

ARRL Executive Committee Meeting

March 30, 2023

1:00 PM ET via Zoom

1. **The Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors was called to order at 1:00 PM Eastern Time via Zoom with President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in the Chair.** Present were committee members: Directors Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC; Kristen McIntyre, K6WX; Dale Williams, WA8EFK and Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ. **Present without vote:** 1st VP Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF; and CEO David Minster, NA2AA.

FCC Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ was absent due to a conflict in scheduling.

Present as observers were Treasurer John Sager, WJ7S; International Affairs Vice President Stafford, W6ROD; Directors: Mickey Baker, N4MB; Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; Bill Lippert, AC0W; David Norris, K5UZ; Dick Norton, N6AA; John Robert Stratton, N5AUS; Vice Directors Lee Cooper, W5LHC; Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ; Bill Morine, N2COP; Dave Propper, K2DP; Phil Temples, K9HI; Mark Tharp, KB7HDX; Nomar Vizcarrondo, NP4H; Brent Walls, N9BA; Scott Yonally, N8SY; and CFO Diane Middleton, W2DLM.

2. **On the motion of Director Williams, seconded by Director Kemmerer, the Agenda was ADOPTED.**
3. **Chief Executive Officer/Secretary's Update**

Mr. Minster provided updates on several topics.

ARDC – The Executive Director from ARDC was on-site for the day to get to know ARRL better and discuss a potential process to align ARDC's funding goals with ARRL's business strategies. There was significant discussion about re-branding part of ARRL around STEM education.

Strategy Working Group – Mr. Minster reported that the working group has been meeting weekly and have had significant and productive discussions. Their approach to creating a new strategy is fundamentally different than how this has been done in the past. The past strategic plan was vague and broad along with being very internally focused, rather than looking outward at what ARRL could do for amateur radio. The group has been looking at adjacent communities, including GRMS. From a STEM perspective, understanding the different educational channels that exist, how they work and where we are likely to be the most successful. The group has also been looking at business unit strategies by building out ecosystems such as building out a segment around learning and licensing. Although in its infancy, the group is also looking at different funding models. Rather than relying on dues

and diminishing advertising revenue, the group is looking at other models such as an endowment model or building out the retail aspect of the business. The group is aiming to have information to present to the Board in July. Once the board agrees on the direction for the organization, they will begin to build out the plan.

Census Working Group – The Census Working Group has engaged the 3rd party census firm that ARRL has used before, and has taken them through some of the work done in the Strategy Working Group to change the census audience. The past census activities have mostly focused on members and have led to the same conclusion, that to gain members, they must get active. This hasn't changed. With using surveys from adjacent communities, ARRL will gain more knowledge on how to embrace them. For example, the Committee has learned that 30% of the GRMS community also have their ham radio license and are using GMRS channels when local ham VHF/UHF frequencies are quiet. congested. Understanding and engaging this segment is important in understanding how to expand the amateur radio community. It is critical that the amateur radio community learn how to embrace this community and not make the same mistake as it did with the CB community in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

April QST Column and May Member Survey – Mr. Minster reported that he has been receiving 3-5 emails a day related to his April QST column. Responses have been overwhelmingly positive. ARRL will be posting a survey for its members asking for their input. The survey will be kept reasonable in length. Management intends to provide a summary in early June and is working so that the Administration and Finance Committee will be able to provide a motion for a dues increase and/or decoupling membership from print magazines for consideration at the July Board meeting.

Member/Club Recognition Event – Mr. Minster reported that he has a list of all the clubs for recognition for the rest of the year. He proposed the event to take place in early May. All the messaging around this event is this will be a celebration event for those being recognized.

After answering some questions, Mr. Minster left the meeting at 1:40 p.m. to continue his visit with the ARDC Executive Director.

4. FCC Counsel's Update and FCC Matters

Mr. Siddall was unable to attend the meeting due to appearing at the NTIA "National Spectrum Policy" session in Washington on behalf of amateur radio and spectrum policy. He will provide the Committee with a report in the near future.

5. Club Recognition – Missouri University of Science and Technology Amateur Radio Club

On the motion of Director Zygielbaum, seconded by Director McIntyre it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (with applause) that:

WHEREAS, The Missouri University of Science and Technology Amateur Radio Club, W0EEE, was founded in September 1923, at the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy and began broadcasting as W9DUM;

WHEREAS, The Missouri University of Science and Technology Amateur Radio Club serves the public and University community in Rolla, MO by supporting various needs for radio communications; in times of emergency, requests for support of public service events, development and training in the field of radio communications technologies for the members and alumni of The Missouri University of Science and Technology;

WHEREAS, The Missouri University of Science and Technology Amateur Radio Club has a long history of supporting emergency preparedness activities and public service events, providing amateur radio licensing and training classes for students and members of the University organization, providing communications services for the community through the operations of various VHF and UHF repeaters and the mentoring of students and University faculty, employees and alumni alike in the areas of radio communications and technology.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the ARRL Board of Directors congratulates and recognizes the Missouri University of Science and Technology Amateur Radio Club on the 100th Anniversary of its founding and on the 65th Anniversary of being an ARRL affiliated club.

