

**Report of the Executive Committee  
ARRL Board of Directors  
July 2016**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Executive Committee met in Westlake, Texas on March 12. The minutes were distributed to the Board in ODV:25249.

The EC spent considerable time on General Counsel Imlay's report on FCC and regulatory matters. Of note is the ongoing concern regarding enforcement. Granted, in recent months there have been some positive developments on FCC enforcement. However, there is still cause for concern given the closure of some field offices, which have led to retirements of several experienced engineers who have been helpful in the past, plus the shuffle of personnel at FCC. Further, the Committee is interested in finding ways to improve the Official Observer program and specifically how it might be better positioned to provide assistance to the FCC. A motion was passed to direct Staff to review and evaluate the Official Observer program, solicit input from the field organization, and explore areas of possible improvement including the training for OO's. A preliminary report is due prior to the October EC meeting.

The Committee completed the review of the ARRL Standing Orders and agreed on recommendations for retention, deletion, and amendments as well as referrals to other Standing Committees. This has been an ongoing effort as you may recall from previous EC reports. A list of those recommendations for deletion and amendment are attached as Appendix A. There will be a Board motion to adopt these recommendations at the Board meeting.

A motion was passed instructing Mr. Imlay and Mr. Price to develop a petition for FCC rulemaking to implement the WRC-15 5 MHz band allocation while retaining the existing domestic channels.

It was agreed to add a review of the National Broadband Plan as a standing item on the Executive Committee's meeting agendas to assure that oversight is provided.

The Committee discussed the progress towards passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301 and S. 1685. A good discussion was held regarding strategy and action to take. A motion was passed to instruct the Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee to continue dialogue with the Community Associations Institute and to report back to the Executive Committee with developments.

Subsequent to the in-person meeting, several regulatory items were taken up by the Committee including:

- Decided not to file reply comments on RM-11759 concerning the 75/80 meter band since such comments would be duplicative of our previously filed comments.
- Filed comments in support of RM-11767, Petition by Expert Linears America, LLC to amend Section 97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the requirement that, for a manufacturer of external RF power amplifiers to receive a grant of certification thereof, the amplifier must not be capable of amplifying the input RF power (driving signal) by more than 15 dB gain.
- Decided not to file comments on RM-11769, Petition by James Whedbee to expand the CW subbands to permit narrowband modes.

Lastly, the Committee took action to declare the office of a Section Manager vacant and to cancel all Field Organization appointments of the individual.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Roderick - K5UR

Chair