

ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC)

Report to the Board of Directors - July 2019

This report covers PSC activities for calendar year 2019, through June, including the January meeting in Newington and subsequent teleconferences on February 17 and March 20.

Current PSC members include Greg Sarratt W4OZK, Mike Ritz W7VO, David Norris K5UZ, Ria Jairam N2RJ, Kristin McIntyre K6WX, Vice President Bob Vallio, and Dale Williams WA8EFK Chairman. Regular meeting participants also includes Director of operations Norm Fusaro W3IZ and Assistant Secretary Dan Henderson N1ND.

The PSC January meeting, conducted by the 2018 PSC members, considered the tasking report from the DXAC on Digital mode DXCC awards, and asked the DXAC for further solid recommendations. The DXAC was also asked to examine a list of DX related issues supplied by member John Yodis K2VV, to prioritize those items and provide a report about why each is considered important for further study. The PSC also referred a proposal from Bob Lochner W9KNI to the DXAC for review and reporting.

Discussed the implementation of the "Order of the Centurion" which recognizes a 40 year ARRL Member who has reached the age of 100 years. The member is to receive a commemorative plaque a League publication of his/her choice and League membership for life at no added cost. The Membership Department will be responsible for administering the award.

In contesting, the PSC was to ask the Radiosport Department to solicit information from a random sample of participants to determine the impact of possible enhancements to RTTY contesting, such as adding FT8 or FT4. The Committee also discussed revisions to the November Sweepstakes and the CAC is to report at the next PSC teleconference.

PSHR scoring was briefly discussed and Staff was going to look at increasing the points awarded to a Net Control Stations (NCS). At the time serving as a NCS was awarded the same point value as a traffic net check-in.

The February meeting was used largely for initiating discussion on several items; proposal on altering the DXCC rules for Shipboard operation, scoring in ARRL Affiliated Club Competitions and November Sweepstakes. Membership replacements for the Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG) were considered, as Director Williams will now chair the PSC to whom the PSWG reports, Director Pace has left the Board, and Director Tiemstra is taking some added Board responsibilities. Williams and Tiemstra will continue during a transitional period while Director Bud Hippisley W2RJ will be asked to chair the PSEWG and Vice Director Mark Tharp KB7HDX will replace former Director Pace. A third replacement member will be selected at a later date. Norm Fusaro W3IZ is serving to complete the vacancy created by the departure of Mike Corey. ARRL Contest Manager Bart Jahnke W9JJ also participated in the February 27 teleconference.

The Public Service Enhancement Working Group presented the plan to for some slight revisions to the ARES Strategic Plan training and reported that ARRL will be offering its own updated EC-001 training

package to registered ARES members at no cost. It was voted to recommend the updates ARES plan be approved for implementation by the Board of Directors. It was determined to further study the proposal for altering the DXCC rules on shipboard operations and discuss it in detail at the March Teleconference.

At the March PSC teleconference, all members were in attendance plus Director Kermit Carlson W9XA and Mr. Dennis Egan W1UE of the CAC. The CAC report was evaluated and three items were selected to be returned to the CAC for more in-depth development work.

The PSC in other action, moved to have the CAC continue the Rules unification for VHF/UHF contesting. In an extensive discussion about DXCC rules as related to shipboard operations, the Committee voted to give no further consideration to the topic. Regarding the integration of LoTW and the DXCC database, Ms. Jairam's recommendations are to be forwarded to the LoTW Committee for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Chairman