery courses hosted by accredited agencies, grant funded courses, and partner U.S. Coast Guard small boat unit courses, the BOAT Program continues its impressive growth, supplying the maritime law enforcement community with essential training and skills. Currently, the BOAT Program has 39 lead instructors, 145 direct delivery credentialed instructors, 51 direct delivery break-in instructors, and 202 indirect delivery instructors, totaling 437 instructors!

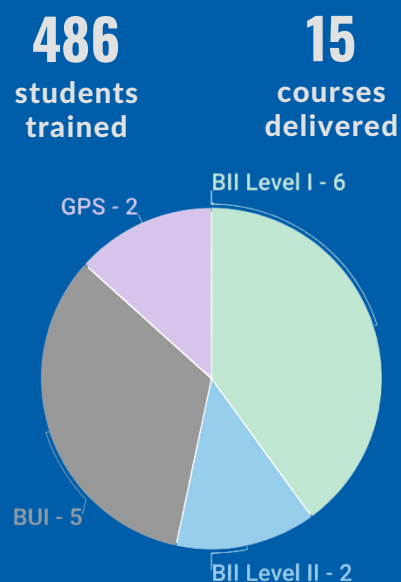
In 2022, the BOAT Program launched the Inland Boat Operator & Marine Patrol Fundamentals (IBO-MPF) Train-the-Trainer course. The IBO-MPF provides training for **solo officers in small boats operating on inland waterways and lakes**. As of 2023, NASBLA conducted six of these courses, creating trainers that have already delivered 20 courses to their home agencies, training over 157 students to date. NASBLA is currently working to develop an Inland Boat Operator course that trainers can deliver to non-sworn law enforcement, such as agency biologists.



DIRECT DELIVERY COURSES



GRANT DELIVERY COURSES

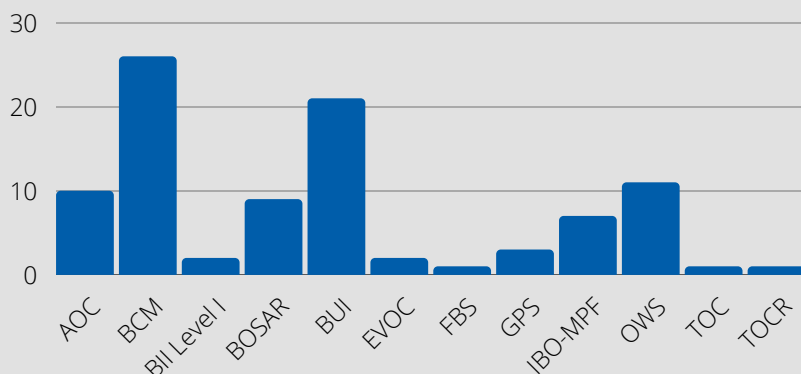


Along with the IBO-MPF, the BOAT Program launched the Waterborne Armed Threat and Emergency Response (WATER) course. Developed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, this course focuses on the skills and knowledge that are essential to survive a violent and deadly force situation in the maritime environment. This course gives students the opportunity to participate in dry and live fire drills, using all applicable personal protective equipment. The WATER course also creates force-on-force simulation scenarios for the students to navigate. A key element of this course is the preparation of students to become proficient in waterborne firearms marksmanship, the use of cover and concealment aboard a vessel, proper vessel positioning and crew movement, shooting positions, disengagement techniques, and medical aid.

INDIRECT DELIVERY COURSES - ACCREDITED AGENCIES

94
courses
delivered

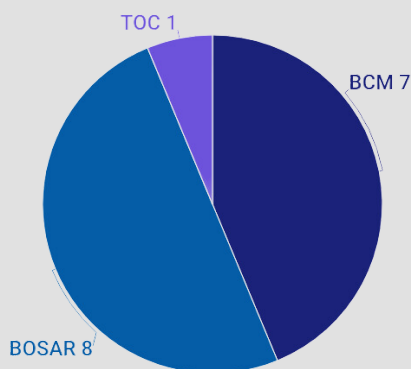
1,243
students
trained



U.S. COAST GUARD DELIVERY COURSES

16
courses
delivered

145
students
trained



TRAINING TOTALS

**RUNNING NUMBERS
FROM OCTOBER 1, 2022 -
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

230

**NASBLA BOAT Program
courses delivered across
the nation.**

3,445

**students trained by the
NASBLA BOAT Program.**



committee & panel REPORTS



BOAT PROGRAM ADVISORY PANEL

Chair: Lieutenant Carmen Rickel, *Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

The NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program Advisory Panel began the year with new rules and specific charges developed to strengthen the BOAT Program. The panel has developed surveys for all stakeholders and for accredited agencies.

The BOAT Program Advisory Panel has also created a flow chart to better explain the new course development process. In addition to this, the panel has begun work on making recommendations for improvements to the BOAT Program Manual, Volume 1.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair: MariAnn McKenzie, *Oregon State Marine Board*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Boating Education Toolkit – The committee continues to host monthly virtual Water Cooler meetings. These meetings allow members from the boating education community across the nation to gather, share boating safety concerns, and exchange thoughts and ideas. To equip boating education coordinators with helpful knowledge, the Committee revised the NASBLA Boating Education Coordinator Quick Reference Guide, available on the NASBLA website.

