



Afterdeck



NEWS

Volume 59
No. 12

of the PALM BEACH SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC.[®]
Located at LATITUDE 26° 47.8' N and LONGITUDE 80° 04.9' W
a unit of the United States Power Squadrons[®] • District 8

December
2003

**Wishing All
a Happy, Peaceful
and Safe Holiday
Season**



*These little angels
are creations of
the Squadron's
talented and
faithful Craft
Ladies.*

See Page 5.

*Introducing
Les Mack, our
man of many
music talents.
See Page 5*



*Ralph Morse
appointed
Assistant
Admin Officer
See Page 16*



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This Month's Meeting: Commander's Ball and Holiday Party

Date: Tuesday 9 December.
Location: PGA Members Club
Time: Social Hour 1800 hrs (6 p.m.)
Dinner: 1900 hrs
Entertainment: Les Mack's Special Edition.

Reception Menu

Crudites on a silver platter with two dipping sauces
Domestic cheese tray with crackers and sliced baguettes
Vegetarian spring rolls with spicy mustard

Dinner Menu

House Salad — Garden Greens wrapped in a cucumber slice, garnished with cherry tomatoes; selection of three dressings
Assorted dinner rolls with butter
Choice of entrees:
Queen Cut Prime Rib of Beef au jus, baked potato and garden vegetables
Chicken Marsala sauteed with fresh mushrooms and marsala wine sauce, served with Rice and Garden Vegetables
Carrot cake
Coffee/Decaf/Assorted Hot Teas

Price: \$45 per person. Please respond before Dec. 1 to Lt. Janice Tedesco.

The uniform of the evening for all Bridge officers, past commanders and D/8 Bridge officers is Uniform "A."



Holiday Raft-Up Is 20 Dec. at OPCove

The Squadron's annual holiday raft-up and gift exchange will be held on Saturday, 20 December at Old Port Cove, starting about 1100 hrs.

If you would like to attend, please call raft-up chairman Gene Berman, AP, at (561) 498-1827.

Please bring your own food and beverage and a dessert to share. If you would like to participate in the Pollyanna gift exchange, bring a small wrapped gift.

The January raft-up will be held on Saturday the 17th in Lake Worth, just north of the Flagler Bridge on the east side of the Waterway.

Palm Beach Boat Parade is 6 Dec.

The Holiday Boat Parade of the Palm Beaches will be held on Saturday, 4 December, starting at Peanut Island. The boats will travel north on the Intra-coastal Waterway as far as Jonathans Landing.

For the fifth year, the boating club with the largest participation will receive a trophy. If you plan to enter, be sure to fly your PBSPS burgee. If you wish to enter the competition, call Tim at Merrett Marine Supply, 622-1877.

Other area boat parades are 6 December, Martin County; 13 December, St. Lucie County; 18 December, Boca Raton; and 20 December, Vero Beach. The Squadron will sponsor a rendezvous to Bahia Mar for Fort Lauderdale's Winterfest Boat Parade on Saturday 13 December. Dockage is limited, so if you're interested, contact Spike Specken at 842-9589 right away.

Afterdeck NEWS

Published by the Palm Beach
Sail & Power Squadron

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CDR RAFAEL L. AYBAR, JN
COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

*'We honor our headquarters
in a dignified manner'*



Our Squadron headquarters is located at:

Latitude: 26 degree 47.8' N

Longitude: 80 degree 04.9' W
1125 Old Dixie Hwy.
Lake Park, Florida 33403-
2348



It is our home!!

On the port side wall, as you enter our headquarters, you will notice our "LOCAL SQUADRON CHARTER" certificate, in a prominent place. It was originally issued on 20 November 1944 and

reissued on 14 October 1958.

Above the charter certificate is a plaque, naming our local Squadron's Headquarters "THE RAWLINS EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF PALM BEACH POWER SQUADRON." The Squadron Headquarters is named in memory of Lt Joseph A. Rawlins, SN; one of our institution's most distinguished educators. This honor was bestowed by the Board of Directors on 24 July 1989.

Both relics are embraced by the National and the United States Power Squadron flags. Some of our

proud awards and the portraits of yesterday's and today's BRIDGE are also displayed on the same wall. They are centered on a buoy or beacon, as a sign of reference and destination.

