

Ethics & Elections Committee Report

for the
American Radio Relay League
2021 January Board of Directors Meeting
January 14, 2020

Submitted By
Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, New England Division Director
Chairman, Ethics & Elections (E&E) Committee
Mike Ritz, W7VO, Northwestern Division Director
Jeff Ryan, K0RM, Rocky Mountain Division Director

The Election Season

For the contested elections, Mr. Hopengarten travelled to Newington to act as Teller. Here are the results.

First Name	Last Name	Call	Division	Office	Votes
Matt	Holden	K0BBC	Dakota	Director	485
Vernon "Bill"	Lippert	AC0W	Dakota	Director	982
Dale	Williams	WA8EFK	Great Lakes	Director	1,840
Michael	Kalter	W8CI	Great Lakes	Director	1,398
Scott	Yonally	N8SY	Great Lakes	Vice Director	1,670
Jim	Hessler	K8JH	Great Lakes	Vice Director	975
Frank	Piper	KI8GW	Great Lakes	Vice Director	611
Dave	Propper	K2DP	Midwest	Vice Director	1,164
Lloyd	Colston	KC5FM	Midwest	Vice Director	623

Furthermore, Staff reported the following, **Declared Elected without Opposition:**

- In the Atlantic Division, Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, who has held the seat since 2015, and Vice Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF, elected to a 3-year term (2015 – 2018) and then appointed in 2019 to fill a vacancy when the incumbent stepped down.
- In the Dakota Division, Vice Director Lynn Nelson, W0ND, in office since 2018.
- In the Delta Division, Director David Norris, K5UZ, who's served in that office since 2012, and Vice Director Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ, appointed in 2013.

- In the Midwest Division, current Vice Director Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, will become the new Director in January, succeeding incumbent Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, who is stepping down. Zygielbaum has been Vice Director since 2014.

All newly elected officials took office at noon ET on January 1, 2021.

Issues

During the election season, E&E entertained a few requests.

NLI SM

In the NLI race for Section Manager, we received complaints from *members* about unethical behavior. We replied:

In this matter, the ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee has met and considered all submissions, including, among others, complaints filed by K2OL and W1EMR.

It is the view of the Committee that some of what has been circulated is not nice, and we don't like to see such exchanges. Yet the Committee is guided by rules which may be found at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-rules-regulations> . For your convenience, those rules are attached to this email.

The Committee has found no violation of a rule and declines further action.

In reporting this matter to the Board, we note:

- It is ***not unethical*** for a section appointee (for example, an SEC) to endorse his Section Manager (SM).
- It is ***unethical*** for a section appointee to use ARRL resources (for example, the ARES Connect system to message ARES members about the endorsement).
- The Committee accepted the resignation of the offending SEC who used ARRL resources and considered the matter over.
- If nasty behavior is exhibited, as it was here, it should be actively discouraged.

Request for Large-Donor Mailing List

During the election season, an incumbent director seeking re-election requested an email listing of all Maxim Society and Legacy Circle donors in his Division. The stated reason was to give them a "personal recap of the recent Board of Directors meetings." The E&E Committee adopted the view that this was a situation where the "appearance" was more the issue than the intent. In the words of Barry Shelley, N1VXY, then Interim CEO: "I don't believe we would provide the challenger with this email list (or any email list [of donors] for that matter) and I find it unusual that the Director would only want to write the larger donors with this information, rather than the whole Division." The E&E Committee agreed with Mr. Shelley in denying the request for an email list of large donors.

Residency

As proof that E&E never knows what issue may appear next, we received an inquiry about the candidacy of Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, running for Vice Director in the Midwest Division. His QRZ.com and FCC ULS records listed him as a resident in OK (*i.e.*, not in the Midwest Division). However, without a request from E&E, he had submitted, with his petition papers, a water and sewer bill, indicating (as best we could figure it out) residency in the Midwest Division.

We took the position that it was not the proper role of E&E to HELP (nor HINDER) a candidate – so we let him figure out how to campaign for MW Vice Director by himself. We left the issue to the candidate and the wisdom of the membership. We told staff that if anyone should inquire about his candidacy, “he has indicated that he is a resident of Arkansas City, KS.”

The E&E Committee very much wanted to have no impact on the vote. [His competitor, Dave Propper, K2DP, of St. Louis, MO, captured the post of Vice Director.]

Other

All other matters were routine approvals of candidate petitions. Though previous E&E Committees have felt differently, as a Committee, we did not feel it necessary to require footnotes or substantiation, nor the phrase “it is my opinion that . . .” when candidates made what we judged to be opinion or position statements.

This concludes your E&E Committee Report.

Respectfully Submitted,



Fred Hopengarten, K1VR
Chairman, ARRL Ethics & Elections
Committee