

# Public Service Enhancement Working Group Report

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July 2019

To: Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Chair, Programs and Services Committee  
Re: PSEWG mid-2019 Report

I am pleased to submit this mid-2019 report of activities by the Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG). As of this date, the members of the PSEWG are:

Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, Northwest Division Vice Director  
Steve Ewald, WV1X, ARRL HQ  
Ken Bailey, K1FUG, ARRL HQ  
David Isgur, N1RSN, ARRL HQ  
Bud Hippisley, W2RU, Roanoke Division Director (Chair as of March 2019)

Temporarily continuing on the working group to ensure a smooth transition are:

Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, Pacific Division Director  
Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Great Lakes Division Director (former Chair)

PSEWG major thrusts and accomplishments during the first half of 2019 include:

A. ARES Task Book.

- Development drafts and samples were posted for the Field Organization to become familiar with and comment on, and PSEWG sign-off occurred in June.
- A "fillable" version or template is also now available for download and in-document data entry.
- Vice Director Tharp has offered to collaborate with Mr. Bailey on the format for a companion "change log" for the Task Book as the latter is periodically revised and updated.

B. Position Guidelines were posted to the on-line ARES Workbook.

C. EmComm course IS-001.

- Major revising and updating of ARRL's Emergency Communications course IS-001 was completed by HQ staff.
- The course was opened with these important enhancements:
  - The course is available at no cost to any ARES registrant.
  - A "tutorless" format has been added as a parallel path for completing the course.
  - Additional tutors were successfully recruited to help handle the huge initial interest.
  - A "challenge" path directly to the final exam is also being implemented.

All these decisions have received an overwhelmingly favorable response from the field. Similar updating and introduction of IS-016 will follow in the next few months.

- D. HQ staff brought Ohio SM Scott Yonnally, N8SY, on board to assist in the implementation of ARES Connect and to field questions about that software package from users.
- E. The League's HamAid program was reviewed and HQ staff continues to manage it, with some modest revisions to procedures.
- F. As part of the ARRL Forum at Dayton in mid-May, incoming PSEWG Chair Hippisley provided an overview of the working group's past, present, and planned activities.
- G. Most recently, the PSEWG has begun its examination of the future role of the League's National Traffic System in concert with ARES. A brief survey of selected SMs, STMs and SECs is to provide a beginning point for a more extensive analysis of the program. This review and evaluation is expected to be a major part of the PSEWG's efforts in the upcoming months.

Respectfully submitted with thanks to you and Jim for your assistance during this transition period —

George W. "Bud" Hippisley, PSEWG Chair

July 9, 2019