

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Report for the

2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 15 – 16, 2021

As of January 14, 2021, members of the Emergency Management Director Search Committee (EMDSC) are:

Tom Abernethy, W3TOM (Atlantic Division Director)
David Norris, K5UZ (Delta Division Director)
Ria Jairam, N2RJ (Hudson Division Director)
John Stratton, N5AUS (West Gulf Division Director)
Mark Tharp, KB7HDX (Northwest Division Vice Director)
Jim Schilling, KG4JSZ (Southeast Division Vice Director)
Lee Cooper, W5LHC (West Gulf Division Vice Director)
David Minster, NA2AA (CEO)
Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW (Director of Emergency Management)
Bud Hippisley, W2RU (Roanoke Division Director, Chair)

Minute 33 of the July 2020 Second Meeting of the Board tasked the Emergency Management Director Search Committee (EMDSC) with:

1. providing guidance and support to the incoming Director of Emergency Management and Chief Executive Officer; and
2. delivering a report and recommendations regarding changes to the By-Laws and Standing Orders necessary for the creation of a Standing Committee for emergency communications to the Board at the January 2021 Board meeting.

With respect to task (1) above: Subsequent to the July Board meeting, EMDSC members have provided input to, and collaborated with, Emergency Management Director Gilbert on multiple EmComm and Public Service topics, including participation by ARRL's National Traffic System in the October 2020 Army MARS communications exercise (COMEX) and the MARS-hosted follow-up debriefing videoconference; assisting in review of the EMD's planning effort; and discussing the impact of evolving AUXCOMM participation on ARES requirements. Most recently, the Committee met with the EMD to review the current and future status of ARES Connect reporting software.

With respect to task (2) above: During the Fall of 2020 the Chair compiled a partial history of changes to this Board's complement of Standing Committees in recent decades and reported to committee members that:

- a. The number of Standing Committees has varied over time. In addition to the Executive Committee, there were five in 1973, four beginning in 1985, and currently there are two.
- b. Executive Committee members have not always been excluded from simultaneously serving as voting members of Standing Committees.
- c. Beginning in 1985, policy recommendations pertaining to EmComm and Public Service activities by the League and its membership were the purview of a separate Volunteer Resources (Standing) Committee (VRC) until the present configuration of Standing Committees was arrived at by folding the VRC into the current Programs & Services Committee.

It is important to note that some portions of the current system of election or assignment of Officers, Directors, and Vice Directors to the various committees are codified in our By-Laws, while others are present-day customs that fall within Board and presidential prerogatives.

During review of these and other findings, it became clear that our final proposal to the Board from this Committee would necessarily interact with the parallel tasking of the Legal Restructuring Committee (LRC) to effect a general "clean up" of the Articles of Association, By-Laws, and Standing Orders. Regrettably, movement in that direction was temporarily disrupted by the untimely and unexpected demise of LRC member and Pacific Division Director Tiemstra, K6JAT, this past November. The passing of an integral member of the LRC, coupled with the focus of the Board, the staff and the new CEO, David Minster, on the development of new Membership programs for the coming year left no realistic time to effect the extensive "clean up" necessary to update all of the ARRL's operational and governing documents.

Our intent is to prepare and approve a proposal — consistent with the LRC's work — for the establishment of the third Standing Committee, dedicated to EmComm and Public Service, in the form of a Motion to be presented at the July 2021 Second Meeting of the Board, or earlier, if circumstances permit.

For the Committee,

Bud Hipsisley, W2RU
January 14, 2021