Our Squadron's Headquarters is a center for conducting our education programs, our daily Squadron business, and a place for our auxiliary to promote civics duties. We honor our Headquarters in a dignified manner by standing, facing the flag, and reciting the pledge of allegiance any time the Commander presides at a meeting. A nautical library, donated by our members is available to the entire membership.

Lt Jim Palmer, a dedicated, honorable and loyal member of our Squadron, has been appointed the Curator of our Headquarters. He is charged to preserve and maintain the heritage and traditions of our Headquarters.

Let's keep our Headquarters tidy ...

Let's treat our Headquarters with the respect and dignity it deserves.

Remember!! It is our HOME.

Cdr. Rafael L. Aybar, JN'
Commander

Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron®

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P/C Edward A. Newman, S

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www.usps.org/localusps/palm

From the Editor: *Does that 'e' stand for 'endless'?*

Just as an experiment, I'd like to jog your memory for a moment. I'm not asking about something from your childhood or anything else that's ancient history, but this:

What was the subject of the first e-mail you ever received — after the automatic one when you signed up for service?

Did you save it for posterity, like a perfumed letter from a sweetheart on a long trip? Or did you cast it onto some electronic trash heap like a telemarketer's message on your answering machine?

Unless you're a collector of rare devotion, I'll bet you didn't save that first e-mail, but there's a reason for that.



As amazingly advanced as e-mail is from what the alternatives used to be, the process has become so cheap and so efficient that there's nothing special about it any more.

As an editor (in my everyday job and in this one) I'd be lost without instant communication. Much of the information in this issue, from the birthdays to the rescheduled raft-up, arrived that way. But unfortunately it takes me a couple of hours a week just to erase the useless, anonymous and often repulsive messages that arrive daily.

Spam, you say? No, Spam has some nutritional value. You may not want it on your holiday table, but it deserves a place in your hurricane emergency kit. Those endless e-notes are more like an unending assault by hungry mosquitoes. One may not kill you, but you can't slap them all.



Pendant Fever

...items about Squadron
people and events

Squadron Webmaster Lt. James Tedesco, P, presented a program on the attack on Pearl Harbor at the November general membership meeting, and despite some sound problems, the presentation went over well.

Tedesco brought eight self-running CDs of his multimedia presentation, and offered them free to anyone who was interested. He was surprised to get more requests than he had CDs.

Any member who wants a CD and did not get a copy of "A Day of Infamy, the Attack on Pearl Harbor" should call Tedesco at 624-2814 or e-mail him at Tedesco468@prodigy.net.

Unlike some movies about Pearl Harbor, he says, this program is historically accurate.

P/C. Fred Bierschenk, AP, presented the Squadron with a \$75 donation, proceeds from a marine flea market at the West Marine store on U.S. 1. Squadron members interested in participating in the regular event should call Bierschenk at 624-9659.

The Squadron is attempting to expand its Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program, but first it needs additional examiners to conduct safety inspections at marinas, yacht clubs and boat ramps throughout Palm Beach County. Once certified, vessel examiners will assist the recreational boating public to achieve voluntary compliance with all federal and state boating regulations, particularly regarding the carriage of safety equipment.

District 8 added another Squadron on 09 Nov when the 90-member Sebastian Inlet Sail and Power Squadron achieved that status after 15 months as a provisional squadron. R/C Peter Mitchelson, SN is commander.



Lt. Cdr. Dennis Krakow, P



1st Lt. Ralph Morse, JN

Morse appointed Asst. AO

Administrative Officer Lt/C Dennis Krakow, P underwent coronary bypass surgery on 11 November and will be sidelined from his duties for a while.

To take up the slack, the Bridge has appointed Board Member at Large, Lt. Ralph Morse, JN, to be assistant administrative officer. So Morse, who is also a photographer for The Afterdeck, is now **1st Lt. Morse**.

Also taking a break from Squadron duties is Lt Paula Weiss, the membership committee chairman. Paula had hip replacement surgery 07 November and is doing well.

Remembrance — Ed Franklin

Squadron member Edward S. Franklin, P, passed away recently in North Caldwell, N.J. Mr. Franklin had been a USPS member for 29 years and owned a 29 Shamrock named Carol Ann. He is survived by his wife, Helga. The Franklins also had a residence in North Palm Beach.

Treasure Chest

Laptop: HP OmniBook XE. 300 Pentium, 64 mg memory, 4.10 GHz HD, CD ROM, 3.5" floppy, Omega R/W external drive; Software. Good condition. \$250. Call Jim Tedesco [561] 624-2814

Computer Color Monitor: Gateway 200o 13", Free. **CD Burner:** Phillips DVD-RW&CD-R/RW burner w/Nero software. Cable Included. Free. Call Bill Eldridge 863-1461.

Craft Ladies prepare all year for holiday show

A small group of members of the Squadron spend almost a full year on a constructive project, only to see the fruits of their labor disappear in a couple of days in December.

Discouraging, huh?

Not at all. Not when you are referring to the Craft Ladies, who spend their Tuesday mornings at Squadron Headquarters measuring, cutting, gluing, stitching and thinking up clever, crafty designs for the next show.



K. Eldridge

And there's always a next show. This year's Craft Bazaar is the first Friday and Saturday of December, the 5th and 6th, at the Palm Beach Gardens Community Building on Burns Road. Among the crafts for sale in the Squadron booth will be tree ornaments such as angels and miniature stuffed animals, bib and teddy bear sets for infants, candles that seem to emerge from a blooming flower, and trivets to sit a hot dish of lasagna on.

Visitors can also get their picture taken with Santa Claus or Mrs. Claus. One thing you won't notice about their crafts is a strong nautical theme. Last year they made miniature light-



Photo by Ralph Morse

Barbara Roemmele sews Santa suit.

houses, but they didn't sell well, so they tried something else.

This is the 22nd year of the Craft Ladies, which got their start when Dot Eldridge, the mother of Squadron Education Officer P/C Bill Eldridge, SN, rounded up a few friends to sew and chat. Now the chief organizer is

Lt. Kathy Eldridge, P, who took over from her mother-in-law when she and Bill moved to Florida in 1990.

There are about six regulars in the Craft Ladies, including Joan Smith, Cheryl Eisenhardt, Barbara Roemmele, Margo Caldly and Sue Mitchell. Annie Eby is a seasonal participant, and Loretta Bierschenk contributes in other ways.

The invitation is always out for other volunteers, says Kathy. Also, volunteers are needed to staff the fair booth, especially on the first night. If you're interested, call Kathy at 863-1461.

This weekly event is more than just a way to have fun. Last year the Craft Ladies earned \$2,000, which they contributed to the Squadron. The year before that, they made some \$1,500.

Some years the Craft Ladies have also included male volunteers who built and painted dollhouses to sell or auction. Now the only male participation is to put on one of the three Santa outfits – one of which was made this year. The Santa volunteers include Al Shemo, Bob Malone, Jim Tedesco, Mike Sweeney, Les McWhorter, Harry Krivit and Dick Wessner.

The crafters get some assistance from businesses and individuals who donate materials. They manage their own budget, separate from the Squadron itself.

A Mark of Honor

By P/C Sally A. Williams, AP
PBSPS Merit Mark Chair

The chief commander awards a merit mark to an active or family member for substantial effort in personally furthering the interests, programs and objectives of USPS®.

That's the official language — unofficially, it's what we call payment for the hours of volunteer effort our members contribute in a calendar year.

Although only one merit mark may be awarded in a year to a member, it is earned by participating in squadron, district or national activities. A certificate is issued and a special insigne may be worn on the USPS uniform.

Here is how the process of receiving a merit mark award begins in our squadron:

- Recommendations for your merit mark are prepared by a department chair and sent to the attention of the

Merit Mark is USPS' way of saying 'thank you'

squadron merit mark chair by a specific due date.

- The information is transferred to a database to be prepared for review and signature by our Squadron commander.

- The submission is then sent to an area monitor where the recommendation is again reviewed for content and justification of a merit mark. The area monitor may return a recommendation that does not meet the standards for an award.