NASBLA Education Policy Sections - With the adoption of the ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Core Standard and the ANSI/NASBLA 103-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Power American National Standards in June of 2022, it was necessary to update the existing NASBLA Policy Basic Boating Education Course Approval Sections 8, 9, & 10. Committee members updated the document to ensure compliance with the current standards. The final product was approved by the membership at the 2022 NASBLA Annual Conference. The committee continues to provide boating education course approval training to state reviewers through in-person and virtual trainings.

Enhanced Recreational Boating Certificate – Committee members developed an outline for the creation of an Enhanced Recreational Boating Certificate. This certificate would encourage boaters to complete a NASBLA-approved knowledge course and a verified on-water skills-based course, promoting the critical link between education and safety on our nation's waterways.

RBS Boating Safety Instructor Credentialing – Committee members completed a Recreational Boating Safety Instructor Credential outline and developed domain assessment questions. This credential will promote the consistent delivery of boating education programs.

ENFORCEMENT & TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Joe Campbell, *Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Operation Dry Water - The Enforcement & Training Committee worked with NASBLA staff to review all published guidance documents posted on the Operation Dry Water (ODW) website. The committee also revamped the Top Agency Award to recognize regional efforts across the country in BUI detection, deterrence, and enforcement. This award is now known as the Regional Law Enforcement Award.

Microlearning Development - Committee members continue to create and solicit microlearning videos for training purposes, which are posted to the NASBLA eLearning Center. An additional 12 videos were added to the NASBLA microlearning catalog this year.

Cut-Off Switch Wear - The national map contained in the final committee report shows a change in status of seven states that have adopted mandatory wear policy for their officers. Currently 22 states have a wear policy in place and 21 states are interested in drafting policy. Through this recurring charge, the committee plans to continue in their efforts to have all states adopt mandatory wear policies.

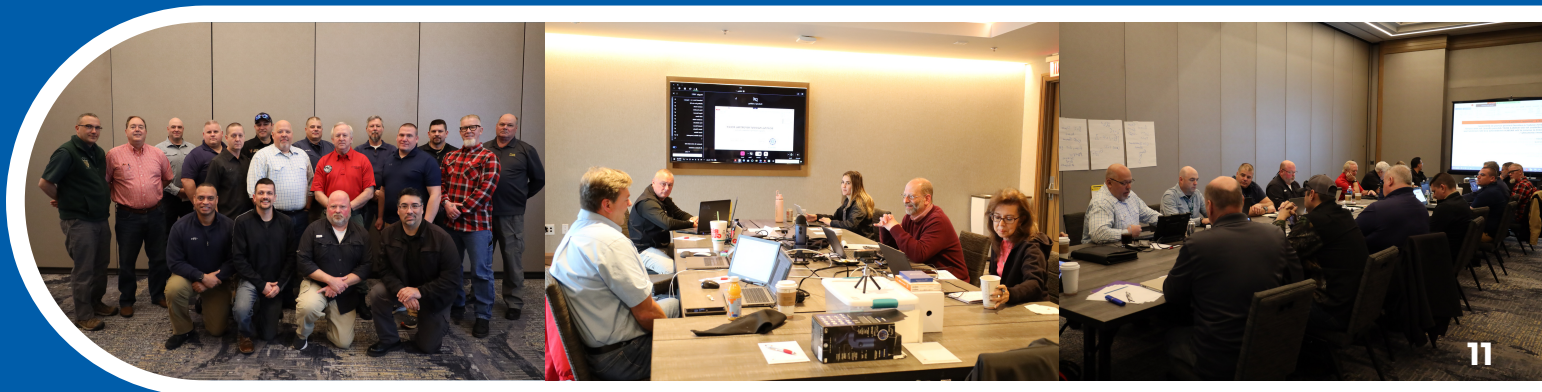
Marine Assistance – No Wake Zones – This charge was originally brought to the NASBLA Enforcement & Training Committee in September 2022 from an associate member, C-PORT, a nonprofit organization representing the marine assistance industry. In recent years, state legislatures began enacting maritime move over laws for vessels, akin to laws enacted for land-based vehicles. Given the unique risks present on the water, law enforcement and public safety are exposed to heightened danger while conducting these activities. The committee developed a model act to address safe practices during law enforcement and public safety operations. For boaters, knowledge of this danger is critical as courts hold that a vessel's wake is an extension of the vessel, making the operator responsible for the wake created.

ENGINEERING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS COMMITTEE (ERAC)

Chair: Tamara Terry, *Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and Watercraft*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Incident Reporting Policy Guidance & Best Practices - In the wake of the January release of CG-BSX Policy Letter 23-01 Recreational Boating Incident Reporting, ERAC's best practices team set their sights on developing guidance for states' use in implementing the requirements (eff. Jan. 1, 2024). Kicking off as co-sponsors with CG-BSX for two national webinars that showcased major policy and term changes and a chance for states to ask questions, the team segued into developing three "tools" targeting user groups that will be most affected by the policy. Products are scheduled for release before year's end.



National Recreational Boating Safety Participation and Exposure Surveys (NRBSS) –

In follow-up to its 2022 national webinars for state audiences covering the background, methodology, and key findings from the Coast Guard's 2018 surveys, ERAC took preliminary steps toward what will be a major activity at the start of the next cycle—making recommendations to CG-BSX on the contents of the survey instruments for the next round of the National Recreational Boating Safety Surveys (NRBSS).

Human Performance Data Collection & Analysis – Parlaying its long-standing work toward understanding the role of human factors in recreational boating incidents and more recent pilot efforts to collect operator distraction data, ERAC served as a task resource to the Prevention through People Subcommittee of the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee (NBSAC).

FINANCE & GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Danny Rodriguez, *Arizona Game & Fish Department*

Click here for the full report.

The NASBLA RBS Finance & Grants Committee worked closely with the USCG to develop a best practice document for states to use and reference when submitting grant applications, reports and required information to the USCG RBS State Grant Program. For the purpose of educating grant coordinators and reducing administrative time spent on grant narrative writing, the final product developed is a calendar with helpful tips and resources linked to each required task throughout the year.

The committee reviewed the training available in the Grants Training section of the NASBLA eLearning Center, reorganized the resources to align with the calendar outline, and linked related training videos to the calendar. Quick links were added to the Finance & Grants Committee homepage that take users directly to the calendar and online training available. Prior to the release of the 2024 State Notice of Funding Opportunity, the committee participated in a review of the guidance regarding the Annual Performance Report. The final product was released to the states as 'Appendix A, Annual Performance Report Narrative Guidance' in the 2024 State Notice of Funding Opportunity.

The committee continues to get state membership feedback on grant management and the State Guide to inform plans for additional training development. Finally, the committee collected information from the states and RBS partners to support state efforts in promoting state recreational boating safety programs.



NATIONAL BOATING STANDARDS PANEL

Chair: Walt Taylor, 1st U.S. Coast Guard District

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Investigative Training for Boating Incidents – The Executive Board voted to have NASBLA Standard 500-2022: Investigative Training for Boating Incidents become an American National Standard. Given the Panel's experience working with ANSI, the Board tasked the BSP with administering this Standard through the ANSI process. The Panel collaborated with the members of the Boating Incident Investigation Workgroup as subject matter experts to adjudicate public comments and make revisions. Panel work will continue on this task as the ANSI process proceeds.

ESP to BSP – Until 2023, the Panel worked exclusively to develop and manage boating education standards. When the Panel was tasked with administering NASBLA Standard 500-2022 through the ANSI process, it was the first training standard managed by the BSP. The inclusion of this standard expanded the scope of work of the Panel. As a result, the NASBLA Executive Board voted to change the Panel name from the National Boating Education Standards Panel (ESP) to the National Boating Standards Panel (BSP). This change is evidenced in the revised Panel Rules, reaccredited by ANSI, and will increase NASBLA's presence in boating safety standardization.



K-12 Life Jacket Education Standard – The Panel created a workgroup to develop the first K-12 Life Jacket Education Standard. The group convened multiple times a month to curate a standard covering the following life jacket/PFD related topics: attitudes and values, choosing a life jacket/PFD, fitting a life jacket/PFD, using a life jacket/PFD, and setting and situation. The development of this Standard will continue in 2024.

PADDLESPOrts COMMITTEE

Chair: Kim Jackson, Arizona Game & Fish Department

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Data & Trends – Finally, the committee collected information from the states and RBS partners to build a visual dashboard to support state efforts in promoting state recreational boating safety programs.



Outreach to Paddlecraft Liveries & Retailers

Best Practices - The committee worked to provide a way to publicly recognize paddlesports companies, organizations, retailers, manufacturers, and liveries, for their efforts in promoting and practicing safety within the paddlesports industry. The annual program criteria will be based in part on NASBLA's Seal of Safe Boating, with adjustments and additions for paddlesports.

Paddlecraft Access Inventory - The goal of this charge was to provide recommendations for waterways that paddlesport enthusiasts could access to have a safe and enjoyable paddling experience. Currently, the dashboard is complete but needs additional information from the states. Working in partnership with the American Canoe Association (ACA), the State Directors will be updating information on the dashboard. This partnership will continue to help keep the Paddling Resource Dashboard updated for years to come.

Microlearning - For this committee year, the microlearning focus was on the paddling public. To cater to the target audience of entry-level kayakers, the video features a novice paddler. Through their diligent efforts, the Charge Team aims to provide a valuable resource that will assist new kayakers in making informed decisions and enhance their overall experience in the sport.

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION & TITLING (VIRT) COMMITTEE

Chair: Colonel Darren Rider, *Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Adoption of the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act - The committee assisted Florida with their implementation of the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act that went into effect July 1, 2023, and will be assisting Alabama with their implementation that is effective January 1, 2024.

Developed a VIRT Committee Welcoming Packet for New Members - A VIRT Welcoming Packet was developed to assist new members in understanding how VIRT and NASBLA work to unify registration and titling standards across the nation.

VIRT Webpages & Dashboards - NASBLA dashboards were updated with state registration fees and titling information, and a new dashboard was created to show state registration data by county and new paddlecraft registrations by state. The VIRT online webpage was also updated with new resources, best practices, and other information.

Manufacturer's Statement of Origin - Sample MSO was developed and information on how and where to obtain the document was produced and published.

VIRT Newsletter - The VIRT Committee continues to share the latest news and information regarding registration and titling via the VIRT newsletter.

Vessel Identification System - Information was sent out to states not currently participating in the Vessel Identification System and the committee continues to identify and address barriers to participation for non-participating states.

Develop a Best Practice Document on the Do's & Don'ts of Floating Homes - A Best Practice Document was developed, published and distributed which provides considerations for determining whether certain floating objects can be labeled as a vessel or as a floating home.

HIN Verification & Validation - The committee worked in conjunction with the USCG to develop a HIN Policy, creating a single document to house all HIN related information. The Coast Guard discussed this Policy at the 2023 NASBLA Annual Conference.

14 The presentation provided members with guidance on this new Policy.



fiscal year 2023 RBS GRANTS



As a result of the Fiscal Year 2023 National Nonprofit Organization Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program applications, NASBLA was awarded funding for eight grant projects, detailed below. The time period for these grants is July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023.

BOAT OCCUPANT INJURY SURVEILLANCE TIER 3

NASBLA, in partnership with Safe States Alliance, is building on the ongoing development of Technical Solutions & Surveillance Recommendations through the Injury Surveillance Workgroup (ISW) Process (a.k.a. Boat Occupant Injury Surveillance). Development of Technical Solutions & Surveillance Recommendations through the ISW Process addresses a recognized need that “While operator education seems fundamental to increasing boating safety, building a safety culture for all boaters, including passengers, will most effectively reduce casualties.”

Tier 3 of this effort is to pilot test the recommendations contained in the report in Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, Boating Programs, and Washington State Department of Health. The pilot test focuses on three key areas: data access, data linkages, and partnerships. Safe States and NASBLA will then evaluate the pilot tests and refine the recommendations for broad usage in the field.

BOATING INCIDENT INVESTIGATION & GPS FORENSICS COURSES

NASBLA offers boating incident investigation courses which give law enforcement officers the opportunity to advance their skills in incident investigation. NASBLA also delivers GPS Forensics courses which provide law enforcement officers with a foundation for recovering evidence from GPS devices and preparing it for courtroom presentation. With grant assistance, NASBLA successfully conducted five Level I – Comprehensive Boating Incident Investigation & Analysis courses, two Level II – Advanced Boat Incident Investigation & Reconstruction courses, and four GPS Forensics courses.

BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DETECTION & ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

NASBLA has been conducting boating under the influence (BUI) courses since 2004. Through this cycle of grant funding, NASBLA conducted three Boating Under the Influence Detection and Enforcement Train-the-Trainer (BUI TTT) courses and one Advanced BUI TTT course in conjunction with a BUI Instructor Workshop.



BUI AWARENESS & ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN: OPERATION DRY WATER

Over the course of the three-day heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, July 1 – 3, 2023, 488 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies participated in the Operation Dry Water campaign. From these agencies, 7,767 law enforcement officers conducted patrols resulting in a total of 717 boating under the influence (BUI) arrests. The highest recorded blood alcohol concentration (BAC) was more than three times the legal limit at .258 percent in South Dakota. Officers also contacted more than 300,000 boaters while patrolling our nation's waterways.



EFFECTIVELY PROSECUTING BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CASES: ENHANCED TRAINING FOR COURTROOM PREPARATION, PART II

For the second year in a row NASBLA received a grant to collaborate with the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) to develop a second training module which will enhance prosecutors' courtroom preparations for boating under the influence (BUI) cases brought forth by state and local officers. NASBLA, in partnership with the NDAA, seeks to equip prosecutors with knowledge of BUI detection and field sobriety testing challenges on the water, leading to successful prosecutions. Presentation and final testing of this module was conducted at the 2023 NASBLA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado.

NATIONAL BOATING EDUCATION STANDARDS

As a result of the Fiscal Year 2023 National Boating Education Standards grant, the National Boating Standards Panel (BSP) promoted NASBLA's five American National Standards, and four ANSI registered Technical Reports. These Standards and their accompanying Technical Reports cultivate safer boating behavior on our nation's waterways.

To increase the standardization in the recreational boating environment, the BSP began soliciting input and developing a K-12 Life Jacket Education Standard under this grant. This Standard will be foundational for educating younger boaters, thereby exposing a larger percentage of the boating population to life saving safety knowledge.





STAGED BOATING COLLISIONS & VIDEO DOCUMENTATION

To improve the reliability of incident reporting and data collection, NASBLA, with grant assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, conducted a Staged Boating Collision project to replace deteriorated collision vessels essential to the delivery of advanced investigation and reconstruction training. Officers from across the country attend grant-funded advanced Boating Incident Investigation courses that utilize these vessels. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency hosted these staged collisions in March 2023. The team collected, documented and preserved the evidence from three separate collisions.

STANDARDIZING STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATUTES & REGULATIONS: NASBLA & THE STATES

NASBLA unites the states' recreational boating safety agencies for standardization and reciprocity, a critical state function as each states' recreational boating safety program is responsible for the annual implementation of more than 95 percent of all boating safety expenditures nationwide.

