

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Number 502
Dulles, Virginia – March 21, 2015

Pursuant to due notice the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:30 AM EDT Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott. 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, and General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD.

1. The Chair welcomed the attendees, particularly Dr. Woolweaver, who had been unable to attend the previous meeting in October 2014 owing to illness; Director Williams, who was attending for the first time; and Director Frenaye as a returning member of the committee.

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/RFI 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 January Board meeting including attendance at three conventions. She noted that the principal concerns before the committee are legislative advocacy and FCC rules enforcement. She thanked the attendees who have sought cosponsors for H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, particularly those who arrived early or are remaining in the area after the meeting in order to visit Congressional offices on Capitol Hill.

3. Mr. Sumner reported on steps taken to solicit member input on HF band plans. The deadline for input is April 19 after which the HF Band Planning Committee will prepare a report to the Board. He observed that last year's Ethics & Elections Committee had recommended returning to the paper ballot system for division elections because of the significantly lower rate of participation in elections since electronic voting was introduced in 2012, and that the current

plan for this year's balloting is to follow the committee's recommendation. He conveyed a written report from Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, on preparations for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference and answered questions.

4. FCC/regulatory items

4.1. Action items

4.1.1. Mr. Imlay led an extensive discussion of perceived inadequacies in the FCC's enforcement activities. He described a cordial meeting on March 18 with William Davenport, Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Bureau, who offered assurances that Laura Smith will be returning to the Spectrum Enforcement Division to focus on Amateur Radio enforcement following her interim assignment as Acting Northeast Region Counsel. The meeting with Mr. Davenport covered concerns about specific enforcement cases, the Commission's plans to reduce its field offices and staff, the new Consumer Help Center online complaint procedure and the need to make it more suitable for the filing of Amateur Radio complaints, and the status of the agreement between the ARRL and the FCC that recognizes the ARRL Official Observer program as the "ARRL Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC." The ARRL's principal concerns were also shared with the House Communications and Technology Subcommittee and were reflected in questions posed during the Subcommittee's FCC Oversight hearing on March 19.

4.1.2. Mr. Imlay reviewed the history of the FCC proceeding, ET Docket No. 15-26. The FCC has proposed to go beyond what was asked by the automotive industry to provide for worldwide standardization of vehicular radars in the 76-81 GHz band. He outlined the proposed ARRL comments that are being prepared for committee review and filing by the comment deadline of April 6.

4.1.3. Mr. Imlay reported on the steps that have been taken to counter various efforts by Mimosa Networks, Inc. to gain access to the 10 GHz band for its wireless broadband products.

4.1.4. FCC staff member Bill Cross, W3TN, who has been primarily responsible for the Commission's Part 97 Rules for many years, is retiring on April 3. Committee members expressed particular appreciation for his efforts to prevent commercial exploitation of the Amateur Radio Service. It is understood that Scot Stone, Deputy Chief of the Mobility Division in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, will assume Mr. Cross's functions for the near term.

4.1.5. Mr. Imlay outlined the steps that the ARRL is taking to address its concerns regarding an experimental license, WH2XCI, that the FCC granted to MITRE Corporation for broadband transmissions over a range of frequencies that overlaps several amateur HF bands. The nature of the authorized experimental transmissions is such that amateurs will be unable to identify the source of any interference they might encounter, which negates the requirement that the experimental licensee must cease operation in the event of harmful interference. Accordingly, the ARRL has contacted MITRE seeking advance notification of the experimental operations. MITRE has replied

through an attorney but the reply was not responsive to our concerns. The ARRL will continue to pursue the matter.

4.2. Mr. Imlay briefly noted a number of ongoing FCC proceedings on which no action has occurred since the January meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors.

The committee was in recess for lunch from 11:54 AM until 1:30 PM.

5. Local antenna cases

5.1. Mr. Imlay has assisted the attorney for Myles Landstein, N2EHG, in drafting a complaint to be filed against the Town of LaGrangeville, New York, for imposing unreasonable costs that effectively prohibit the antenna for which planning permission is being sought.

5.2. Jeff Hullquist, W6BYS, is another amateur facing considerable expense in having to prepare an Environmental Assessment in order to apply for a permit for an antenna in a historic zone in Napa, California. Mr. Imlay is assisting his attorneys.

6. No other legal matters required discussion.

7. Legislative matters

7.1. President Craigie noted that several dozen visits to Congressional offices already have been made by ARRL representatives since the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, H.R. 1301, was introduced in the House of Representatives on March 4. Additional cosponsors will continue to be sought. There is a parallel effort underway to find a Senate sponsor and original co-sponsor.

7.2. Legislation to regulate the visibility of certain towers under 200 feet in height is being introduced in a growing number of states, particularly in the West. The installations that are of actual concern are meteorological evaluation towers that are erected temporarily (and typically to a height of 199 feet) to assess sites as possible wind energy farms. State legislation often does not distinguish between these towers, which can be difficult for the pilots of low-flying aircraft to see, and telecommunication towers that are easy to spot. Some states appear to assume that FAA jurisdiction does not extend below 200 feet except near airports, but this is not necessarily correct. The FAA's view of its jurisdiction is being sought.

8. International matters

8.1. On motion of Mr. Vallio, a mail vote of the Board was authorized on the following resolution: "Resolved, that the Secretary is instructed to cast an affirmative vote on IARU Proposal No. 253 for the admission of Association Burundaise des Amateurs Radio et Télévision (ABART) to the IARU."

9. Organizational matters

9.1. President Craigie observed that almost 10 years have passed since the Executive Committee completed the most recent comprehensive review of the ARRL Standing Orders. After discussion the Secretary was asked to distribute a Word document of the current Standing Orders. A review will be conducted as much as possible by email prior to the next in-person meeting of the Committee with the objective of completing the review at that meeting. Recommendations will be submitted to the Board well in advance of its January 2016 meeting to give Directors time to study them and ask questions prior to the meeting.

9.2. The current Memorandum of Understanding between The American National Red Cross and the ARRL expires on March 24, 2015. Before it is renewed the Executive Committee has requested clarification of the current Red Cross requirements for background checks to ensure they are consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding.

9.3. Mr. Sumner and Mr. Imlay reported that some work has been done to update the implementation plan for the National Broadband Plan Committee report, as assigned to the Executive Committee at Minute 51 of the January 2012 Board Meeting. Work will continue toward completing the update by the next in-person meeting of the Executive Committee.

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

10.1. Mr. Fenstermaker, as chairman, reported on behalf of the Strategic Planning Working Group, which is meeting regularly by telephone conference and has made initial progress on its assignment. There are plans to seek input from Section Managers and the general ARRL membership.

10.2. Mr. Sumner reviewed a list of Board directives on which final action was recently completed or is still pending. Action on most items was completed by the January 2015 Board Meeting.

11. Pending applications for ARRL convention status were cleared by email prior to the meeting, so there were none to be proposed for approval at this time.

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. Vallio, the committee recognized 104 recently elected Life Members and instructed the Secretary to publish the list in *QST*.

14. Other business

14.1. It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on October 3, 2015 at a location to be determined.

14.2. Mr. Frenaye observed that the Bylaws assign responsibility for oversight of media and public relations to the Executive Committee. The committee discussed initiatives currently underway by the Public Relations Committee, particularly with regard to encouraging diversity among new amateurs.

14.3. The committee discussed member reaction to the Board's decisions in January regarding the DXCC rules and remote operation, which has been very modest in most parts of the country. Further consideration of the issue is within the purview of the Programs & Services Committee. The juxtaposition of advertising and editorial content in the April issue of *QST* was also discussed.

14.4. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the need to step up efforts to enlist member support of the legislative objectives that were adopted by the Board at its January 2015 meeting, particularly H.R. 1301. On motion of Mr. Vallio, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary