

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Number 496

St. Louis, Missouri – March 24, 2012

Pursuant to due notice, the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:30 AM CDT Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel, Missouri. Present were committee members President Kay Craigie, N3KN, in the Chair; First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR; Chief Executive Officer and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; and Directors Cliff Ahrens, KØCA, Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, George R. Isely, W9GIG, Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV. Also present were Vice President Bruce Frahm, KØBJ, International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KØQB, Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD.

President Craigie welcomed Mr. Fenstermaker, who has returned to the Executive Committee; Mr. Ahrens, a first-time member; and Mr. Vallio as a guest. She noted that the committee had a lengthy and meaty agenda.

1. On motion of Mr. Milesosky, the agenda for the meeting was adopted as distributed in draft form. The main items listed are:

1. *Consideration of agenda for the meeting*
2. *President's report*
3. *Chief Executive Officer's report*
4. *FCC/regulatory items*
5. *Antenna cases*
6. *Other legal matters*
7. *International matters*
8. *Organizational matters*
9. *Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees*
10. *Approval of conventions*
11. *Affiliation of clubs*
12. *Recognition of new Life Members*
13. *Date and place of next meeting of Executive Committee*
14. *Other business*

2. In her report President Craigie highlighted her attendance at the 50th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Club, 4U1ITU, held in Geneva during the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference, and her very positive observations of the IARU team in action at the WRC. She noted that Section 6414 of Public Law No. 112-96, directing an FCC study of emergency communications by Amateur Radio and impediments to such communications, represented an exceptional achievement on the legislative front. President Craigie also reported on initial work by the ARRL Centennial Celebration Committee and on the resignation of Historical Committee Chairman Art Goddard, W6XD, from that committee. Vice President Bellows has agreed to accept the chairmanship.

3. Mr. Sumner reported briefly on Headquarters matters. The excellent financial results experienced in the closing months of 2011 have continued in the first two months of 2012.

Membership, publication and ad sales, awards activity and new licensing are all running well ahead of expectations. Some key staff members are, or are about to be, on medical leave. He noted that the WRC has been his main personal preoccupation since the January Board meeting.

4. FCC/regulatory items

4.1. Mr. Imlay reviewed material he had circulated to the committee prior to the meeting with regard to a repeater coordinator dispute in Wyoming. He explained that while the longstanding policy of both the ARRL and the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) is that there should be only one recognized frequency coordinator for a band in a given geographic area, FCC rules and policies do not rule out the possibility of there being more than one. In Wyoming there are two coordination entities, each of which can claim recognition by amateur operators in the state. While the ARRL is not directly involved in frequency coordination, there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the ARRL and the NFCC and ARRL policy is to accept only information supplied by NFCC-certified coordinators for publication in the *Repeater Directory*. NFCC has experienced a period of inactivity, which has caused the current accuracy of its list of certified coordinators to be called into question. However, new NFCC officers have just been elected.

The committee engaged in extensive discussion after which, on motion of Mr. Isely, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas since 1997 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has existed between the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) and the ARRL; and

Whereas after a period of relative inactivity the NFCC has elected new officers, a development that the ARRL welcomes and finds encouraging; and

Whereas the MOU calls for periodic review of its provisions; and

Whereas such review is long overdue, be it

Resolved that the ARRL Executive Committee recommends that the ARRL Board of Directors authorize the ARRL President to advise the President of the NFCC that it is the ARRL's desire to initiate a zero-based review of the MOU within 30 days of notification, with the objective of entering into a new MOU no later than November 1, 2012 that reflects current and anticipated future circumstances, and be it

Further resolved, that the relevant conditions include recognition that under FCC rules and policies, coordinator certifications cannot be exclusive and a requirement of certification must be a willingness to share data with other coordinators in the same and adjoining geographic areas.

4.1.2. Mr. Imlay outlined the steps that the FCC is expected to take to implement Section 6414 of Public Law 112-96, which orders a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study is to include identification of

impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations, and recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments. A three-pronged approach for developing ARRL input to the study is planned: (1) document the value of Amateur Radio in emergencies and disasters and how that role might be increased, (2) explain the nature of private land use restrictions and how they preclude or severely limit Amateur Radio's preparedness and response, and (3) show that amateurs in growing areas of the country are left with no practical alternative to living under these restrictions. ARRL members and especially Volunteer Counsel will be encouraged to share their experiences for inclusion in the ARRL submission.

4.1.3. Mr. Imlay recounted the ARRL's recent undertakings to obtain greater visibility for the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement efforts. Several committee members offered comments that underscored the importance of these efforts.

4.1.4. At Minute 51 of its January 2012 meeting the ARRL Board assigned to the Executive Committee responsibility for periodic review of the National Broadband Plan Committee Report and managing the implementation of its recommended strategies. Steps being taken to encourage innovative and productive uses of the amateur bands between 222 MHz and 3.5 GHz include the updating of band plans for the four bands between 902 MHz and 3.5 GHz. The committee discussed challenges brought about by increased occupancy of the 1240-1300 MHz band by primary services, and promising developments that may lead to increased amateur broadband activity in the 3.3-3.5 GHz band.

The committee was in recess for luncheon from 11:57 AM to 12:57 PM.

4.1.5. At Minute 52 of the January 2012 Board Meeting, several recommendations from the ARRL EMC Committee for proposed changes to Parts 15 and 18 of the FCC Rules were referred to the Executive Committee and the General Counsel. The Executive Committee noted that the EMC Committee's report flagged apparent violations of existing FCC rules; the EC identified securing appropriate enforcement action as a high priority. The Radio Board of the National Association of Broadcasters is known to share our concerns about interference from unintentional emitters, particularly lighting devices; Mr. Imlay will contact the NAB technical staff to seek a cooperative approach to the problem.

4.1.6. Mr. Imlay recounted the ARRL's ongoing efforts to call attention to the numerous flaws in the FCC's handling of the issues associated with ReconRobotics and its Recon Scout surveillance product.

4.1.7. AMSAT has been in communication with the ARRL regarding problems it faces as a result of International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), which inexplicably apply even to amateur satellites. The ARRL Board received a briefing as described at Minute 29 of its January 2012 meeting. Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, accompanied AMSAT representatives to a meeting on Capitol Hill. ARRL will continue to cooperate with AMSAT as it seeks a solution.

4.1.8. With the decision of the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference to create a secondary allocation for the amateur service at 472-479 kHz there are two internationally allocated amateur bands that have not been implemented in the United States, the other being 135.7-137.8 kHz. The committee discussed when and how to pursue the domestic implementation of these allocations and agreed that Mr. Sumner and Mr. Imlay should do so at the earliest opportunity, at their discretion.

4.1.9. The band 2300-2305 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis, but there is no primary allocation in the United States. In the past the ARRL unsuccessfully sought an upgrade to primary status. While there is no specific threat at this time, with so much attention being given to mobile broadband our *de facto* exclusive status in the band might be in jeopardy. After discussion the committee concluded that while no immediate action is indicated, the possibility of pursuing an upgrade to primary should continue to be kept in mind.

4.2. Mr. Imlay provided brief updates on the status of several pending regulatory items on which no EC action was required.

4.3. Mr. Imlay noted several other pending regulatory matters on which there had been no recent activity.

5. Local antenna/RFI cases

Mr. Imlay reported that there were no new cases of note.

6. Other legal matters

Mr. Imlay reported that he knew of no actual or potential legal matters of significance to the ARRL.

7. International matters

7.1. Mr. Sumner distributed an advance copy of a five-page article that will appear in May 2012 *QST* reporting on the 2012 WRC. The IARU team and amateurs on national delegations worked well together in achieving effective representation and positive outcomes for the amateur and amateur-satellite services.

7.2. Mr. Sumner briefly outlined the preparations for the next WRC that are now underway in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, in particular its Working Party 5A.

8. Organizational matters

8.1. Mr. Bellows reported on his recent visit to the facilities of Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS) in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. SBS appears to be well equipped to handle ARRL division elections. Planning is proceeding for this fall's elections to be conducted using a hybrid electronic and paper ballot system.

8.2. Mr. Sumner reported on his research into “state of the art” strategic planning by large membership associations. Perhaps because of the negative impact of the financial upheavals of 2008 and the revolution in electronic publishing, at this time there appears to be no consensus among associations as to the value of strategic planning or the best way for associations to go about it. The ARRL Board last updated the organization’s strategic plan in 2009 and normally would conduct an in-depth review three to five years later. The committee discussed the perceived shortcomings of past strategic planning efforts along with possible improvements. Without taking a formal decision the committee concluded that while strategic planning remains important to the ARRL, planning for a successful Centennial celebration in 2014 is the current priority. A fresh approach to strategic planning should be taken immediately afterward.

8.3. At President Craigie’s request, Mr. Sumner outlined the options for legislative representation that are available to the ARRL after the 112th Congress. After discussion, he was asked to provide to the committee by April 20 a description of the ARRL’s legislative objectives and accomplishments over approximately the past ten years in order to help define what would constitute success in the future.

8.4. On motion of Mr. Ahrens the following resolution was adopted: Be it resolved, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be required to sell the 365 shares of NCR Corporation stock held in the corporate name at Bank of New York Mellon Shareholder Services.

9. Mr. Sumner distributed a chart showing past Board actions that are pending completion. Mr. Milesosky noted that he expects the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Youth in the Second Century to be completed by the January 2013 Board Meeting.

10. On motion of Dr. Woolweaver the holding of the following ARRL conventions was approved (all in 2012 except as otherwise indicated):

Georgia Section, June 2, Marietta, GA

Eastern Pennsylvania Section, June 30, Harrisburg, PA

Montana State, July 20-22, East Glacier, MT

Central States VHF Society Conference (Specialty Convention), July 26-28, Cedar Rapids, IA

Kansas State, August 19, Salina, KS

DXCC East (Specialty Convention), August 25, Frederick, MD

SEDCO/W4DXCC (Specialty Convention), September 28-29, Pigeon Forge, TN

Mid-Atlantic & Eastern VHF Conference (Specialty Convention), October 12-14, Bensalem, PA

Iowa Section, November 4, Davenport, IA

West Central Florida Section, December 1-2, Palmetto, FL

North Texas Section, January 18-19, 2013, Fort Worth, TX

11. On motion of Mr. Milesosky the affiliation of the following clubs was approved (Category 1 unless otherwise indicated).

4x4 Ham Club, Phoenix, AZ (Category 2)

Amateur Radio Euless, Euless, TX

Boundary Amateur Radio Club, Bonners Ferry, ID
CQ Ingleside, Arkansas Pass, TX
Denison Repeater Association, Denison, IA
DFW Contest Group, Plano, TX
Jake McClain Driver Memorial Amateur Radio Club, Houston, TX
Kansas City Contest Club, Stilwell, KS
Taos Amateur Radio Club, El Prado, NM

With this action the ARRL now has the following numbers of active affiliated clubs: Category 1, 2096; Category 2, 57; Category 3, 134; Category 4, 15; Total, 2302.

12. On motion of Mr. Mileschosky the committee recognized 166 recently elected Life Members and instructed the Secretary to list their names in *QST*.
13. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on September 29 in Denver.
14. Mr. Vallio reported that planning is proceeding well for the 2012 ARRL National Convention to be held in Santa Clara, California, October 12-14.
15. There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Fenstermaker it was voted that the meeting be adjourned, at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary