

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Number 503

Bloomington, Minnesota – October 3, 2015

Pursuant to due notice the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:30 AM CDT Saturday, October 3, 2015 at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott, Bloomington, Minnesota. Present were committee members President Kay Craigie, N3KN, in the Chair; First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR; Chief Executive Officer and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; and Directors Tom Frenaye, K1KI, Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, and Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV. Also present were Second Vice President Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KØQB, Dakota Division Director Greg Widin, KØGW, and General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD.

1. The Chair welcomed the attendees, particularly Mr. Widin as the local Director.

On motion of Mr. Vallio the agenda for the meeting was adopted as distributed in draft form.

The main agenda items were:

1. *Consideration of agenda for the meeting*
 2. *President's report*
 3. *Chief Executive Officer and Secretary's report*
 4. *FCC/regulatory items*
 5. *Antenna cases*
 6. *Other legal matters*
 7. *Legislative matters*
 8. *International matters*
 9. *Organizational matters*
 10. *Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees*
 11. *Approval of conventions*
 12. *Affiliation of clubs*
 13. *Recognition of new Life Members*
 14. *Other business and adjournment*
2. President Craigie reported on her activities since the July Board meeting. She shared her experience in representing the ARRL via social media and expressed pleasure at the progress made by the CEO Search Committee since the July meeting of the Board.
 3. Mr. Sumner noted that on the Monday after the meeting he would be traveling to Indonesia to attend the annual meeting of the IARU Administrative Council and the IARU Region 3 Conference. He had prepared several inputs for the Executive Committee that will be discussed under various agenda items later in the meeting.
 4. FCC/regulatory items
 - 4.1. Action items

4.1.1. Mr. Imlay presented a draft plan for the improvement of timely and visible enforcement in the Amateur Radio Service that had been prepared in response to Minute 39 of the July meeting of the Board. Attendees discussed the actions envisioned for the short term and for the longer term and offered comments that will be taken into account in the next revision of the draft.

4.1.2. Mr. Imlay reported that the deadlines for comments and reply comments in ET Docket No. 15-99 passed without there being any specific evidence placed in the record of even a single utility using the 472-479 kHz band for power line communication (PLC). He recommended an *ex parte* filing with the FCC to that effect, which was endorsed by the Executive Committee.

4.1.3. Comments are due on October 9 in ET Docket No. 15-170, in which the FCC has proposed changes in rules governing equipment authorization and labeling requirements for Part 15 and Part 18 devices. Mr. Imlay outlined how the ARRL's filing should address the concerns of amateur licensees. The FCC seeks comment on whether an existing rule that permits amateurs to modify equipment for their own use should be amended for clarity; the Executive Committee agreed that the rule should be amended to make it clear that the permission covers all equipment modified for use by licensed amateurs in the Amateur Radio Service and not just to equipment that is certified under Part 97, as the existing rule might be read to imply. In the course of discussion it was observed that the requirement for an Amateur Radio license should be emphasized in the instructions accompanying any transmitting equipment that is capable of operation in an amateur band.

4.1.4. Mr. Imlay reported that no progress has been made as yet in preparing a petition in response to Minute 32 of the July meeting of the Board with respect to 80 and 75 meter subband allocations and additional RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians. The draft is to be completed in the next several weeks and circulated to the Executive Committee for consideration.

4.2. Mr. Imlay reported briefly on several ongoing FCC proceedings on which no action has occurred since the July meeting of the Board. He said there was no indication from the Commission as to when an expected Notice of Proposed Rulemaking may be released in response to RM-11708, an ARRL petition to replace the existing symbol rate limit on HF data transmissions with a bandwidth limit.

5. Local antenna cases

5.1. Mr. Imlay reported on the status of *DePolo v. Board of Supervisors of Treddyfrin Township et al.* The ARRL has filed an Amicus Curiae Brief, which has been accepted over the objection of the opponents, to address the procedural issue that the case was improperly dismissed on the basis of a preliminary motion to dismiss filed by the township.

The committee was in recess for lunch from noon until 1:00 PM. During the recess, President Craigie presented an ARRL President's Award to Patrick W. Tice, WAØTDA, who is retiring after a quarter century of outstanding service as Handiham Program Coordinator. All attendees,

along with Minnesota Section Manager Skip Jackson, KSØJ, expressed their congratulations and thanks to Pat and his wife Susie.

Upon resumption of the meeting, on motion of Mr. Vallio the Executive Committee convened in Committee of the Whole to discuss local antenna cases. The Committee of the Whole rose and reported at 1:10 PM. On motion of Mr. Williams the report was adopted.

6. No other legal matters required discussion.

7. Legislative matters

Mr. Imlay reported on recent efforts to secure co-sponsors on the Senate side for S. 1685, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, which is proving to be more difficult than on the House side because of cultural differences between the two bodies. Nevertheless, there are encouraging signs of progress in developing support in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, where the bill is known as H.R. 1301. On motion of Mr. Lisenco, a document setting out ARRL strategy for the remainder of the year was approved. A video explaining the bill and refuting claims made by opponents was viewed and received favorable comment.

8. International matters

8.1. Mr. Sumner provided an update to a recent report to the Board by Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, regarding prospects for a 5 MHz allocation at next month's World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva. Affirmative proposals are being offered by four of the six regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs) with a "no change" proposal from one. However, several major countries are refraining from supporting the affirmative proposals from their RTOs and it is not possible to predict with any reasonable certainty what the outcome will be.

8.2. Mr. Bellows reported on a recent meeting of the IARU Region 2 Executive Committee held in Bogota, Colombia and on developments affecting amateur licensing in Mexico. An Emergency Communications Workshop is planned in conjunction with the Region 2 Conference to be held in Chile next October.

