

EC Minutes October 12, 2019

Denver Airport Marriott, Aurora, CO

1. The Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors convened at 9:00 AM MDT on Saturday October 12, 2019 at the Denver Airport Marriott in Aurora, CO with President Rick Roderick in the chair. Present were committee members Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Bud Hippisley, W2RU; Fred Hopengarten, K1VR; John Robert Stratton, N5AUS; Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT; and CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX. First Vice President Greg Widin, KØGW, was unable to attend due to personal commitments. Also present were Second Vice-President Bob Vallio, W6RGG; ARRL Assistant Secretary Dan Henderson, N1ND, serving as secretary to the Executive Committee; Carla Pereira, KC1HSX, assisting Mr. Henderson; and ARRL FCC attorney David Siddall, K3ZJ. Also present as observers were Rocky Mountain Division Director and Administration and Finance Committee Chairman Jeff Ryan, KØRM, and Southwestern Division Director Richard Norton, N6AA.
2. On the motion of Mr. Stratton, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, the agenda was approved, with the addition of a Committee of the Whole to be called under Other Business.
3. Mr. Roderick presented his report. He highlighted the continued positive feedback he receives in his travel about the hard work and commitment of the staff and offered on a personal note a strong thank you to the staff to be conveyed. He is concerned about the decline of the hobby, including the decline of clubs, even with strong support conveyed by members in his interactions around the country. He expressed his continued concern about the large number of Technician class licensees that are not League members. He continues to see issues with both the recruiting and retention of members to the League.
4. Mr. Roderick's report was interrupted when ARRL CT Counsel Ed Spinella joined the call by teleconference at 9:15 AM. Relocation of ARRL domicile from CT was discussed. Dr Michel asked Mr. Spinella for his update based on current CT law. After discussion, on the motion of Mr. Tiemstra, seconded by Mr. Stratton, further discussion was postponed pending additional analysis by Mr. Spinella.

Mr. Spinella next moved to the discussion of the review of the Articles of Association and By-Laws previously directed by the Board and the Executive Committee. Mr. Spinella was directed to prepare a document and language that would encompass desired changes to be presented to the EC for vetting by October 31. The EC will present their recommendation by December 1 to full Board for vetting. The final recommendation will be due to the Board by December 18 in order to meet the 30-day requirement. At this point, the teleconference with Mr. Spinella ended at approximately 10:00 AM and Mr. Roderick completed his report.

5. Dr. Michel presented the report of the CEO. He shared the progress of initiating the Volunteer Monitor program. Mr. Henderson will place the September webinar in a Dropbox and share the link with the Executive Committee. Dr. Michel asked Mr. Siddall to update the status of enforcement actions which are still under review at the FCC. After a short break, Dr. Michel continued his report. He presented an update on the Lifelong Learning project. Dr. Michel stated that ARRL staff is developing the course content and also working with Mintz+Hoke for design of the website and user experience sides of the project. The rollout plan is also under discussion. The first three courses are scheduled to roll out in the second quarter of 2020. Concerns were raised by Mr. Stratton, Mr. Hippisley, Mr. Abernethy and Mr. Tiemstra including the expected timeframe and deliverables from Mintz+Hoke and the continued absence of a contract between the ARRL and Mintz+Hoke that defined the deliverables expected by the ARRL and established the metrics by which the progress and success of the LL project could be measured.
6. As a result of the concerns regarding the absence of a contract with Mintz+Hoke, Mr. Hippisley and Mr. Ryan were chosen by the Executive Committee to represent the Executive Committee in the preparation of a contract between the ARRL and Mintz+Hoke. The Committee directed that Dr. Michel and Mr. Spinella would work with Mr. Ryan and Mr. Hippisley and immediately commence discussions with Mintz+Hoke to formalize a contract for the Lifelong Learning project, with a preliminary document to be provided by November 15, 2019. Additionally, the Lifelong Learning department will form two advisory committees, one composed of non-ARRL employee subject matter experts to help guide content development, and the second composed of non-ARRL employee “novices” to review material from the perspective of the target audience.

Dr. Michel responded to Mr. Stratton’s concern about the continued absence of a viable email program for use by Directors and Section Managers by stating that he would investigate the matter of sending attachments using the existing program.

7. On the motion of Mr. Hippisley, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, the Executive Committee moved into a Committee of the Whole to discuss personnel matters from 11:21 until 11:38 AM, with Mr. Henderson and Ms. Pereira being excused. On the motion of Mr. Abernethy, seconded by Mr. Hippisley, the report of the Committee of the Whole was approved.
8. Mr. Siddall then presented the FCC Counsel’s report, reviewing the status of multiple items before the Commission. He has submitted comments to the FCC regarding the symbol rate petition as directed by the Board and offered his assessment of future FCC actions and issues.

The Committee was on break for lunch from 12:00 until 12:55 PM with all persons previously noted present.

9. The Committee returned to consideration of the FCC Counsel's report. A group of EC members will accompany Mr. Siddall on upcoming meetings with the FCC. Mr. Siddall reported his understanding that the conditional exemption of Amateurs from RF exposure measurement requirements contained in Part 97 of the Commission's Rules is proposed to be removed in Wireless No. 13-84. If adopted by the Commission, Amateurs would be subject to the same requirements as all other FCC licensees. The RF Safety Report and Order is in the process of being voted by the Commissioners and is expected to be released before the end of the year. The FCC staff also has indicated its intent to address a number of other outstanding amateur petitions after the symbol rate proceeding. The FCC also is poised to address the 60-meter band allocations adopted at WRC-2015. On this issue, the NTIA, on behalf of the Government primary users of the band, has insisted that the maximum permitted power for amateurs must not exceed that agreed to at WRC-2015 despite Canada having authorized its amateur licensees to use a more reasonable 100 watts.
10. The committee next moved to discussion of the Legislative Advocacy Committee's activities. Mr. Tiemstra noted they have traveled to Washington to have multiple meetings with Members of Congress and their staffs to inform the committee's planning. The Legislative Advocacy Committee is drafting a new bill to address private land use restrictions. Various approaches and timing for moving this forward were discussed. The committee will report to the Board as soon as possible and inform the membership of its conclusions and plans. The committee will also provide a proposal for coalition building with our partners. A target date for final legislative language is the end of October. Mr. Tiemstra requested that the ARRL 2020 plan include a second staff position in DC and the inclusion of \$10,000 per month for a lobbying firm (although the exact plan for the lobbyist has not been finalized at this time).
11. Discussion turned next to Trademark and Copyright review. Based on the recommendation of Vice-Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF, and on the motion of Mr. Stratton, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, it was voted to implement the Famiglio recommendation of trademark counsel to be hired and to commence the necessary filings to protect ARRL intellectual property and to repair such trademarks as are necessary. Mr. Famiglio will serve as liaison to the Board on this matter.
12. Motion of Mr. Stratton, second by Mr. Abernethy, the new Life Members were voted (with applause).
13. On the motion of Mr. Hippisley, seconded by Mr. Hopengarten, the Executive Committee moved into a Committee of the Whole to discuss a personnel matter from 3:36 until 4:10 PM, with Mr. Henderson and Ms. Pereira being excused. On the motion of Mr. Stratton, seconded by Mr. Hopengarten, the report of the Committee of the Whole was approved.

14. Mr. Hippisley raised the issue of the PR blitz related to CalFire reportedly declaring amateur radio not useful and ordering its removal from their sites. Mr. Henderson shared that the issue stemmed from a dispute between a single repeater owner and a local emergency services office and that the information in the widely circulated letter and video was inaccurate. Mr. Henderson also shared that he had been in contact with Mr. Tiemstra and Mr. Norton who confirmed his assessment based on their inquiries into the situation. Mr. Henderson was instructed to work with the ARRL editorial staff to craft and post an appropriate response on the ARRL news feeds.
15. On the motion of Mr. Stratton, seconded by Mr. Tiemstra, the Executive Committee moved into a Committee of the Whole to discuss a personnel matter from 4:25 until 5:55 PM, with Dr. Michel, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Pereira being excused. On the motion of Mr. Tiemstra, seconded by Mr. Hippisley, the report of the Committee of the Whole was approved.
16. There being no further business, on the motion of Mr. Hippisley, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniel Henderson, N1ND
Assistant Secretary, ARRL