**Below are summary reports of National Boating Federation delegates during the identified meetings:**

**USPS 98th Annual Meeting January 25, 2012 Jacksonville, FL – NBF President Fred Poppe:**

The Government/Partner Relations Committee met on 27 Jan 2012. I introduced our e-Bulletin and our DSC Brochure and discussed their availability on our website; both as a pamphlet and a Power Point that can be used in safety courses. The ensuing discussion indicated that the information should more clearly emphasize the need to ‘reregister’ the VHF Radio when ownership changes. A Base Line Survey Report dated 14 Jan 2012 was distributed detailing the level of coordination between USCG Auxiliary Flotillas and the USPS Squadrons. One of the highlights of the Survey revealed that 26.1% of USPS Districts and 57.2% of USPS Squadrons have no coordinated activities with the CG Auxiliary. Increasing the coordination between both organizations will have a positive impact on recreational boating safety. NBF has a unique opportunity influence this effort through and awards program outlined in an earlier report to our Executive Committee and by stressing the need in our newsletters as well as during our attendance at meetings.

**2012 International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) March 4-7, 2012: NBF Treas. Ev Tucker:**

I attended and represented NBF at this conference at the Hyatt Mission Bay Hotel in San Diego, CA. As in preceding years the IBWSS Conference was outstanding with a very large attendance of recreational boating stakeholders with lots of good information presented and excellent exchanged between attendees. The most valuable outcome of my attending was the opportunity to network and renew friendships with representative of USACE, BOATUS Foundation, ACA, CPS, NASBLA, NSBC, BSA, USPS and others. 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 the objectives of the RBS Strategic Plan as well as some of the most critical issues facing us today and in the future. These included in depth discussion on the sharing of information and programs and the use of ethanol fuel where I emphasized our active opposition to E-15 and strong concerns over the safety of E-10 and degradation of fuel tanks and lines. I followed up with American Sailing concerning their basic courses and the need and ways to gain NASBLA approval. I met with NSBC, NASBLA & USCG and discussed our on-going initiative to sign an MOU with SAFE KIDS and to partner with them to enhance their involvement and support of RBS Strategic Plan objectives. This was well received. I discussed Florida’s actions regarding anchoring with reps from BOATUS and the Florida Fish & Game and express that NBF was willing to offer support as needed to reduce the unwarranted effects on recreational boaters. I discussed the importance to increase the registration of DSC radios and EPIRBs with the USPS and USCGAUX and the benefits of informing the public of this need using the NBF DSC Trifold. The Auxiliary indicated that the trifold had been disseminated to their units electronically. A detailed report covering NASBLA Education Committee, NSBC Membership Meeting, NASBLA, USCG, BSAC, NTSB and USACE can be found at the following link:

<http://www.n-b-f.org/reports.html> The Coast Guard Strategic Plan was heavily stressed by me in all phases of the IBWSS meeting.

**National Drowning Prevention Symposium, March 7-10, 2012: NBF Past President, Tom Dogan:**

Tiffany Isaacson, President of the NDP Alliance opened the seminar in San Diego, CA. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Stephen Beerman, President of the Intl Life Saving Federation entitled: “Immunization for Drowning Prevention – The Public Health Approach to Save Lives in Asia and the US’. Drowning is prevented at the community level. All aspects of water use, including recreational boating, can take preventative steps to prevent drowning deaths. One of the biggest problems Dr. Beerman sees is with the huge number of immigrants to the US who are not culturally inclined to safety issues, like learning to swim, boating safety, etc. When an overloaded ferry boat capsizes in their culture, they simply down and it is considered an ‘incident of life’. We should ‘inoculate’ our children with swim lessons early in life with emphasis on staying alive in different water conditions. This should be stressed as part of our boating safety courses. Mr. Charlie Paxton of the National Weather Service spoke on weather patterns associated with US rip current deaths and injuries. Rip currents are not necessarily associated with storm events. The weather patterns associated with rip currents are a constant onshore wind for several days or at least several hours, thus ‘piling up’ the waters. The water that piles up must return to the sea. Shallow water blackout was addressed. Never hold your breath after hyperventilating. Hypoxic training has been banned by USA swimming. The new rule: intervene after 10 seconds and not 30 seconds to save a life. Drowning victims just slip below the surface. There is no screaming for help – danger signs include vertical in the water, no waving, no yelling, head back and mouth open; no splashing. Boating safety courses need to include emphasis on poor swimmers and people who can’t swim to wear a PFD when swimming or in the water. NDP are serious life savers and are interested in alliances.

**Western States Boating Administrator’s Assn.: NBF Past President, Marlene Barrington:**

The 51st Annual Meeting of WSBAA opened in Breckenridge, CO on June 10, 2012. An opportunity for networking was available all days of the conference with Assn. members from AK, WA, OR, ID, MT, CA,AZ,NV,UT,CO,WY,HI, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Also present were industry reps from Mustang Survival, Whaler boats, Intoximeters, Inc. and Flir Systems. Addresses by the NTSB and USCG Headquarters and Districts #8,11,13,14, and 17 along with the State of the State reports by all BLA’s represented.

Alaska reported that boating fatalities are ten times the national average with is down from 40 times greater in 1998. Arizona reported that boat registrations are dropping lower every year. California has put in place travel limitations and the state has contracted out most of their work. Guam reports that Rescue 21 is active and reaches out 20 miles; USACE is working on all of their bridges; PSA’s are run on TV and radio with classes given in the grade schools on water safety. Hawaii has a program for awareness for divers and swimmers online and they have a phone tree for reporting tsunami debris. Idaho reports that their life jacket loaner stations has grown; 42 invasive species boats have been intercepted; PSA’s are being made in Spanish via Telemundo. Montana has 13,685 miles of rivers and streams and 1900 square miles of lakes under the care of 74 wardens, 3 covert investigators, 6 overt investigators, 11 warden sergeants and 7 captains on patrol. Nevada has 51,83 registered boats producing violations that include: no PFD’s, no extinguisher, reckless operation, dangerous wake and expired registrations. Northern Mariana Islands partners with the USCG on buoy maintenance along with Safe Boating Week being a highlight and a time to inspect marinas: both public and private. Oregon boat registrations are down, but all public training content now on the web: rules, fees, boater education and access information. Utah has cut $5.6 million from their programs including 45 positions; reduced park operating hours; shortened seasons; and consolidation. Washington wants to improve on their Mandatory Education; 107,000 mandatory boater education cards have been issued since the program started in 2011; IKEA has offered 500 PFD’s to go to 60 loaner stations. Wyoming reports registrations are down slightly; they have 50 officers after retirements and resignations; and they have no reported aquatic species problems. New Mexico has 16 RBS positions and 96 officers; challenges include drought and wildfire, recruitment, retention, retirement and 31% less state revenues. It was extremely helpful to see how these western states BLA’s handle their reduced funding and still provide full safety for the recreational boaters under their care.

**Safe Kids USA June 20, 2012, Washington DC: NBF Treasurer, Ev Tucker:**

I met with the SAFE KIDS staff involved in water and boating safety at their headquarters in Washington, D.C. Since our first meeting, they have been receiving our reports and documents relating to boating safety and they are most appreciative. I answered numerous questions as to how they should proceed in order to become more active in boating safety. They now look to NBF as a trusted advisor and are grateful for our assistance and willingness to work together, keeping in mind that we must recognize that boating safety will never be a top issue for them as there is a much greater loss of children’s lives in swimming & swimming pool accidents. They expressed interest in SAFE KIDS & NBF jointly developing a boating safety grant for 2013. Their main initiative in boating safety is to support the Life Jacket Loaner Program done by many of their local coalitions. I recommended they contact and gave them the names of other organizations involved in similar programs. I had the opportunity to share this experience with Jeff Hoedt and he was pleased and stated that SAFE KIDS’ extensive network of members could be very important to the passage of RBS initiatives with their support. We now have a signed MOU with SAFE KIDS and looked forward to our continued partnership whereby we have been invited to speak at their next annual meeting in 2013.

**USCGAUX NACON, San Antonio, TX August 23-26,2012: NBF President Fred Poppe:**

While attending this National Conference I was able to make a presentation of the NBF Outstanding Public Education Award to Flotilla 11-05 from Tri-Lakes, CA which is part of District 11, Southern Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. NBF sponsors this award annual to the flotilla who has increased the number of Public Education classes offered to the boating community by increasing the competition between the flotillas of the Auxiliary. I was able to attend workshops involving American Waterway Watch and the Auxiliary’s support of the Sea Scouts. Scouts can join Auxiliary patrols which would broaden their horizons. I took the opportunity to suggest to Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant of the Coast Guard, that the release of examples of disaster avoided through the AWW program would be of great help increasing the participation of the recreational boating community in this program. Admiral Papp indicated that he would have the possibility of such releases reviewed. NBF can best grow public awareness of its activities and foster boating safety objectives through an expansion of our Awards Program. I will suggest to our Executive Committee that we design an awards program to foster increased life jacket wear with USACE and a program to recognize states who adopt mandatory education with a quick phase-in program not to exceed 6 years in conjunction with NASBLA. These programs would be added to our ongoing awards that recognize public education efforts with the USCGA and the USPS.

**Joint Harbor Safety & Area Maritime Security Conference-Pittsburgh, PA: Ev Tucker/ Margot Brown:**

This conference was held at the Omni William Penn Hotel on August 27-30, 2012 with over 350 attendees most of which were uniformed and civilian members of the USCG. Deputy Commandant for Operations discussed the shift in upcoming HLS grant funding from security requirements to focus on port infrastructure needs with emphasis on Safety, Security, and Stewardship of ports and waterways. Mention was made as to forthcoming changes to America’s Waterway Watch Program, but no specifics were provided. Various initiatives to bring more unity to managing the marine transportation system was discussed. USACE made it clear that current and future funding for dredging and lock/repair/upgrade would be very low. I discussed the need for added emphasis in navigation safety by boaters with a number of attendees. I also urged that recreational boaters become a member of Harbor Safety Committees as well as Area Maritime Security Committees. Best practices presentations made by the HSCs from Port of NY/NJ, LA/LB, Philadelphia, Boston, and Hampton Roads were the highlight of the conference. BOATUS addressed the value of recreational boating to the economy and the great involvement in recreational boating by 83 million people annually. There are 12.4 million registered boats and possibly 2 million unregistered boats and these recreational users are involved in many different water activities.

**2012 USPS Governing Board Meeting, Detroit, MI: NBF Treasurer Ev Tucker:**

I represented NBF at the 2012 USPS Governing Board Meeting in Detroit, MI during the period September 5-9. This was their 99th anniversary and was well attended with over 350 members plus boating related organizational representatives. I was given 5-8 minutes by the Chief Commander to address the attendees with a brief overview on NBF covering our mission; who we represent; current initiatives; we support the RBS Strategic Plan; and why we are a valuable resource to recreational boaters. The Dealer Advantage program announced a partnership between USPS and Brunswick to enhance boating education with boating courses offered at their dealerships. A presentation on the progress of ‘On the Water Training’ program by the USPS is fully supported by the USCG. Work continues in developing USPS short courses using cell phone apps. The issue of requiring EPIRBs on recreational boats 3 miles offshore will be given to BSAC to develop a recommendation. A first ever recreational boating survey has begun and a second survey is due in 2013 with the funding coming out of the $5 million now supporting grants. Major thrusts will be PFD wear; skill level training with emphasis on development of public on the water courses; public outreach; Nav rules; required safety equipment; accident reporting; effectiveness of grants; and initiatives to increase awareness & basic safety knowledge . Perhaps the most valuable outcome of my attendance was the opportunity to network and renew friendships with the senior USPS leadership and other representatives present. I was able to stress the role and importance of NBF and its work supporting the recreational boaters on the most critical issues facing us today and in the future.

**2012 NASBLA Conference – Mobile, AL 9-9-12: NBF Treasurer Ev Tucker:**

As always, the NASBLA Conference was outstanding with lots of good information presented and excellent exchanges between the 46 of 54 BLAs attending. This year a number of states had total travel freezes and some BLAs attended at their own expense and by using vacation time. RADM Lee stressed our common purpose to prevent accidents & injuries; need to exchange ideas; and develop productive relationships with focus on unsafe acts such as: bow riding, BUI, uneducated PWC operators etc. Emphasis on the impact on a family and society as a whole when a life was lost needlessly on the water closed his presentation. He thanked all involved in RBS for their dedicated efforts. 2011 boating statistics was presented by Jeff Hoedt, Chief Office of Boating Safety, with the numbers showing no improvement. Boat registrations continue to decline. The budget climate in the CG is deteriorating with cuts of 12% in operations funds and 40% in travel expected. The Trust Fund will also be hit with sequestration, probably at 7 or 8% and could be as high as 15%. The Office of Boating Safety is facing a major 2013 cut in their printing of RBS information. The Trust Fund was extended by Congress until 9-30-14 but no recommended changes were incorporated. There will be a 50% cut to non-profit grants in order to fund the boating survey. Grants will continue to be evaluated based on their impact in accomplishing the RBS Strategic Plan with emphasis on objectives that will support the Plan with anticipated benefits and results. PFD Standards and Labeling changed will be forthcoming as the UCG and Transport Canada agree on North American PFD standards. This will offer an opportunity for NBF to assist the CG in preparing training materials on the ‘new PFD classifications’. States are recommended to change their state laws and regulations to drop the ‘types’ and replace with ‘wearable’ and throw able’ PFDs. The BLA Executive Session addressed a formal credentialing program for boating safety professionals. The USACE PFD wear policy to reduce boating fatalities by 50% by the end of 2014 was discussed.

**GMDSS/EPIRB Conference, Orlando, FL September 27-28,2012: Earl Waesche, Legislative Director:**

I attended the Global Maritime Distress Systems Solutions (GMDSS) and the Beacon Manufacturers Workshop. Both meeting were well attended, with many representatives from industry, USCG, FCC, NOAA, FAA, NASA, NTSB, USAF as well as representatives from the UK, Canada, Denmark, Norway and France. The RTCM Special Committee on Emergency Beacons reported that a combined EPIRB-AIS standard is being developed. It was also indicated that they are working with NOAA on beacon registration issues and considering a new type of rechargeable EPIRB. Testing is being conducted on a new EPIRB with an internal GPS receiver. BSAC is considering a mandatory beacon requirement (EPIRB or PLB) when greater than 20 miles off shore. At the conclusion of the workshop I was asked to introduce the NBF EPIRB leaflet. Rescue 21 made the important Digital Selective Calling (DSC) feature on our new VHF marine radios possible. The FCC reported on a number of issues including the lack of MMSI number registrations for assignment to the boat’s VHF radio. NBF is and will continue to disseminate information stressing this. A new class of PLB is under consideration tentatively called ‘BWW’ or Beacons Worn on a Wrist.

**Navigational Safety Advisory Council Meeting, Tampa, FL: NBF Past President Tom Dogan:**

This meeting was important to the recreational boater and to recreational boating safety in three major aspects. First, the concept of ‘marine spatial planning’ was discussed at numerous times during the meeting, within the confines of the meeting agenda. The recreational boating community must be recognized and heard from in the spatial planning process to ensure maximum recognition of recreational boating rights and responsibilities, and most importantly to ensure the safety of recreational boaters. Specifically, the creation of navigational lanes of traffic was discussed at length, and also the demarcation of traffic and/or use zones for various competing purposes, such as windmill farms, oil platforms and their servicing, commercial shipping, the cruise industry, and the recreational boating community. This rep of the NBF had input into that issue on behalf of recreational boaters. Also debated was the recommendation made at the last NAVSAC meeting to the USCG that all recreational boats of length 16’ or greater be required to carry aboard at all times a valid copy of the Nav Rules. This rule recommendation was scrutinized by the NAVSAC committee and this NBF rep with an eye toward re-examination of the requirement, for practical, legal and safety-related reasons. The notion of electronic navigation was discussed, and it was brought by the undersigned on behalf of NBF that e-nav must not within the foreseeable future completely replace paper navigational charts, as many recreational boaters do not own and couldn’t reasonably be expected to purchase the equipment necessary to utilize e-nav data.

**2013 USPS Annual General Meeting- Jacksonville, FL January 18-19: NBF Treasurer Ev Tucker:**

USPS 100th anniversary meeting will be a celebration during all of 2013 and conclude with a special ceremony at their 2014 AGM. As always, the conference was outstanding with lots of good information and excellent exchanges between attendees. Over 585 members were present plus a significant number of related organizational representatives. I attended several sessions and was able to discuss our 3 NBF brochures and shared information on our eBulletin and urged all to subscribe. Afterwards, I had a number of requests for additional information regarding NBF and the eBulletin. The Brunswick Corporation addressed the economy and its effects on the boating industry. The average age of small powerboats has increased over the last few years from 15 to 22 years. Boat manufacturers have cut their work force and a number have gone out of business. The boating industry needs the active support of the USPS and other boating organizations to keep recreational boating alive and well. Brunswick plans to market to 1600 of their 3600 dealers in the U.S. to meet with their local squadrons to arrange for boating courses at their dealerships. The USPS would provide top-notch instructors and dealerships would provide the classrooms and advertising to their customers past and present. The USPS has approved the proposal to drop the boating education requirement for USPS membership. Attendees were again asked to review and direct their efforts on the objectives in the approved RBS Strategic Plan that is on the Office of Boating Safety Website. The issue of requiring EPIRBs on recreational boats 3 miles offshore was supported by BSAC and provided to the USCG. Perhaps the most valuable outcome of my attending was the opportunity to network and renew friendships with the senior USPS leadership and with the BOATUS Foundation and all representatives present. I was able to stress our role in NBF addressing critical issues, including the RBS Strategic Plan’s objectives facing us today and of course into the future.

**National Drowning Prevention Symposium – Ft. Lauderdale, FL: NBF Past President Tom Dogan**

An excellent conference was experienced at the 12th Annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium held March 13-15, 2013 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Many alliances were created with both presenters and attendants, including an expert stand- up paddleboard presenter who agreed to help with formulating reasonable enforceable uniform regulation concerning stand-up paddleboards that his attendee can take back to the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. Another presenter who is going to provide further information on rip-tide analysis (particularly the subject of ‘predictors’ of where to look for a drowning victim at the time of the occurrence), and also an emergency room MD Specialist who provided valuable insight into the immediate proper treatment of drowning victims, such as administering epinephrine immediately and how to quickly ascertain the appropriate dosage, oxygen % to administer, and proper CPR techniques. Follow up will be done with the Great Lake Surf Rescue Project and the other presenters in order to further the goals of recreational boating safety and the Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program.

**2013 International Boating & Water Safety Summit, San Antonio, TX:NBF Treasurer Everett Tucker Jr.**

During the period 24-27 March, 2013, I attended and represented NBF at the Summit held at the Hyatt Riverwalk Hotel. I also represented NBF at the NASBLA Committee Meetings and the Annual Meetings of the NWSC and NSBC. This year’s attendance was severely down due to travel freezes by state and federal agencies – the smallest in many years at 200 or less. I was able to emphasize NBF’s continued active opposition to E15 and its strong concerns over the safety of E10 with the degradation of fuel tanks and lines. I met with NSBC, NASBLA & USCG and discussed our initiative to make a presentation on boating safety for children at their 2013 Anniversary Safe Kids Conference coming in June. This was well received. I discussed the outstanding briefings that the NBF Board had just had regarding Marine Coastal Spatial Planning. I discussed the important need to increase the registration of DSC radios and EPIRBs with the USPS and USCGAUX and the benefits of informing the public of this need using the free NBF educational download materials found on our website. The opening ceremony reflected the impact of the sequestration, as for the first time, no USCG flag officers were in attendance. NASBLA is seeking to gain certification of their normal course standards and ‘on water’ standards by the National American Standard Institute (ANSI). In 2012, some 400,000 people took a NASBLA approved boating course and for the first time, on- line graduates surpassed classroom. Presently NASBLA is working on a power boat version, but sailing and paddling are also being considered. Point of Sale Training courses have been developed to assist in training marine dealer salespersons in how to more effectively sell boating safety products. Close Quarters Operator Training Course is a new on the water-hands-on course developed to enhance proficiency of law enforcement marine personnel has been very successful. Capt. Rokes, USCG Chief of Auxiliary & Boating Safety Division announced that a 15% cut in their operating funds and a 40% cut in their travel. Sequestration reduced the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund amount available this year, however, this withhold of funds was made up through increased revenues flowing in the trust fund. The states will receive the expected amount of funds this year. 2011 boating statistics came in with 758 fatalities, the highest in 7 years. The current RBS Strategic Plan will continue to be the guiding focus for the CG’s efforts in RBS. The Plan requires added boating safety education, awareness, life jacket wear, on water skills enhancement, more adherence of the rules of the road, reducing BUI, boating accident reporting, and manufacturer compliance. The recommendation by BSAC concerning the mandatory wear of lifejackets and EPIRB carriage, if going 3 or more miles offshore, are still being evaluated at CG Headquarters. The CG is developing a training program called ‘BOAT PRO PROGRAM’ for marine dealers to effectively train sales personnel. Another CG objective is to persuade dealers to establish a life jacket loaner program by swapping new jackets for old ones and then using the old ones for loaners. The ACA briefing focused on Stand-Up Paddle Boarding (SUP). USACE study showed that 93% of people that swim, cannot swim 40 yards. Non-swimming families were found to be 8 times more at risk around the water. This was an excellent conference for sharing NBF with other attendees and sharing the objectives of the Strategic Plan presented at the Summit via our eBulletin and social media.

**Western States Boating Administrators Assn. (WSBAA) May 5-8, 2013: NBF Exec. Dir. Margot Brown**

The 2013 WSBAA conference convened in Flagstaff, AZ with traditional ceremonies, followed by a brief President’s reception. RADM Schultz was the only uniformed CG presence at this meeting and he complimented NBF on its extended tenure on Harbor Safety Committees at Tampa Bay, Hampton Roads, and San Francisco Bay. The meeting theme was: ‘Partnerships’. Since there were many new BLAs present, I devoted a brief summary of the NBF history and general concerns of our 45+ year history. I reported on NBF’s concerns with the EPA insistence in permitting the sale and use of E15 fuels for marine consumption and our growing concern at the current non-inclusion of recreational boaters from national and regional maritime spatial conferences. My expressed concerns were echoed by the following speaker, John Donaldson, of the American Watercraft Assn. Overall state reports were pretty unanimous: A decline in boater registration (particularly Oregon, who reported being down to 1990 numbers), and a vast increase in paddlecraft. Guam reported that Rescue 21 is working well and it’s use being encouraged. Hawaii will have mandatory boater education beginning in 2014. Montana has had no accidents or fatalities in 2013. Alaska counts 22 children’s lives saved due to is extensive PFD loaner program. California has a trade-in program for worn out PFDs. The USCG report dwelt mainly on ‘compliance visits’ which have been curtailed even before the current budget crisis. Hot topics remain: vessel model year designation and accident reporting. Considerable time was allowed discussion of Invasive Species programs since most of the WSBAA states feature river and inland lake boating activities. The National Park Service, Lake Mead and Glen Canyon NRA all pointed to increased use of paddlecraft and this led to a presentation of the Arizona Paddlecraft Program. The Awards Banquet concluded with a MOU being signed between WSBAA and the American Canoe Association. It is my recommendation that NBF continue to attend future meetings of WSBAA as this is a knowledgeable, pro-active group and small enough to make an impact with the NBF message. It is our pleasure to use our electronic bulletin, eLert, and Facebook capabilities to take the WSBAA message to recreational boaters as encouraged by the Coast Guard Strategic Plan.