9. Organizational matters

9.1. In response to the same agenda item of the March 21, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee, Mr. Sumner had prepared a complete list of the current Standing Orders of the ARRL Board with recommendations for retention, amendment, and deletion. That document had been circulated several weeks prior to the meeting, offering the opportunity for careful review and comment by committee members. President Craigie then split the document into three parts, i.e. recommendations for retention, deletion, and needing further consideration, and appended the comments received on each recommendation. At this point in the meeting President Craigie led an item-by-item review of the ARRL Standing Orders that are proposed for deletion, after which on motion of Mr. Williams, it was voted to recommend to the Board the retention of certain

Standing Orders and the deletion of certain others. The recommended disposition of a third group of Standing Orders that are in need of further consideration is to be determined later.

9.2. President Craigie reported that we are awaiting a response from the Red Cross with regard to our proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations. Understandably, recent major disasters requiring the full and immediate attention of Red Cross personnel have taken precedence.

9.3. Mr. Sumner reviewed the history and future prospects of the ARRL *Repeater Directory* and related products. A new agreement was reached with 54 of 60 repeater frequency coordinators that will result in an improved publication for the 2016-17 Edition. However, the long-term viability of printed directories of any kind is doubtful. There are inexpensive web-based directories and smartphone apps available that accept crowdsourced data and are growing in popularity. Significant investment will be required if the quality of the *Repeater Directory* and related products is to meet future market expectations and ARRL organizational objectives. In the course of discussion it was generally agreed that there are several factors to be considered in determining whether such an investment is appropriate since the *Repeater Directory* serves several objectives in addition to generating net revenue in support of the ARRL's mission.

9.4. On motion of Mr. Williams, the following procedure with respect to submissions to the Board for voting in accordance with Article 6 of the Articles of Association is adopted:

- The proposed resolution is to be circulated to the Board three business days in advance of being formally submitted for vote, to permit time for questions and comments – in other words, for consultation with Board members.
- At the conclusion of this period the Executive Committee will take the comments into account and may either offer the resolution for formal consideration in original or revised form, or withdraw it from consideration.
- The Executive Committee may waive this procedure on the rare occasions when the additional delay might be damaging to the ARRL's interests.

9.5. President Craigie and Mr. Sumner reported on ongoing discussions, in which Director Widin and Vice President Bellows are also participating, to ensure that Handiham Program services will continue following Pat Tice's upcoming retirement.

10. Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees

10.1. Mr. Sumner reviewed a list of Board directives on which final action was recently completed or is still pending. The list now occupies less than one page, including recently completed items.

10.2. On behalf of the Programs & Services Committee (PSC), committee chairman Brian Milesbosky, N5ZGT, had submitted a request that the Executive Committee consider how best to proceed with a recommendation from the VHF and Above Revitalization Committee to remove the current prohibition on the use of the frequency 146.52 MHz by participants in ARRL contests. The recommendation was endorsed by the PSC at its July meeting but the action was not immediately communicated to other Board members. The Executive Committee concluded

that formal approval of such a contest rule by the full Board is not required and declined to authorize a Board vote in accordance with Article 6. However, advance notification of the rules change must be communicated to the Board and the amateur community. If the PSC chooses to do so now, the change can take effect for the January 2016 VHF Contest. Alternatively, the PSC can bring the recommendation forward as a motion at the January 2016 Board Meeting for possible implementation later in the year.

11. On motion of Mr. Vallio, the holding of the following ARRL conventions in 2016 was approved:

New York City – Long Island Section, January 10, Bethpage, NY
North Texas Section, January 15-16, Forest Hill, TX
Mississippi State, January 29-30, Jackson, MS
West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, February 27, Tampa, FL
Vermont State, February 27, South Burlington, VT
Alabama Section, March 4-5, Birmingham, AL
South Texas Section, March 18-19, Rosenberg, TX
West Texas Section, March 19, Midland, TX
Delta Division, April 2, Fort Smith, AR
North Carolina Section, April 2, Raleigh, NC
Oklahoma State, April 8-9, Claremore, OK
VHF Super Conference, April 15-17, Sterling, VA
Idaho State, April 22-24, Boise, ID
Aurora '16 Conference, April 23, White Bear Lake, MN
Nebraska State, April 23, Lincoln, NE
Nevada State, April 29 – May 1, Las Vegas, NV
Tennessee State, June 18, Knoxville TN
Texas State, August 5-6, Austin, TX
New Mexico State, August 12-14, Albuquerque, NM
North Carolina State, September 3-4, Shelby, NC
Alabama State, November 19, Montgomery, AL

12. Pending applications from clubs for ARRL affiliation were cleared by email prior to the meeting, so there were none to be proposed for approval at this time.

13. On motion of Mr. Lisenco, the committee recognized 264 recently elected Life Members and instructed the Secretary to publish the list in *QST*.

14. Other business

14.1. Dr. Woolweaver shared feedback he had received on the recent Section Manager Workshop conducted at ARRL Headquarters. Mr. Sumner agreed to seek additional feedback from participants and to provide a report to the committee.

14.2 Mr. Fenstermaker, as chairman, reported on the progress being made by the Strategic Planning Working Group. There have been 18 teleconferences with more scheduled as the group works to complete its report for distribution to the Board in December.

15. President Craigie noted that this would be her final meeting as a member of the ARRL Executive Committee. She observed that during her time on the ARRL Board and as a member of the committee there has been an increase in both the volume and the significance of the work conducted by the committee. She expressed her appreciation for the diligence and cooperation of the committee members.

On motion of Mr. Vallio, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 P.M.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary