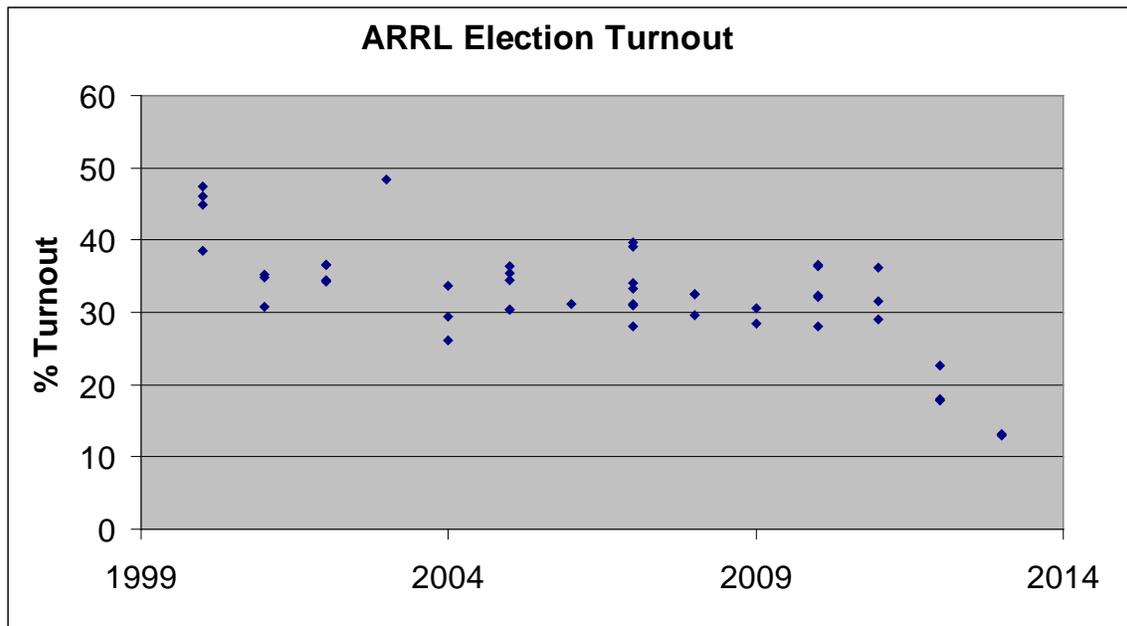


### Ethics and Elections Committee

The Ethics and Elections Committee has had a very busy and difficult six months dealing with issues that have been presented. I want to specifically thank Directors Bodson and Vallio for their extensive comments, time spent, and consideration of those issues as we worked to do the right thing. As usual, CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ helped with institutional knowledge, and General Counsel Imlay, W3KD, provided good legal and logical supporting input on several items.

### Voter Turnout

In February we began to look at voter turnout issues as discussed by the Board at the January 2014 meeting. After some research, voter turnout data from the 2000-2013 Director and Vice Director elections was reviewed.



- Percentage turnout was fairly steady from 2000-2011
- In 2012 and 2013 turnout was significantly lower
- On average, there was either a Director or Vice Director (or both) election in a Division half of the time (35 of 70)

- On average, the Director election was contested one third of the time (23 of 70), and the same for Vice Director (23 of 70)

We believe that the decline of turnout in the last two years is related to the way we're doing electronic balloting. More extensive research is possible but it would take significant effort to compile with any degree of certainty. We agreed that our present method of doing electronic balloting is likely the cause for lower voter turnout, so we decided to look at ways to change it so we have a better chance for high turnouts, or go back to paper balloting. The next step was to review that data and discuss possible changes with our electronic voting provider. (continued later)

### **Director Newsletters**

In mid-March we responded to a question about an election topic in a message being sent out by a Director in an electronic mailing. A minor change was requested.

### **Section Manager Election Complaint**

In late March we dealt with a contentious Section Manager election where one candidate complained about the other candidate's accuracy in statements made in his mailings and web postings. We decided that no action was warranted.

### **Vice Director Allen Conflict of Interest Question**

In early April we received notice of a potential conflict of interest involving Vice Director Allen. Mr. Allen was contacted and asked to update his Conflict of Interest form and provide any additional information. This was received a week or so later. After extensive discussion and consideration, and three conference calls, in late April, the Committee voted to disqualify Mr. Allen based on the provisions of ByLaw 45. Within a short time period, the requisite number of Board members asked that the E&E decision be reviewed by the full Board. That review included several conference calls and a Special Board meeting held May 22 where the Board voted to change the decision of the Ethics and Elections Committee, and Mr. Allen was allowed to continue as Vice Director with a number of conditions.

### **Directors Newsletter and Election Reminder**

In mid-April another question was received concerning the use of a Director's email newsletter to remind members to vote in a Section Manager's election. The Committee supported the general idea but did not support the request for it to take place in one Section and not others, and without talking to the full Board about a change in how we conduct Section Manager elections. We turned down the request. Five Board members

asked to have the full Board consider the Committee decision. After a discussion, the Board voted to allow the mailings to take place but limited them by saying the reminder message should come from Newington, and that they should go to all Sections where a Section Manager election was taking place.

### **General COI issues**

During the discussion regarding Mr. Allen's potential conflict of interest, many Board members review ByLaw 45 and found it contained provisions they were unfamiliar with, even though most of them had been certifying each year that they had read the provisions, agreed with them, and would operate within them. Since the Board decision regarding Mr. Allen, two Directors have updated their Conflict of Interest filings.

We have a need to review Bylaw 45 and clarify its provisions so all Board members know what it says and means, and so we can move forward with a common understanding of what our obligations are. To do that review we should have a common understanding of what issues and situations might produce conflicts, and which ones should be defined as serious enough to disqualify a candidate or sitting Board member. The same rules should apply to both situations.

### **ByLaw 45 Issues**

In dealing with the provisions of ByLaw 45 in close detail for the first time since it was revised many years ago, the Committee found several areas where improvements should be considered:

- Inclusion and definition of family members
- Revision of terms involving financial benefit and financial interest
- How conflicts involving current Board members should be handled
- Non-financial conflicts of interest
- Date for receipt of signed yearly conflict of interest form
- Timetable for appeals of E&E decisions

### **Electronic voting**

We have had two years of Board elections with SBS, our electronic election vendor. One more year will complete the cycle for all 15 Divisions. After discussions with SBS, they will be making two changes for the third year. A reminder will be sent to all members we have email addresses for asking them if they would prefer a paper or electronic ballot. They will also be sending out an email reminder notice to those who have not voted electronically a few weeks after electronic ballots are sent out. This will hopefully increase the voter turnout to more acceptable levels.

## **Fall Board Candidates**

The E&E Committee began to review candidate petitions for the fall Director and Vice Director elections in mid-June as the required paperwork has been submitted.

**Tom Frenaye, K1KI, Chairman**

**Dennis Bodson, W4PWF**

**Bob Vallio, W6RGG**