This grant provides funding to assist NASBLA in effectively facilitating and continuously communicating model policies, programs, standards, strategies, and best practices developed through NASBLA's policy committees. Grant funding also supports NASBLA's coordination of hands-on cooperative environments such as the NASBLA State RBS Workshop, NASBLA RBS Leadership Academy, and the NASBLA Annual Conference.



NASBLA EVENTS



BOAT PROGRAM NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The 2022 Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program National Instructor Development Workshop was held in Lexington, Kentucky, December 13 – 14, 2022. More than 50 NASBLA credentialed instructors were in attendance, in addition to U.S. Coast Guard personnel, industry partners, and sponsors. The workshop agenda covered a variety of topics including the Waterborne Armed Threat Emergency Response (WATER) Course, electronic navigation updates, instructor development modules, BOAT Program review, and course audits.

Each year, NASBLA recognizes the BOAT Program Instructor of the Year at the Instructor Workshop. In 2022, the Instructor of the Year Award was presented to Captain Eric Lundin (*ret.*) for his exceptional performance of duties and responsibilities within the NASBLA BOAT Program. Beginning as a break-in instructor in 2012, Capt. Lundin quickly earned the NASBLA Instructor Credential, reaching the Lead Instructor designation in eight course disciplines. Since 2012, Capt. Lundin has made himself available for 140 course deliveries, teaching 42 of these courses as either an instructor or lead instructor.

Additionally, NASBLA's industry partners were invited to present their products and recent advancements to the instructors to ensure that they are well-versed in the products that are available. The industry partners included were Teledyne FLIR/Raymarine and First Watch.

STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY WORKSHOP

The 2023 NASBLA State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop took place in Lexington, Kentucky, March 1 – 2. State agency representatives, along with members of the U.S. Coast Guard, attended the 2023 State RBS Workshop, with 43 states represented at the two day-meeting. Presentations were given on the topics of state grant programs, Boating Incident Investigation Standards, first responder training, visual dashboards, and the Incident Reporting Policy Letter. This annual meeting provides boating safety authorities an opportunity to attend informative sessions on current and emerging issues affecting boating program management and engage in open dialog with their colleagues on topics specific to state recreational boating safety programs.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In conjunction with the 2023 State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop, four of NASBLA's policy committees held their spring meetings on Friday, March 3. The four policy committees that met during this time included Enforcement & Training; Engineering, Reporting & Analysis (ERAC); Finance & Grants; and Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling (VIRT). The Education & Outreach and Paddlesports Committees met on April 15 - 16 in Little Rock, Arkansas, prior to the opening of the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. Each committee reported out on the progress of current charges and discussed priorities for the year.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES – JUNE & JULY CONVENINGS

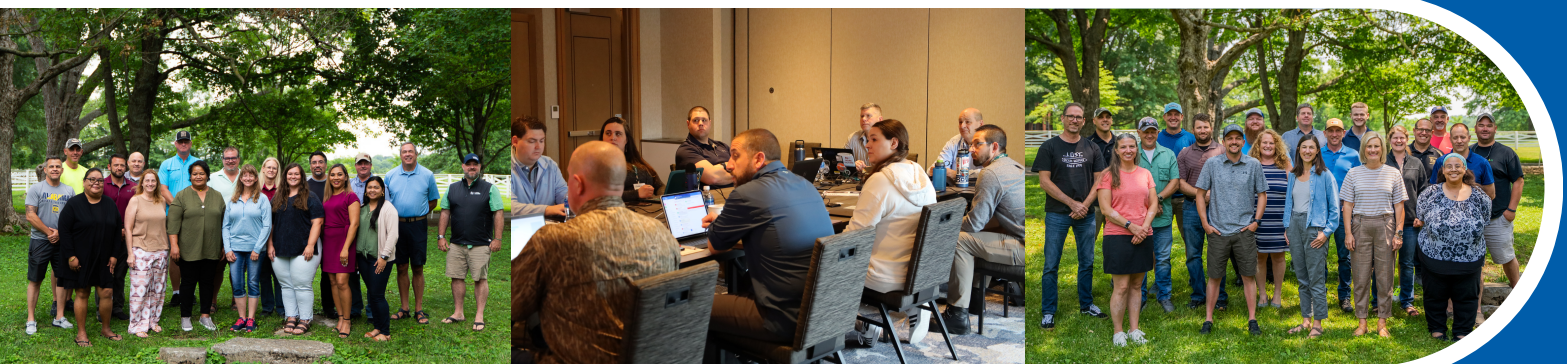
For the first time ever, NASBLA hosted two offerings of the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Leadership Academy in Lexington, Kentucky. The June class convened with 21 students and the July class had 18 students attend.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics surrounding the RBS community. Academy participants spent the week hearing from NASBLA, U.S. Coast Guard representatives, and subject matter experts on topics such as the National Recreational Boating Safety State Grant Program, waterway management, lessons of leadership, partnerships in the recreational boating community and NASBLA resources available to members. Graduates from both classes will be recognized at the NASBLA Annual Conference during the Business Meeting on September 22 in Denver, Colorado.

OPERATION DRY WATER

To kick off the 2023 Operation Dry Water weekend, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, in partnership with NASBLA and the U.S. Coast Guard, hosted the second annual national Operation Dry Water press event in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The press conference took place on Thursday, June 29, at Point State Park.

During the three-day heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, 488 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies were on amplified alert for those in violation of boating under the influence laws and other boating safety infractions. From these agencies, 7,767 law enforcement officers conducted patrols resulting in a total of 717 boating under the influence (BUI) arrests.



Operation Dry Water 2022 AWARDS



OPERATION DRY WATER OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The 2022 Operation Dry Water Officer of the Year is Officer Specialist Nicole Basford of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Over the Operation Dry Water weekend, Officer Specialist Nicole Basford made four arrests for boating under the influence. Officer Specialist (OS) Basford is a ten-year veteran of conservation law enforcement. She is Breath Test Operator certified, has completed the Advanced Roadside Impaired Detection Enforcement Course, the FWC Intoxilyzer Inspector Course, and the NASBLA BUI Instructor Course.



TOP AGENCY AWARDS: SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE

The **2022 Top Agency – Small Category** award was presented to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department from the state of California. During the three-day Operation Dry Water weekend, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deployed three officers who made 15 boating under the influence arrests.

The **Top Agency – Medium Category** award went to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Over the course of the three-day heightened enforcement weekend, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources deployed 26 officers who made 10 boating under the influence arrests.

The **Top Agency – Large Category** award for 2022 was presented to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). The NCWRC deployed 153 officers and made 65 arrests for boating under the influence throughout the three-day Operation Dry Water weekend.

MEDIA AWARD

The 2022 Operation Dry Water Media Award winner is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). TWRA is the sole state agency responsible for enforcing the boating laws of the state of Tennessee. The TWRA Boating & Law Enforcement Division hosted a press conference on July 1, 2022, in Nashville, Tennessee, in partnership with NASBLA, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. In addition to this, wildlife officers conducted numerous media engagements to talk about the Operation Dry Water campaign. This included radio show appearances, social media messages, and videos to increase awareness of the dangers associated with boating while impaired.



NASBLA

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & BUSINESS MEETING



The New Hampshire State Police Marine Patrol Bureau hosted NASBLA's 63rd Annual Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire from September 27 – 30, 2022. The conference kicked off on Tuesday, Sept. 27 with Opening Ceremonies followed by sessions on Wednesday and Thursday focusing on program administration, law enforcement, education and outreach, training and more. The annual NASBLA Awards Banquet took place as well, recognizing educators, law enforcement and outstanding individuals who are making a positive impact on recreational boating safety.

The NASBLA Business Meeting on Sept. 30, covered a variety of topics including policy committee reports, recognition of Leadership Academy graduates, the election of executive board members, and the 2023 Annual Conference preview. Susan Stocker was elected Chair of NASBLA for the 2022-2023 year. Joe McCullough was elected Vice Chair and Aaron Kerr was elected Treasurer. Rob Sendak and Wanda Roberts were elected as Board Members.

There were 48 states and territories represented at the 2022 NASBLA Annual Conference. This event brought local, state, and federal recreational boating safety professionals, industry leaders and nonprofits together to explore challenges, solutions, new ideas and technologies that can help recreational boating professionals and boaters promote and maintain a safe and enjoyable environment on the water.



2022 national AWARDS



To accomplish its mission, NASBLA pursues a multitude of strategic objectives. Numerous individuals and organizations assist NASBLA in various ways in these undertakings. To show its appreciation for this invaluable assistance, NASBLA recognizes outstanding individuals and groups during its Annual Conference for their contributions to recreational boating safety through its awards program.

CHAIR'S AWARD

Each year, the NASBLA Chair selects individuals to honor with special recognition for their contributions to boating safety and NASBLA. NASBLA Chair Lt. Kenton Turner presented the Chair's Award to **Alex Otte** for her continued commitment to ending boating under the influence and for the impact she has already made on the recreational boating community. Last September, NASBLA and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), formalizing a partnership to reduce and prevent incidents related to boating under the influence. This milestone was made possible by the passion and dedication of Alex Otte who finished her term as MADD National President in December of 2022.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In 2022, NASBLA had the honor of presenting three Lifetime Achievement Awards to members of its community. During the 63rd NASBLA Annual Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire, NASBLA presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to **Captain Merri Walker**, Massachusetts Boating Law Administrator, for her professionalism, leadership, and unwavering dedication to making boating safer on the state and national level. Recreational Boating Safety Specialist **Joe Carro** also received the award in recognition of his 44-year career devoted to boating safety and his efforts related to the formation and implementation of the Operation Dry Water campaign. An additional Lifetime Achievement Award was presented at the 2023 State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop which took place March 1 - 2 in Lexington, Kentucky. **William Vann Burgess** received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding career with the U.S. Coast Guard and his lasting impact on the RBS program.



Alex Otte



Captain Merri Walker



Joe Carro



W. Vann Burgess

WILLIAM B. GARNER LEADERSHIP AWARD

NASBLA presented the William B. Garner Leadership Award to **Jeff Wheeler**, Deputy Chief with the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boat Forces, at the 2022 NASBLA National Awards Ceremony. Jeff Wheeler has been a driving force behind the NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program since 2008. His efforts led to the signing of the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NASBLA and the U.S. Coast Guard in May 2012, and the resigning of the MOU in March 2023. Wheeler also served as a Federal member of the National Boating Education Standards Panel for six years. As Panel Chair in 2019-2020, he guided a new “Core-Plus” approach to standards’ development to gain efficiency and consistency among evolving content. As a result of his leadership and vision, NASBLA and the boating community have five new ANSI-recognized American National Standards for Basic Boating Knowledge.

NASBLA AWARD

The 2022 NASBLA Award recipient was **Lieutenant Mark Brown**, Oklahoma’s Boating Law Administrator with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Lt. Brown has been an active leader in the association since the 1990s. In 2013, he graduated from the NASBLA Leadership Academy and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, becoming his state’s BLA. In the year following, he was appointed to the Executive Board as a Member-at-Large and would later serve as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Past President. Early on in his career, Lt. Brown was tasked with developing a marine law enforcement training program for his agency. During his tenure, he established a catalog of more than 800 hours of certified courses for the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training.

BOATING SAFETY AWARD

NASBLA presented the 2022 Boating Safety Award to **Luke Martinez** with the Curry County Aquatic Safety Program in Oregon. Martinez works under a grant funded by the Aquatic Safety Pilot Program for Curry County that emphasizes preventative measures, education, and data collection of Curry’s aquatic and shoreline recreationists. In conjunction with his work with the Aquatic Safety Pilot Program, Martinez works with the Oregon State Marine Board as a Boating Safety Advocate to educate boaters and youth regarding life jackets, water safety, and boating rules and regulations. Martinez is also part of the Oregon State Marine Board Law Enforcement Training Program as an instructor for Swiftwater Rescue and Personal Watercraft (PWC) trainings and assists with the Jet Boat Course and the Marine Law Enforcement Academy.



Jeff Wheeler



Lieutenant Mark Brown



Luke Martinez

Brian Paulsen



Dave Dahms



Dave Considine



COMPASS AWARD

NASBLA recognized the **Oregon State Marine Board** with the Compass Award for their efforts to engage the non-motorized boating community that was so rapidly changing the face of recreational boating. Though paddlers have always found Oregon's waterways attractive, the growth in numbers since 2000 led to user conflict, crowding, and an increase in the number of fatalities. Three iterations of advisory groups eventually resulted in a new law being passed in 2019, which began its implementation in 2020. Today, Oregon's non-motorized boating Waterway Access Program is a model program for the user-pays, user-benefits philosophy of providing constituent services and other state programs who are looking to develop their services for non-motorized programs.

BONNER AWARD

NASBLA presented the Bonner Award to **Dave Dahms** who served as Idaho's Boating Law Administrator for 16 years. Dahms was a two-time Western States Boating Administrators Association (WSBAA) Board President, served two terms on the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee, and chaired the NASBLA Awards Committee for four years. Dahms was also the Chair of NASBLA's Education & Outreach Committee and served on the Paddlesports and Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling (VIRT) Committees. Within his home state, Dahms oversaw the installation of approximately 120 life jacket loner stations.

DANIEL MAXIM AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program Director **Dave Considine** was honored with the Daniel Maxim Award for Distinguished Service. Considine is a champion in the science of adult learning and contemporary classroom instruction techniques both in theory and in practice. Like Dr. Maxim, Considine is deeply committed to fostering research, analysis, and the scientific method in advancing the goals and outcomes of the BOAT Program. Since becoming the BOAT Program's Director, Considine has brought a new level of appreciation for the use of data analysis, broad scientific knowledge, and the modern neuroscience of learning to the training and development sphere. Each year, Considine and a small cadre of senior instructors, participate in the Association for Talent Development's International Conference to glean valuable insights and new adult learning techniques and to mine for practical applications to enhance the design and delivery of BOAT program courses. All NASBLA instructors and students benefit from these efforts.

PAMELA S. DILLON BOATING EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

The 2022 Northern Region Educator of the Year award recipient is **Lieutenant John Girvalakis** of the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP). Lt. Girvalakis has provided outreach and education to the recreational boating public in his role as the Lead Instructor for the Boat Safety Bureau of the MEP. As COVID-19 significantly impacted MEP presence in the classroom, Lt. Girvalakis worked diligently with NASBLA to fill the void by providing virtual boating education courses.

Trooper Tyler W. O'Brien of the Missouri State Highway Patrol has been named the Southern Region Educator of the Year for 2022. Trooper O'Brien is a standout in water safety education within his zone, troop, and state. Whether he is working enforcement during Missouri's primary boating season, teaching the boater education course in the off-season, or teaching other law enforcement agencies, Trooper O'Brien's focus is always to educate the public.

The 2022 Western Region and National Educator of the Year award recipient is **Kim Jackson** with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Kim Jackson is an innovative and dedicated Boating Safety Education Manager. She tirelessly works with partner agencies and the public to promote life jacket wear, and significantly contributes to increasing safety for all boaters and paddlers.



Kim Jackson

BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Sergeant Brian Piernicky, of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, has been named the 2022 Northern Region Officer of the Year. Sgt. Piernicky's time and effort spent on the water has allowed the boating public to enjoy their water activities safely. His commitment to furthering his own knowledge and training, as well as that of his officers, has led to a decrease in the number of incidents observed and reported on Nebraska waterways.

The 2022 Western Region Officer of the Year award recipient is **Game Warden Victor Jordan** with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Game Warden Jordan spends most of his duty time patrolling the waterways of the Colorado River corridor in Southern Nevada, which is known as the busiest and most dangerous waterway in the state. Game Warden Jordan is recognized for his diligence and reliability within the Nevada Department of Wildlife.



Deputy Sheriff Dan Williams

Deputy Sheriff Daniel Williams with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) is the 2022 Southern Region and National Officer of the Year award recipient. Deputy Williams consistently displays a strong work ethic and tackles new challenges with positivity and confidence. Deputy Williams is a tenacious law enforcement officer and demonstrates strong judgement skills in conducting his daily duties. He is an efficient and productive officer, who regularly receives compliments from the public.

fiscal year 2024 RBS GRANTS



Among the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) core values is collaboration with a broad community of stakeholders. To assist in moving the association forward, NASBLA works annually to construct nonprofit grant project proposals to meet the needs of its members through research, training, innovation and standards development. As a result of the Fiscal Year 2024 National Nonprofit Organization Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program applications, NASBLA was awarded funding for one grant project. Three additional grant projects continue in year two of a three-year award given in Fiscal Year 2023.

ASSESSING KNOWLEDGE RETENTION FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY COURSES

NASBLA has received grant funding to investigate the efficacy of online and classroom recreational boating safety courses that have been approved by NASBLA as meeting the American National Standard, ANSI/NASBLA 103-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Power. This grant project will conduct original research through a nonrandomized knowledge retention study to determine if retention of boating safety standards knowledge is comparable between (a) traditional online training (static content presentation), (b) interactive online training, (c) classroom (face-to-face) training, and (d) virtual classroom courses, 4 months after completing training. Overall, the goal of this one-year effort is to reduce recreational boating fatalities, injuries, and property damage by cultivating a boating public better knowledgeable and equipped to engage in safe boating behaviors. Also, this project's goal is to strengthen the delivery of knowledge instruction for recreational boating safety courses. This grant project was awarded funding for one year.

BOATING INCIDENT INVESTIGATION & GPS FORENSICS COURSES

NASBLA has received funding to improve the reliability of incident reporting and data collection through the effective training of law enforcement and incident investigators. NASBLA will continue to deliver Boating Incident Investigation and GPS Forensic courses. Officers calls for service to investigate boating incidents continue to rise with the increase in recreational boating activity nationwide. This emphasizes the importance and the demand for professionally trained officers and investigators in the technical role of incident investigation across the nation. Additionally, as GPS technology continues to become more affordable and commonplace on most all vessels from the dealer, officers nationwide realized the incredible value of the data these units could provide for an investigation of a boating related incident. This project was awarded funding for three years in FY23, and will be entering into its second year of funding in FY24.



BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DETECTION & ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Under funding from this grant, NASBLA will conduct a series of training courses to combat boating under the influence of alcohol (BUI) and drugs (BUI-D). NASBLA will deliver Boating Under the Influence Train-the-Trainer courses designed for marine law enforcement officers who wish to teach other officers the BUI Course, an Advanced BUI Detection and Enforcement Training Course and BUI Instructor Workshop. This grant project was awarded funding for three years in FY23, and will be entering into its second year of funding in FY24.

BUI AWARENESS & ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN: OPERATION DRY WATER

Grant funding will be used to deliver the Operation Dry Water (ODW) campaign. Operation Dry Water is a year-round national boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign with the mission of reducing the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol and drug use on the water. The campaign takes place in every U.S. state and territory with participation from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. As a result of the three-day heightened enforcement weekend, hundreds of impaired operators will be removed from the waterways and thousands of boaters will be educated about safe boating practices. This grant project was awarded funding for three years in FY23, and will be entering into its second year of funding in FY24.



STANDARDIZING STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATUTES & REGULATIONS: NASBLA & THE STATES

NASBLA has been awarded funding to partner with and support the states, the U.S. Coast Guard and the recreational boating safety (RBS) community by fostering standardization and reciprocity among state boating safety statutes, regulations, and rules, and how they are administered and enforced. NASBLA, through the states and a well-established volunteer policy committee structure, will develop or update model state boating safety policies, standards, and best practices as well as guidance for their administration and enforcement. Through this grant project, NASBLA will facilitate hands-on coordination of state efforts and the establishment of cooperative environments, to include workshops and conferences where state officials can discuss issues, resolutions, policies, and best practices, and improve their management of the RBS programs. This project was awarded funding for three years in FY23, and will be entering into its second year of funding in FY24.



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Kalkomey is all about creating outdoor enthusiasts. Kalkomey's platform connects millions of people with the outdoors every year. Established in 1995, Kalkomey has partnered with state agencies to provide boater education.

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of the New Orleans skyline at dusk. In the foreground, a large, multi-decked riverboat with a green and white striped canopy is docked on the Mississippi River. The city's skyline, featuring various skyscrapers and historic buildings, is visible in the background under a colorful twilight sky.

NASBLA Annual Conference

SAVE
The DATE

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | SEPTEMBER 17 - 20, 2024



We thank you for your ongoing support of the
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2023 Annual Report

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