6. Club Recognition – Hampden County Amateur Radio Association

On the motion of Director Kemmerer, seconded by Director Williams it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (with applause) that:

WHEREAS, the Hampden County Amateur Radio Association (HCRA) in the ARRL Western Massachusetts section has long supported the American Radio Relay League, Inc., being an Affiliated Club since October 4, 1948;

WHEREAS, the HCRA was the first amateur radio club in the Springfield area of the Connecticut River Valley;

WHEREAS, the HCRA conducted its first Field Day in June, 1950;

WHEREAS, the HCRA held its first hidden transmitter/fox hunt in the Springfield area in August 1950;

WHEREAS, the HCRA has offered mentoring to newer amateurs and others for more than forty years;

WHEREAS, the HCRA offered the first VE exams in the area in October, 1984;

WHEREAS, the HCRA started a loaner program 12 years ago to loan new and needy hams HF radios, antennas, and the accessories for six months to get on the air;

WHEREAS, the HCRA started an idea-specific, hour-long meeting known as “Share The Knowledge” in 2015 to teach and inform interested individuals about amateur radio-related topics, and record them for future viewing on the HCRA.org web site;

WHEREAS, the HCRA organized a booth highlighting the amateur radio hobby at The Big E—the largest agricultural event on the eastern seaboard and the sixth-largest fair in the nation;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the ARRL Board of Directors hereby congratulates and recognizes the Hampden County Radio Association for its contributions to Amateur Radio on its 75 years of ARRL affiliation.

7. Club Recognition – Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

On the motion of Director Kemmerer, seconded by Director Williams it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (with applause) that:

WHEREAS, the Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club (GNARC) in the ARRL Connecticut section has long supported the American Radio Relay League, Inc., being an Affiliated Club since January 17, 1973;

WHEREAS, the GNARC operates the most powerful 2-meter repeater in the area, affording good coverage through most of southwestern Connecticut, as well as operating a 440 MHz repeater, a D-Star repeater, and a DMR repeater;

WHEREAS, the GNARC conducts regular amateur licensing classes for the Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses;

WHEREAS, GNARC members serve as volunteer examiners to help license new radio amateurs who provide emergency communications services to supplement public safety resources;

WHEREAS, the GNARC provides communications support to a number of major fundraising events such as bicycle rides, running races, and kayak races, including the largest bicycle fundraising event in southern Connecticut;

WHEREAS, the GNARC provides communications support to most of the CERT teams in the area, including both support during drills and activations as well as tailoring amateur radio licensing classes for CERT members;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the ARRL Board of Directors hereby congratulates and recognizes the Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club for its contributions to Amateur Radio on its 50 years of ARRL affiliation.

8. **Recognition motion**

On the motion of Director Williams, seconded by Director Kemmerer it was **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (with applause) that:

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a valued member of our community, Brian C. DeYoung, K4BRI, on Saturday, March 18th, 2023, who contributed immensely to amateur radio through his exceptional leadership, innovation, and service;

WHEREAS, Mr. DeYoung has generously given his time and talents to serve on the ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Committee and provided 20 years of exemplary leadership through his service as President and then board member of OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society;

WHEREAS, Mr. DeYoung's contributions to radio orienteering included innovative fox transmitter designs and countless volunteer hours in support of USA ARDF Championships competitions, freely offering up his personal time to serve as Volunteer Examiner at over 100 ARRL VEC examination sessions and having promoted Radio Orienteering with presentations at the Fox Hunting Forum at the Dayton Hamvention;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the ARRL Board of Directors hereby memorializes Brian Carl DeYoung, K4BRI, for his outstanding contributions to the amateur radio community, and extends its deepest condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time. May his dedication to the amateur radio community serve as a legacy, inspiring future generations of amateur radio enthusiasts to follow in his footsteps and make significant contributions to the advancement of amateur radio.

9. **Recognition of New Life Members**

The committee reviewed the list of new Life Members.

On the motion of Director Boehner, seconded by Director McIntyre, the recognition of new Life Members **CARRIED** (with applause).

10. Other Business

Director Zygielbaum expressed appreciation for Director Kemmerer's recommendation on how to engage his division more. Director Zygielbaum held his first division town hall meeting over Zoom a few weeks ago and it was very successful with over a hundred attendees and over 300 views on YouTube. It is a great way to connect with the membership. The attendees were very positive about ARRL and expressed support for a dues increase and paying extra for paper QST.

Treasurer Sager was asked to report on the how ARRL has been addressing the current banking concern. Treasurer Sager reported that he has had extensive conversations with the Investment Management Committee (IMC) to protect and minimize ARRL's exposure and risk during this time. They have been discussing changing the approach to the overnight money market funds accounts and a decision will most likely be made at their next meeting on April 12th. On the commercial side, Treasurer Sager reported he has been working with Chief Financial Officer Middleton to keep operating accounts under the \$250,000 FDIC insured level as much as possible and noted, in certain circumstances, that it is not possible. He opined that while he doesn't believe this problem will become systemic, the IMC has the investment portfolio well diversified and safe.

11. There being no further business, on the motion by Director Williams, seconded by Director Boehner the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Middleton, CFO