



Second Century

What We Can Do

Because of the lead time for sending QST to the printer, this is being written in early April. We've been told to stay in our homes, isolating and "social distancing." Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be past the worst of the situation and seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. We're all facing many questions at this time, and among them is, how should amateur radio — and, specifically, ARRL — respond in the current health crisis and the limitations it has placed on all our lives?

Two months ago, as Interim CEO, I opened this column with the thought that you should hear from the management team at ARRL — the people who are working to shape the future of the organization. Now, looking back 2 months, I can't believe how much the world has changed. Just 2 months ago, we moved freely about the country, connected with friends and family in person, and engaged in all our professional and personal interests relatively unfettered. What an entirely different place we are in now; one we never could have imagined. As a result of all the changes, I thought it was important for you to hear from me regarding what is going on at ARRL Headquarters and across the amateur radio community.

First, and most importantly, amateur radio is in a unique position to serve not only our community of licensed operators, but the broader communities in which we all live and work. Opportunities exist to help keep people connected and provide support where and when we're needed. That's what amateur radio operators do. It's what they've always done, although certainly in different circumstances. Even something as simple as getting on the air and calling CQ can be uplifting for someone on the other end of the contact. Connecting with people is important in this time of isolation and social distancing, and this tried-and-true method is one of the best. Who knows? You might make a new friend.

There are even more opportunities to make contacts coming up on the calendar. ARRL Field Day is fast approaching and, although it will likely be very different this year, it still presents an opportunity to showcase our skills and make contacts. I recommend the article on the ARRL website, which talks about Field Day 2020 as being "A Time to Adapt" (www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt). It provides suggestions on how to participate this year, and I encourage everyone to do so. If you're looking for opportunities to be active on the air, take a look at the Special Events search page on the

ARRL website (www.arrl.org/special-event-stations) to find more localized events in which to participate.

As for ARRL, late on March 20, the Governor of the State of Connecticut ordered all non-essential and non-profit businesses to reduce their in-person workforce by 100% by the close of business on Monday, March 23, except for a very few specific functions. We scrambled during the weekend leading up to the 23rd, but with an amazing effort by the staff, by the morning of Tuesday, March 24, we had almost 80% of the staff working remotely. Our goal was to maintain as many of the member services as we could, while keeping within the spirit and the letter of the Governor's edict. In the end, our phones are being answered and your questions and concerns are being addressed as they always were. Our magazines are being produced, and are on schedule to be distributed as usual, and we are processing membership applications and publication orders. I would recommend that you use email to contact us (many addresses for the various departments are on pages 14 and 15 in QST) so we can process your request more efficiently. W1AW transmission schedules are mostly intact. Most other departments are working as normal, too. However, manual processing of award applications and awards is being delayed.

I'm especially proud of what the staff and membership of ARRL have been able to accomplish in this time of unbelievable turmoil. I've asked everyone to keep in mind two words in times like this: *patience* and *flexibility*. Everything we know is constantly changing, and we all need to be patient with all our interactions and be flexible to adapt to the ever-changing conditions.

We at ARRL hope the entire amateur radio community is safe and healthy. As always, you can contact me at ceo@arrl.org.