- The area monitor forwards the merit mark information to headquarters in Raleigh, N.C., for issuance of the merit mark award by the chief commander. This process usually takes 60 to 90 days for the merit mark certificate to reach the member.

When you receive your merit mark be proud. It becomes our way of showing the world that as volunteers, USPS is a great organization that recognizes our efforts.

Kicking Back and Cruising on an 'Island In the Sun'



PBSPS members pose for official portrait aboard the Sun Princess

P/C Les McWhorter, S

For 10 days, 44 members of the Squadron called the *Sun Princess* their "Island in the Sun." Well, almost 10 days. With very few rain squalls and only one truly cloudy day, each of us had a chance to lie in the sun, eat ourselves into becoming "cargo" rather than "passengers," take in shows, visit the casino, dance with "Fred and Ginger" Dodd, meet for the regular early evening gathering in the Wheel House Lounge, or just plain kick back.

Filling in for P/C Ed Newman, P/C Les McWhorter dutifully checked the roster to be certain we were present and accounted for. Then we began a pleasant bus trip to Ft. Lauderdale. With screwdrivers prepared and served by the Tedescos, the Shemos and the McWhorters, before we knew

it we were aboard the *Sun* and into our cabins (or staterooms if you prefer). Some might say the cabin and the head area were the size of a BellSouth telephone booth, but nevertheless, part of our home afloat for the next 10 nights.

The second night out we were treated to a ship's welcoming cocktail party, exclusively for our group – nice touch. Speaking of a nice touch, our good and faithful cruise planner, Barbara Galen and Custom World Travel, provided each of us with a bottle of wine in our phone booth (cabin).

Following two days at sea, we reached the jewelry/booze Mecca of the Caribbean, St. Thomas. While some folks shopped till they dropped, others visited some of the usual tourist attractions, Bluebeard's Castle and Megan's

Bay.

Our next port-o-call was the unbelievably beautiful island nation of Dominica. While a relatively poor nation, Dominica (along with St. Lucia) is probably one of the most enchanting islands in the Caribbean.

Then it was off to the very British island of Barbados. Rich in English history, it is also the home of the world famous Mount Gay Rum. Harrison's Cave offers those who have not visited the Luray Caverns a chance to see underground pools and stalactites and stalagmites.

Our next port was Dutch influenced island of Curacao. The harbor, with its quaint side-draw bridge and 17th and 18th century architecture, is certainly a favorite location to drop the

Kicking Back and Cruising on an 'Island In the Sun'

hook. However, a ship of the size of the *Sun* must tie up outside the picturesque harbor.

Our next, and final, stop was Isla Margarita, just north of Venezuela. (It is this writer's opinion, gathered from comments by those who went on tours, that the island has a way to go to become a favorite port-o-call.) In fact, one passenger – not in our group–had a necklace torn from her neck while ashore.)

Lt. Jim Tedesco was able to arrange for one of the lounges for pre-dinner gatherings. And, true to his usual carryings-on, had cards printed with a peanut attached, noting that the Roadhouse Grill missed us while we were away (gosh, we had 'real' lunches for ten days!!!).

Then, it was time to set sail on the long leg home. During this stretch the "Sun" encountered 12 to 15 ft. seas; nothing she couldn't handle with ease, but giving one of our group cause to sleep with the life jacket nearby.

During those couple days two of the stalwarts of the casino managed to win the first round of the black jack tournament. Lt. John Luciano and I squared off in the finals, along with three other players. The Bilge Mouse upheld the tradition of black-jack guru, Jack Fairbrother, by coming out in first place – Oh, My!!! (I think it was the "Casino High Roller" shirt from last year's cruise on the *Millennium* that scared the other players.) And, of course, a certain Yankee fan was observed busily chasing around the casino with a bucket full of coins he had taken away from his wife after her successful stint at the one-armed-bandits.

Pat Reidway finally caught up with Carl and rescued her hard won loot. Speaking of Yankee fans, Carl reluctantly paid off on a "major" bet with the Mouse on the outcome of the World Series; he paid the booty in front of luncheon companions to be sure it was duly noted. (Seems some folks just wouldn't listen to the old coach).

And, speaking of events, whilst learning a new dance step, our faithful Cruise Committee Member, P/C Ken MacPherson's dance partner Abby, tripped and fell, breaking a hand bone. (We are happy to report that Abby is healing nicely, and upon returning claimed it was Ken's fault and contacted her attorney.) Another "strange event" was reported; it seems one of our cruisers saw a "Python" lurking about the cabin late one evening. [We wondered if the 'sighting' was due to 'Manhattans!?! Oh, my...

All-in-all, the Bilge Mouse and Mrs. Mouse enjoyed our sojourn on the *Sun*, traveling some 3,204.5 nautical miles on the sea. While comments ranged from quasi negative to appreciation for a wonderful cruise, we all survived a journey to the Lesser Antilles. Whether some of us go back to the Caribbean for next year's outing is up for conjecture; there are always positives and negatives. Maybe it's time to consider alternatives. However, according to longtime travel consultant, P/C MacPherson and our planner, Barbara Galen, it seems the general area of the Caribbean, leaving from Lauderdale or Miami, has it's advantages. For some, it is the destination that is important; to others it is the ship (or getting there) that serves the purpose. While the Bilge Mouse is certainly not an authority on the subject, 19 cruises have taught me to enjoy the moment. As to which ship, Donna and I have two or three favorite lines: Holland America, Celebrity and Royal Caribbean; just get us to the ship, provide us with fair skies and calm seas and we're "Cruisin' – Boozin' – Snoozin'."

One final thought; we missed "Hub" and Joan Wheeler who had to cancel at the last minute, and, of course, P/C Ed and Lt/C Joyce Newman; Ed's doctor said "no cruise for you at this time" – of course, that left the Bilge Mouse holding the bag – I mean roster—for the cruise; thanks loads, Parrot Feather. God bless and a speedy recovery to Joan and Ed...

Till the next cruise, smooth sailing ...

The Bilge Mouse.

Squadron Brings Home Honors from D8 Conference

Sixteen delegates represented the Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron at the District 8 Fall Conference meeting held Oct. 17-19 in Ft Lauderdale, the largest delegation of any squadron.

V/C Frank Dvorak, SN, representing the Chief Commander, outlined the changes being made in National and stressed the importance of boating safety.

He also announced that PBSPS's Stf/C Ina Fay Zitter, JN, is to be assigned as Chairman of the Ensign Committee.

V/C Dvorak made several awards to PBSPS members.

P/C Hans Heynau, N, was honored as Teacher of the Year for District 8.

Full Certificate awards were given to P/C John DeCarion, SN, and Lt Les McDermott, SN.

The Messingschlager Cooperative Charting Award went to Palm Beach with a check for \$200. The Squadron also gained an Honor Roll certificate for placing ninth nationally in COCH.

Honor Roll certificates in COCH were awarded to Lt Phillip Bouckaert, AP; Lt Scott Clinton, N; Elmer Macke, S; James Miles, AP; Lt Jim Palmer; Lt Alan Patti, N; Barbara Patti, P; Lt Albert Shemo, SN; P/C Ben Swanka, AP; Lt James Tedesco, P, and John Worssam.

Commander Rafael Aybar, JN, headed the Palm Beach delegation to the conference at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott.



P/C Hans Heynau, SN, receives Chapman Award as District 8's Teacher of the Year from V/C Frank Dvorak, SN.



Minutes of the Board of Directors

11 October 2003

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Cdr Rafael L. Aybar, JN; Lt/C Gary Ferguson, P; Lt/C Joyce A. Newman, S; Donald H. Kranendonk, P; Lt. Ralph Morse, JN; D/Lt (Immediate P/C) Edward A. Newman, S.

ABSENT: Lt/C (P/R/C) William Eldridge, SN; Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN ; Lt/C Dennis N. Krakow, P; P/C Lesly McWhorter III, S.

GUESTS PRESENT: D/Lt (P/Stf/C) Rod Landsman, AP; D/Lt Al Shemo, SN; Lt Alan Patti, N; Lt Harry Lloyd, P; Lt Brian Thompson, P; Joan Thompson.

Commander's Report

Cdr Rafael L. Aybar, JN reported that he participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Lake Worth. David J. Eisenberg, S, parade chairman, made arrangements for a convertible and a boat from Tuppens. Also in the parade were Doris and Lt Spike Speckeen,

Twenty-two squadron members attended the D/8 Fall Conference (see page 12). Squadron was presented the Robert D. Messingschlager Cooperative Charting Award. Thanked D/Lt Al Shemo, SN for his committee ranking No. 12 nationally. George A. Delatush, SN received the 50-year

award

The D/8 Spring Conference 23-25 will be April at Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. District will have their Change of Watch. All members are invited to attend and Bridge members are required to attend.

The 2004 USPS Annual meeting will be 14-18 January at the Rosen Centre in Orlando. Reservations should be made early.

In 2006 federal law will require that instructors teaching BOATSMART® to the public be certified.

USCGA discussed the "Operation on Guard." The USPS is entering into an agreement with the Coast Guard for coastal patrol and radio station. Those interested in participating must enroll in the USCGA training program. First, the program must be approved by Congress

Secretary's Report

Secretary Lt/C Joyce A. Newman, S reported:

Membership Status as of 01 Nov:

Active Members	304
Active Sustaining Members	2

Additional Active Members	55
Life Members	20
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBER	381
Family Members	74
Jr. Family Members	6
Associate Members	13
TOTAL OTHER MEMBERS	93
CURRENT GRAND TOTAL OF MEMBERS	474
Honorary Members	2
Pending Membership Applications included in current total:	
Active	1
Additional Active	0
Family Member	0
Jr. Family	0
Total Pending	1

Treasurer's Report

Lt/C Gary Ferguson, P, gave the treasurer's report. motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the treasurer to hire and pay \$250 for a professional certified accountant to prepare the squadron IRS 990 Tax Return for this year only.

Education News



Donald McLachlan of Delray Beach, an avid sailor who had give up boating for health reasons, takes a final peek through the sextant he presented recently to the Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron. He said he wanted the instrument to be used for education. He also gave the Squadron a star finder and math computer portable star fix calculator.

Enrollment is still open for Piloting, which starts in January, and for six elective courses. Here's information on classes starting in January:

PILOTING: The first class is 8 January 2004 (all meetings are on Thursday nights at Squadron Headquarters). Call instructor P/C Jack Reid, SN at 747-5428.

WEATHER: The instructor is P/C Harvie Salford, SN (845-1540). You may also call SEO Bill Eldridge, SN at 863-1461. The first class is Thursday, 15 Jan at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Building in Phil Foster Park.

CRUISE PLANNING: P/D/Lt./C Jim O'Connor, SN (743-4408) and Lt. Phil Bouckaert, AP (863-7971) teach this course. The 9-week course runs from 07 January to 03 March and meets on Wednesdays at Headquarters.

ENGINE MAINTENANCE: Call instructor Lt. Carl Nyman, JN (630-2072). Dates are 05 January through 14 March (Mondays). The fee is \$35.

BOATSMART®: The next scheduled classes start on Wednesday, 7 Jan at Palm Beach Lakes HS and Thursday 8 Jan at Boynton Beach HS.

The Law Log

Security enforcement by state agency

The U.S. Coast Guard is the only entity now authorized to establish security zones on waterways for the protection of potential targets from terrorist attack and to enforce the integrity of these zones. Security zones are areas of water with restricted vessel access that provide security to targets vulnerable to terrorist attack. The Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission however has responsibility as part their role in Florida's homeland defense mission to patrol these zones even though neither federal nor state law authorizes FWC to enforce these federally established zones.

FWC can only detain a violator until a Coast Guard vessel arrives to take the violator into custody. The security zones closest to us are Port Everglades, Port of Miami and Port of Key West. The next regular session of the legislature will consider a proposal by FWC to authorize FWC to establish waterway safety zones, security zones, and regulated navigation areas to deter or prevent terrorist attacks in vulnerable areas of Florida's coastline.

The concomitant state laws and penalties to enforce the integrity of those zones including the present federally authorized zones will be provided. The stated goal is "to provide protection for potential targets while minimizing impact to the boating public."

Source: FWC Legislative Web Site

Lt. Dick Finn, AP, Legislative Liaison