

Ethics and Elections Committee Report January 2020

Members of the 2019 Ethics and Elections Committee, appointed by President Roderick at the ARRL January Board Meeting, are Directors:

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, New England Division
George "Bud" Hippisley, W2RU, Roanoke Division
Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, Midwest Division (Chair)

A report on E&E Activities for the first six months was submitted to the Board in July 2019. The E&E report for the last six months of 2019 follows:

Nominations for Director and Vice-Director

This year nominations for Director and Vice-Director were open in the following ARRL Divisions:

Pacific Division
Rocky Mountain Division
Southwestern Division
Southeastern Division
West Gulf Division

At the close of Nominations on August 16, 2019, the following incumbents were unchallenged and thus declared elected by the E&E Committee:

Pacific Division: Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT; Vice-Director Kristen McIntyre, K6WX
Rocky Mountain Division: Director Jeff Ryan, K0RM; Vice-Director Robert Wareham, N0ESQ
Southwestern Division: Director Richard Norton, N6AA
West Gulf Division: Vice-Director Lee Cooper, W5LHC

The following nominee for a vacant seat was unopposed and thus declared elected by the E&E Committee:

Southwestern Division: Vice-Director Mark Weiss, K6FG

The E&E committee reviewed the 300-word candidate statements for the ballots of elections in the Southeastern and West Gulf Divisions. Ballot counting for these elections was held on November 15, 2019 with the following certified results:

Southeastern Division Director:

Mickey Baker, N4MB (2,132 votes) – Elected

Greg Sarratt, W4OZK (1,739 votes)

Southeastern Division Vice-Director:

James Schilling, KG4JSZ (1,356 votes) – Elected

Jeff Stahl, K4BH (1,281 votes)

Joseph Tiritilli, N4ZUW (1,209 votes)

West Gulf Division Director:

John Robert Stratton, N5AUS (2,498 votes) – Elected

Madison Jones, W5MJ (1,405 votes)

Voter turnout in the contested divisions was as follows:

Southeastern Division: 25.8%

West Gulf Division: 32.4%

West Gulf Division Election

Nomination petitions were received by two candidates for each board position. Madison Jones, W5MJ, and Lee Cooper, W5LHC, both filed for Vice-Director. Alan Brown, K5AB, and John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, both filed for Director.

During the E&E committee's examination of candidate qualification and nomination papers it was discovered that Alan Brown, K5AB, did not meet the previous four years' continuous membership requirement and therefore could not be a candidate. Mr. Brown's membership had expired on Aug. 31, 2014 and was renewed on Oct. 20, 2015. The nomination petition due date was Aug. 16, 2019 which meant Mr. Brown was about 8 weeks short of the required four years' continuous membership.

At this point Madison Jones, W5MJ, withdrew his candidacy for Vice-Director and filed for Director. This left only one candidate for Vice-Director when the nominations period closed – Lee Cooper, W5LHC, who was then declared elected.

The two candidates for Director were now Madison Jones, W5MJ, and John Robert Stratton, N5AUS.

During the election period, the E&E committee received two formal complaints from Madison Jones, W5MJ. The first alleged the West Texas Section Manager, Dale Durham, W5WI, used ARRL email forwarding resources to send campaign statements critical of Mr. Jones to ARRL members in the West Texas Section. After considerable deliberation, E&E cautioned Mr. Durham regarding ARRL policy prohibiting this action and as a remedy offered Mr. Jones the opportunity to send an email rebuttal to members of the West Texas Section. Mr. Jones did not avail himself of the offer.

The second complaint alleged untruthful statements were made by his opponent. E&E carefully investigated the facts and circumstances and found no material violation of the ARRL rules regarding the conduct of ARRL elections. Mr. Jones was informed of the decision and of his right to appeal the E&E committee decision to the board of directors – which he did. The board considered the appeal and declined to take up the matter.

On Nov. 13, 2019 the E&E committee received an email from Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, containing a 10-page letter describing his concerns about the West Gulf Division election and his recommendations for improvement of the Bylaws and the election rules and regulations. Apparently, in the rush of activity just before ballot counting on Nov. 15, 2019, we neglected to respond to Mr. Blackwell's letter. On Jan. 6, 2020, Mr. Blackwell sent a follow-up email inquiring about our lack of response. An email reply, apologizing and noting that many of Mr. Blackwell's recommendations are incorporated in E&E Motion #1 discussed below, was sent by the E&E chairman.

Recommendations

The E&E committee spent considerable time with the ARRL Bylaws, rules, and regulations dealing with the election process. As a result we recommend changes be made to the Rules and Regulations Concerning American Radio Relay League Division and Section Manager Elections and will be submitting E&E Motion #1.

E&E has submitted a motion to amend the Bylaws to apply consistent paragraph numbers (See Hopengarten Motion #1).

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR
George "Bud" Hippisley, W2RU
Rod Blocksom, K0DAS (Chair)