

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Number 495
Dulles, Virginia – October 1, 2011

Pursuant to due notice, the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:41 AM EDT Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Airport Marriott, Dulles, Virginia. 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, George R. Isely, W9GIG, Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV. Also present were Second Vice President Bruce Frahm, KØBJ, International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KØQB and General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD.

1. On motion of Mr. Frenaye the draft agenda for the meeting was adopted. The main items listed are:

1. *Consideration of agenda for the meeting*
2. *President's report*
3. *Chief Executive Officer's report*
4. *FCC proceedings*
5. *Antenna cases*
6. *Other legal matters*
7. *International matters*
8. *Organizational matters*
9. *Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees*
10. *Approval of conventions*
11. *Affiliation of clubs*
12. *Recognition of new Life Members*
13. *Approval of minutes of March 19, 2011 Executive Committee meeting*
14. *Other business*

2. In her report, Mrs. Craigie covered her recent travel on behalf of the ARRL, concerns regarding the lack of visibility and slow pace of FCC enforcement actions, committee appointments, legislative activities, succession planning, and election conduct. In the course of discussion of the report a need was identified to remind field volunteers of the resources that are available to them in assisting amateurs with interference from power line noise.

3. Mr. Sumner reported briefly on Headquarters status.

4. FCC proceedings

4.1. FCC/Regulatory action items

4.1.1. Mr. Imlay reported that an FCC Report and Order correcting the deficiencies in the Commission's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) regulations is long overdue. More than three years has elapsed since the Court of Appeals remand. A draft Report and Order reportedly is circulating among the Commissioners but is not expected to be adopted soon. Also long overdue

is FCC enforcement action against operating BPL systems that have been shown to be operating in violation of the existing rules. Committee members agreed that it is time to request another round of meetings with the Commissioners or their senior staff to press our case.

4.1.2. Mr. Imlay reported that an FCC Report and Order is expected to be released soon to complete action on ARRL's petition, RM-11353, seeking revised and additional privileges for amateurs on specific channels near 5 MHz. It is anticipated that CW, PSK31, and Pactor-III emissions will be authorized, but on a single frequency in each channel. This restriction is said to be necessary in order to meet the operational requirements of the primary service, and amateurs are obliged to accept it. Once the Report and Order is released the ARRL will advise amateurs on how to comply with the new rules.

4.1.3. ARRL is monitoring the progress of a proposal for Medical Body Worn Area Networks (MBANS) in the 2360-2400 MHz band, which overlaps the amateur allocation of 2390-2400 MHz. Such devices do not have major potential to cause harmful interference but could be susceptible to nearby transmitters. International standards are being developed that could point toward alternative allocations.

4.1.4. Mr. Imlay is preparing an amendment to the waiver request filed by ARRL for FCC authorization to use Motorola MotoTRBO TDMA VHF/UHF equipment in the Amateur Radio Service, because the original waiver request did not go quite far enough.

4.1.5. The FCC has granted waivers to permit a small number of Amateur Radio examinations to be conducted with one Volunteer Examiner physically present and others proctoring remotely by video conference. It is anticipated that a petition for rule making will be filed by a party other than the ARRL, seeking to expand the arrangement. After discussion, on motion of Mr. Isely it was agreed that a strawman proposal will be offered to the Board to stimulate discussion with the objective of having the Board determine ARRL policy on the issue at its January 2012 meeting.

4.2. Mr. Imlay reported the status of various pending FCC proceedings. He noted that the comment period on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment of the Antenna Structure Registration Program (WT Docket Nos. 08-61 and 03-187) has been extended to November 2, 2011. The FCC has not issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in response to RM-11629, a petition filed by Anchorage VEC seeking exam element credit for expired amateur licenses; President Craigie observed that the petition should be brought to the attention of the Board so an ARRL position can be formulated.

4.3. Mr. Imlay provided a list of pending FCC items on which no action has been reported since the July Board meeting.

5. Mr. Imlay provided an update on two legal proceedings involving amateur antennas.

6. Mr. Imlay briefed the committee on the status of other legal matters. Following a review of the circumstances of the denial of an application for a field appointment, Mr. Imlay was instructed to draft a letter to the Section Manager explaining why the application should be granted.

7. International matters

7.1. Mr. Sumner reported briefly on his attendance at recent meetings in South Africa and preparations for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference. Mr. Bellows reported briefly on the upcoming meeting of the IARU Region 2 Executive Committee.

8. Organizational matters

8.1. On motion of Mr. Vallio, at 1:39 PM it was voted to resolve into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing election matters. At 2:50 PM the committee rose and reported. On motion of Mr. Vallio the report was accepted.

8.2. Mr. Sumner presented a report on how electronic voting could be implemented in future ARRL elections. Discussions with potential vendors have identified one that appears to have the capability to conduct hybrid voting, i.e. electronic voting by those members who have provided the ARRL with email addresses and voting by paper ballot by the remaining members. The cost to ARRL of using this vendor for elections in five divisions would be comparable to the cost of the current voting system for contested elections in five divisions. However, the cost of conducting elections for Section Manager would be significantly greater than the current system, particularly for the smaller sections. Committee members agreed to not pursue electronic voting in section elections at this time. Mr. Sumner noted that in order for electronic voting to be implemented in the fall 2012 division elections, amendments to several Bylaws will have to be made by the Board at its January 2012 meeting. He recommended that a small drafting group be established to prepare the necessary amendments. Should the Board approve the amendments in January there will be sufficient time to complete arrangements with a vendor prior to the fall election cycle.

On motion of Mr. Isely it was voted to authorize the creation of such a drafting group and to instruct the Chief Executive Officer to arrange a suitable interactive demonstration of electronic voting for the Board.

8.3. President Craigie led a discussion of possible improvements in ARRL's strategic planning process. There was general agreement that in the next round of strategic planning it is not desirable to follow recent practice; some changes need to be made. As a next step, Mr. Sumner was asked to investigate the current state of the art for strategic planning by large membership associations and to report back to the Executive Committee prior to the January 2012 Board meeting.

8.4. President Craigie then led a review of a discussion document on ARRL webinars that had been circulated to the committee in advance. It was agreed that public webinars using ARRL resources should be described as being hosted by the ARRL, with individuals credited as organizers or presenters as appropriate. Care must be taken during ARRL campaign periods to ensure that inappropriate use of public webinars is not made by or on behalf of candidates.

9. Mr. Sumner distributed a list of past Board actions that are still pending completion. He noted that the Nominating Committee for the Centennial Campaign Committee established at Minute 42 of the January 2010 meeting has completed its work. On motion of Mr. Vallio it was unanimously voted that the committee members are thanked for their work and are discharged.

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

Northern Florida Section, February 10-12, 2012, Orlando, FL
Louisiana State, March 9-10, 2012, Rayne, LA
Oklahoma State, March 9-10, 2012, Claremore, OK
Roanoke Division, March 10-11, 2012, Concord, NC
Delaware State, April 21, 2012, Georgetown, DE
Texas State, August 2-3, 2013, Austin, TX

Mr. Sumner explained the current practice with regard to checking date conflicts between conventions. Conflicts involving division conventions and other major events are called to the attention of the affected Directors.

11. The pending applications for the affiliation of clubs having been approved by email vote, there were no applications to be considered at this time.

12. On motion of Mr. Vallio the committee recognized 193 recently elected Life Members and instructed the Secretary to list their names in *QST* (Applause).

13. On motion of Dr. Woolweaver the minutes of the March 19, 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee were approved as distributed.

14. Other business

It being desirable for the Executive Committee to approve its meeting minutes more promptly, on motion of Mr. Isely it was unanimously voted to use the same procedure for email approval that is now in use for Board meeting minutes with the exception that there is no specified voting deadline.

There being no other business, on motion of Mr. Vallio the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary