

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Number 500
St. Louis, Missouri – March 29, 2014

Pursuant to due notice the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:30 AM CDT Saturday, March 29, 2014 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Present were committee members President Kay Craigie, N3KN, in the Chair; Chief Executive Officer and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; and Directors Cliff Ahrens, KØCA, George R. Isely, W9GIG, Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, 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. First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, was delayed by travel difficulties and arrived at 11:00 AM.

1. The Chair welcomed the attendees, noting that Mr. Lisenco was attending his first meeting as a member of the Executive Committee and that Mr. Ahrens has returned to the Committee. On motion of Mr. Vallio the agenda for the meeting was adopted as distributed in draft form. The main agenda items are:

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. *Date and place of next meeting of Executive Committee*
15. *Other business*

2. President Craigie reported her attendance at three ARRL conventions since the Board Meeting in January and commented on the high level of on-the-air activity stimulated by the Centennial QSO Party. As of March 23 she had made more than 4,100 QSOs since the first of the year.

3. Mr. Sumner's brief report mentioned that this meeting of the Executive Committee is No. 500 and that he and Mr. Imlay have attended about 100 of them. He also commented on the QSO Party activity. Demand for contacts with the "W1AW/x" Worked All States (and territories) operations is exceeding expectations. Planning for the Centennial National Convention in Hartford is going well, and it promises to be an event that will be long remembered by everyone who attends.

4. FCC/regulatory items

4.1. Action items

4.1.1. The Committee discussed the current state of FCC enforcement in the Amateur Radio Service. While some enforcement actions have taken place recently, the visibility of the program is not as great as it was a few years ago. This is due in part to there being two places on the FCC website that list amateur enforcement actions, neither of which is being kept up to date. While the Commission's field resources are very limited at present, there are particularly egregious and ongoing cases of deliberate interference in New York and California that deserve immediate attention. With regard to power line interference, some utilities are responsive and are willing to work with amateurs to resolve problems. Unfortunately, others are not. Some cases have dragged on for years without adequate attention by the utility or enforcement action by the FCC.

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, is assisting the ARRL with strategic advice and communication with FCC staff. The ARRL is also pursuing the common interest that radio amateurs have with AM broadcasters on power line interference.

The appointment of Travis LeBlanc as Acting Chief of the FCC Enforcement Bureau offers some hope for improvement. His initial actions in the position suggest a desire to resolve cases more quickly than in the recent past. ARRL representatives will seek an early meeting with Mr. LeBlanc to outline our concerns.

4.1.2. The FCC has placed on public notice a petition, RM-11715, by Mimoso Networks, Inc. that seeks a mobile allocation in the 10.0-10.5 GHz band. The petition was discussed at the October 2013 meeting of the Executive Committee and a number of problems were identified, as described in the minutes of that meeting. Mr. Imlay and Mr. Sumner briefed the Committee on the proposed direction of ARRL comments to be filed in opposition to the petition. The Committee agreed with the thrust of the proposed filing, which will be prepared for review and filing by the April 10 deadline.

4.1.3. Draft comments in FCC GN Docket No. 14-25, *Report on FCC Process Reform*, were reviewed in detail. The comments deal primarily with the need for greater visibility of FCC enforcement activities and for more action on power line interference cases, as discussed earlier in the meeting. On motion of Mr. Lisenco, the General Counsel was authorized to file and given editorial privileges.

4.1.4. Mr. Imlay reported that the attorney for Hydrofarm, a firm mentioned in the ARRL complaint to the FCC about serious RF interference from electronic ballasts for "grow lights," has advised that the firm was never the importer of the device that is the subject of the complaint and has ceased distributing it. Appropriate corrections will be made. Because the entire class of electronic ballast devices appears to be problematic, additional units will be acquired and tested in the ARRL Lab.

4.2. Status update/reporting items

Mr. Imlay reported briefly on the status of the following FCC-related matters:

4.2.1. On March 19 Mr. Imlay and Mr. Sumner met with Roger Sherman, the new Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the ARRL and to present the League's positions on several pending matters, particularly the reduction in the required number of volunteer examiners at an exam session that has been proposed by the FCC and is opposed by the ARRL.

4.2.2. Domestic implementation of the new international allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 472-479 kHz remains stalled while the Office of Engineering and Technology deals with other allocation issues that have been assigned a higher priority.

4.2.3. Mr. Imlay reported that some FCC action is expected soon in ET Docket No. 13-49, regarding the revision of Part 15 rules for unlicensed wireless broadband devices in the 5 GHz band. The ARRL's main concern is the possible introduction of these devices in the 5.85-5.925 GHz band.

4.2.4. Comments on the ARRL's petition, RM-11708, continue to be received by the FCC past the deadline, most of them brief comments of support but with some opposing comments that reflect a misunderstanding of the existing rules and the very limited effect that replacement of the existing symbol rate limit with a bandwidth limit would have on current HF operation. Mr. Roderick arrived at this point and reported on behalf of the HF Band Planning Committee, which has solicited membership input on how best to deal with the increasing popularity of data modes and how they can compatibly coexist. About 300 comments have been received so far. After the March 31 deadline the committee will analyze the input and prepare its report for the July meeting of the Board.

4.3. Mr. Imlay listed several FCC proceedings on which there has been no action since the July Board meeting.

The Committee was in recess for luncheon from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM.

5. Antenna/RFI cases

5.1. The Landstein, N2EHG case in the Town of LaGrange, NY is proceeding slowly. The town appears to be engaging in delaying tactics.

5.2. The Village of Swanton, Ohio has appealed a trial court judgment in favor of Gary Wodtke, WW8N, which reversed the Village's denial of his right to erect a 60-foot tower on the grounds that its ordinances were preempted by both federal and state law. The appeal challenges the state's "PRB-1" statute that was enacted in 2012. The ARRL is supporting the defense of the statute.

6. Other legal matters

6.1. Mr. Imlay observed that it should be emphasized to clubs and individuals who make contractual commitments when organizing ARRL-sanctioned conventions that they have no authority to make commitments on behalf of the ARRL.

6.2. Mr. Imlay reported briefly on matters pertaining to ARRL advertising policies.

7. Legislative matters

7.1. Mr. Imlay reported on the status of efforts to have legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives requiring reasonable accommodation of amateur station antennas in areas subject to private land use regulation. The bill has been drafted and original co-sponsors are being sought prior to introduction. Once the bill has been introduced, efforts must begin immediately to secure additional co-sponsors.

On motion of Mr. Isely, it was voted to propose to the Board the creation of the Barry M. Goldwater, K7UGA, Achievement Award to recognize outstanding support of Amateur Radio by an elected federal official. Mr. Isely and Mr. Lisenco agreed to develop proposed terms of reference by the end of April for circulation to the Executive Committee.

7.2. Mr. Imlay distributed a working draft of proposed amendments to the ARRL Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation dated January 30, 2009. The amendments are intended to bring the policy into alignment with what the states are doing to comply with federal grant programs to address distracted driving, as required by Public Law 112-141 (MAP-21). The Committee began its review of the draft but took no formal action.

8. On international matters, Mr. Bellows observed that the IARU Region 2 Executive Committee will meet in Hartford just before the Centennial National Convention. This will give ARRL members and officials an opportunity to meet the IARU global and Region 2 leadership.

9. Organizational matters

9.1. Following a review, on motion of Mr. Isely the program for the ARRL Centennial National Convention was approved. Committee members said they were very impressed with the convention planning by staff and asked that this be recorded in the minutes.

9.2. Discussion resumed of how best to protect the ARRL from liability for actions of its volunteers. It was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer will distribute instructions to staff explaining how to respond to questions about individual responsibility during ARES deployments.

9.3. Mr. Sumner distributed samples of the material currently being mailed to new FCC amateur licensees to introduce them to the ARRL and assist them in getting on the air.

10. Mr. Sumner distributed a chart of past Board actions. Action had been completed on several items since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee, and several others had been added to the list as a result of the January 2014 Board Meeting.

11. Approval of conventions

On motion of Mr. Isely, the holding of the following ARRL conventions was approved:

2014

WPA ARES Emcomm Conference, June 14, Johnstown, PA
Montana State, July 18-20, East Glacier, MT
West Virginia State, August 23, Weston, WV
W9DXCC, September 19-20, Shaumburg, IL
Delaware State, October 4, Georgetown, DE
Connecticut State, October 12, Meriden, CT

2015

TechFest, January 10, Lawrenceville, GA
Arizona Section, February 20-21, Yuma, AZ
Southern Florida Section, March 21, Stuart, FL

In addition, in view of the cancellation of the Rocky Mountain Division Convention that had been scheduled for July 11-13 in Laramie, WY, the previously approved New Mexico State Convention, August 8-10 in Albuquerque, NM, was redesignated as the Rocky Mountain Division Convention.

12. On motion of Mr. Lisenco, the affiliation of the following clubs was approved (all Category 1 except as noted):

Blue Ridge Wireless, Ruckersville, VA
Brush Prairie Repeater Association, Vancouver, WA
Buffalo Amateur Radio Klub (BARK), Buffalo, WY
Central New York Contesters, Cicero, NY
Charter Oak Radio Society, New Britain, CT
Crane's View Lodge Amateur Radio Club, Clermont, FL (Category 3)
Hamilton County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Noblesville, IN
Ham Radio University Amateur Radio Club, West Babylon, NY
Ochoco Amateur Radio Association, Prineville, OR
Off the Grid Radio and Electronics Society, Elkhart, IN
Pacific Meramec Valley Amateur Radio Club, Pacific, MO
Parker Radio Association, Parker, CO
The 220 MHz Guys Amateur Radio Club, Chicago, IL

The ARRL now has 2,259 active affiliated clubs. Category 1: 2,063; Category 2: 56; Category 3: 127; Category 4: 13.

13. On motion of Mr. Isely, the committee recognized 137 recently elected Life Members. The Secretary was instructed to publish the list in *QST*.

14. It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on October 4 in a location to be determined.

15. Other business

Mr. Ahrens expressed his appreciation to the attendees who had joined him at the meeting of the St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club the previous evening.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Vallio the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary