

# LGPS

## SOUNDINGS

July-August 2024



### *Commander Message*

*By George K. Williams, AP*

Wow – summer certainly came upon us quickly this year – one moment it was cool and damp, and today as I write this message, it is 90-plus degrees and the summer humidity has returned in earnest. I trust we have all gotten our boats in the water and have been enjoying the beautiful weather of late on the regions lakes and rivers. What better timing, every weekend so far has provided spectacular boating weather.

I again reflect on the NYS regulation requiring the possession of a boater safety certificate by “all” power boat operators beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. First, the final phase-in of the 2019 NYS law known as Brianna’s Law will be in full force beginning 2025. Secondly, we have received several calls from past members as well as entry level course participants looking for duplicate certificates to fulfill the law’s requirement. Unfortunately, we are learning that many of the callers are unaware if they completed a USPS course hosted by LGPS or conducted through the Coast Guard Auxiliary. If you know someone who is looking for a duplicate, are certain it was a USPS course session, they should be directed to USPS Headquarters to obtain a duplicate because all Squadron hosted course records had been turned over to USPS years ago. The Squadron is unable to confirm course completion. We have been suggesting once a duplicate is received they request NYS DMV to add the completion to their driver’s license record for ease of future proof. Lastly, if you know someone who has yet to complete the boater certification course or interested in re-taking a course, please ask that they contact our Squadron Education Officer, P/C Donna Canestraro, S at (518) 372-7220. Donna will be happy to provide all the information needed to complete the course and exam.

Have fun and boat safely this season!

### **E-mail Address Update**

Do we have your e-mail address on file? The Squadron is updating its Roster to be sure we have the correct contact e-mail on file. The importance of our updating our Squadron file is that USPS Headquarters has been working on a new system to permit enhanced communication to all USPS members. There are many LGPS members who we do not have an e-mail address for. See the USPS Database Conversion article in this issue (page 2) for details on the new HQ system rollout. Please send an e-mail to us at [LGPSINFO@nycap.rr.com](mailto:LGPSINFO@nycap.rr.com) and we will be sure your e-mail is up-to-date and added to the USPS Headquarters new system.



**Now Hear This...**

## **Vessel Safety Check Ongoing for 2024**

It's never too late to request your vessel examination for 2024. For details on the requirements and to schedule a convenient time, please contact VSE P/C Armand Canestraro at (518) 372-7220. The 2024 season is going by quickly, schedule your 2024 VSE today!

## **USPS National Database Conversion Update**

As you have hopefully heard by now, America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons is replacing its membership database with a cloud-based membership management system. If you have not already, you should receive an email from [news@hq.usps.org](mailto:news@hq.usps.org) welcoming you to the new member portal. The email provides a username and asks you to reset your password. We will continue this rollout in small batches until all members have received their credentials.

**What does this mean for you?** The new member portal will allow you to check and update your membership information, update your preferences, pay dues, sign up for dues autopay, donate and much more.

District and Squadron commanders will be able to set dues pricing with the new system. Squadron administrators (bridge members and membership chairs) can also add events, update member data and add new members, email members, and more. These systems are currently being fine-tuned and will be rolled out in special communications to these leadership groups in the coming weeks.

Within the next year, headquarters will move our Ship's Store and our National Meetings registration system to the new member portal. HQ will also offer Squadron and District microsites, dynamic websites linked to the new member portal that are free to participating Squadrons or Districts. More information on these new systems will be conveyed in the coming months.

While there's much to be gained from this new technology, change can be difficult for all of us. We ask for your patience as staff work to complete this transition. If you need help with the new system, please call headquarters at 888-367-8777 or email [portal.admin@hq.usps.org](mailto:portal.admin@hq.usps.org). We will do our utmost to answer your questions and fulfill your requests promptly.