

ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory
Committee

To The ARRL Board of Directors

January 2013

Respectfully submitted by:
Jim Cross, WI3N
ECAC Committee Chairman

Report of the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee

January, 2013

In the previous report I'd mentioned a request that the IT staff provide the ECAC with some web space. That was done and a link for "ECAC Only" was placed on the Public Service portion of the website. We are now able to upload each of the recorded meetings and various documents for members to work collaboratively.

In October the link to the sixty-five question survey was sent to ECs, DECs and ADECs. Thanks to Jackie Ferreira on staff for working closely with us to structure the survey and provide us with status updates while the survey was active. The Zoomerang provider that ARRL has been using was merged with Survey Monkey causing a few small changes for the setup and way responses were presented. Steve Ewald notes that for the possible survey takers there were: EC – 2133, DEC – 435, ADEC – 139. That is total possible respondents of 2707. Over 1500 responses were received giving a response rate of about 55%, which is significant.

One side note for consideration is that the Membership Database does not link with the Appointments Database. So, if a member updates their email, address, etc. on the Members Only Page, it will not be updated in the Appointments Database. Because of this we asked Steve to send the invitation to participate in the survey via the Appointments Database and also to the SECs for distribution through their own email lists, hoping to reach as many as possible. We had originally put the survey out for two weeks and after one week sent out a reminder with the link. There was a noticeable uptick in responses. Then, Hurricane Sandy occurred and we extended the survey cutoff so that participants in that effort had ample time to complete the survey. Weekly reminders were also sent out which increased the responses.

While many of the questions required only a selection of one or more answers, quite a few had a text box where respondents could provide additional information. The last question asked for any other feedback that respondents would like to give. There were 497 responses to this question which comprised 49 pages of the 416 total pages in the completed survey. Many of the questions asking for additional responses had between 150 – 400 or more people give an additional response. We are now in the process of evaluating the answers to this survey. The 14 remaining members (still no response from Gordon Grove, WA7LNC, Northwestern Division, whose emails still bounce and to whom I've sent a letter with no response) of the ECAC have been assigned one or two of the questions with many responses to evaluate and were assigned 35 responses from the final general question to evaluate. What we learn from this survey should give us a good baseline on the status of ARES® across the country. Zoomerang also provides a .csv file that several have been trying to strip out extraneous html so that by sorting we can do some type of relational analysis. We've had a request from the SEC of WPA for the responses to the survey by his members. If we can fix the .csv file we may be able to compare responses from different parts of the country, within Divisions, etc. Whether we would give the data to him is a topic for the committee to discuss. Some of the open-ended responses (not necessarily from his section) contained very specific complaints about some of the leadership in their section, so anything that is released in the future needs to take that into consideration.

On Nov 25, our Board Liaison, Kent Olson, KA0LDG, informed us of two tasks that came up at the last Board meeting via the P&SC. One was for the ECAC recommendations on training for the SEC position, and the other was for badges for ARESMAT members. At our Dec 4 meeting we reviewed and discussed suggestions by Mike Corey, KI1U, and Director Norris has the results of those discussions. We will address the badge question in upcoming meetings.

I believe that the results of the EC/DEC/ADEC survey will help inform the questions that we pose for the NTS Membership and Emergency Manager surveys that we are working on.

To date, I have not been informed whether there has been any action taken on the two completed requests from the P&SC. Those two tasks were completed in 2011. Task #1 was recommendations for the ARRL Go Kits. Task #2 was our recommendations for the position of MDEC.

Respectfully submitted,

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Emergency Communications Advisory Committee

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