

**Report of the Executive Committee
ARRL Board of Directors
July 2019**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Following are noteworthy actions of the Executive Committee since the January Board Meeting.

The Executive Committee (EC) met in Dayton on May 20, the minutes of which have been published.

At the May meeting, the EC formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Communications with ARRL members. The committee includes Vice President Widin (Chair), CEO Michel, Director Hopengarten, David Isgur, N1RSN, and Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ. The group is to review ARRL communications with members and member perceptions of League communications. This will include consideration of areas which require enhancement, ways in which such communications might be enhanced, and propose concrete changes in communications processes and methods by which improvements may be accomplished. The group is to complete its work and report by January 2020. The working premise of the committee is that communication to members needs to be increased.

The committee has had one phone meeting and will meet in person just before the July meeting of the ARRL Board. At its first meeting, the committee adopted a structure for classifying events which might need communication to the membership, as a way of organizing its eventual recommendations. The committee developed an idea for a single source of announcements, like scheduled events, headquarter shutdowns, etc. which it will continue to discuss.

The committee also agreed that certain topics require communication both from ARRL to members, and from members to ARRL. Since topics concerning the upcoming World Radio Conference are beginning to arise, the group agreed that a discussion group concerning the IARU's activities would be timely and of interest to many amateurs. Other topic areas will be defined as the group continues its work.

Since the last Board meeting, the EC has spent considerable time dealing with regulatory matters, specifically RM-11708, RM-11831, WT 16-239, and issues concerning the League's symbol rate petition. The Board is aware that an effort was made to facilitate meetings with certain groups to attempt to find a resolution. It has been a challenging but well-intended endeavor. We asked the FCC for a 90-day pause (March 27) in the rulemaking while efforts to meet with

the parties were being worked out. The FCC was asked for an additional 60-day pause (June 27) to continue discussions and to allow the EC to provide information to the Board at the upcoming Board meeting.

The EC reviewed public comments filed by Community Associations Institute (CAI) with the FCC on a general rulemaking known as a “biennial review” of certain FCC rules (WT Docket No. 18-374). In the Biennial Review proceeding, the FCC did not include anything within Part 97. However, CAI used the opportunity to oppose ARRL’s position on private land use regulation. While the CAI comments were outside the scope of the Biennial Review and therefore not to be addressed by FCC in this particular proceeding, we believe CAI was laying groundwork for future opposition to an ARRL petition or legislation. The EC was concerned with some of CAI’s comments regarding restrictive covenants, private contracts, and HOA’s. Consequently, the EC felt it was necessary to respond so that any negative comments about Amateur interests were not left “unopposed” to our possible detriment in later arguments. Counsel Siddall subsequently filed comments on March 11. No response was filed by CAI.

Some additional items of note that the EC provided input and instruction on include:

1. The EC reviewed RM-11826, a petition for rulemaking that proposes for local emergency network activations or drills, a net control station be allowed to identify all participating stations provided that the participating stations are within 50 miles of the net control station. After analysis and recommendation by Counsel Siddall, it was decided not to file comments at this time and to wait until the FCC decides to pursue the proposal at which time it would be appropriate to file comments after a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is made.
2. The EC has continued to review the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning mitigation of orbital debris since its release on November 19, 2018, (IB Docket 18-313). On April 5, Counsel Siddall filed comments on behalf of the League and in support of the comments filed by AMSAT on this matter.
3. The EC reviewed and evaluated an update to the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). CISA builds the national capacity to defend against cyber attacks and works with the federal government to provide cybersecurity tools, incident response services and assessment, to safeguard government networks that support essential operations of partner departments and agencies. It was recognized that volunteer organizations such as emergency response teams and auxiliary communications volunteers play key roles in emergency communications and preparedness. Specific mention was made that volunteer emergency communications operators and groups using Amateur Radio have

been providing backup communications to various officials at various levels of the government.

While Amateur Radio received positive comments, the EC felt it was beneficial to file brief comments to reinforce and demonstrate our continuing interest and commitment. Accordingly, Counsel Siddall filed comments on March 22.

4. The EC reviewed the FCC/ARRL Volunteer Monitor MOU, which was subsequently executed.

5. The EC reviewed the FEMA MOU and provided comments.

6. The EC reviewed ET Docket No. 19-83, a petition filed with FCC to seek a waiver related to ISM operations in the 24 GHz band for the purpose of transmitting power over distances of 3-5 meters for precise targets and possibly greater distances in certain situations such as to power security cameras. Counsel Siddall evaluated the petition and advised that comments were not warranted at this time.

I want to thank the members of the EC for their hard work and dedication to Amateur Radio and the League.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Roderick - K5UR
Chair, Executive Committee