

July 2019

The Entry Level License committee met several times since January, to discuss progress and next steps.

One of the main goals of the committee was achieved when the ARRL filed the petition with the FCC for additional digital and voice modes for the Technician Class licensees. The NPRM was issued by the FCC in March 2019, and the committee has nothing further to do there.

The committee discussed preserving the documents and knowledge gained through its efforts in the past several years. They felt that the extensive survey of members regarding the entry level license is valuable material, and they passed along the results to the Lifelong Learning Department.

The committee had asked that “a dialog be commenced with the National Council of Volunteer Exam Coordinators” about the Technician Class exam. That dialog was held. The results as reported to the committee indicated that “the NCVEC does not apparently see a need to review the Technician question pool beyond the review done by the QPC during its regular review and updating of the pool syllabus and questions.”

The committee recognizes that ARRL is only one of many members in the NCVEC, and has limited influence with that group. Nonetheless, the committee still feels that the issue of the number of questions in the Tech pool, which far exceeds the FCC mandate, is one that affects applicants both in their study of the material, and their overall progress as ham operators once they become licensed. This committee has also recommended that the “readability” of the text be a continual focus for the writers. Presenting technical information in a logical and easy-to-read text is a challenge. The goal is to both require, through testing, sufficient knowledge to be licensed, and in addition, to help applicants with what they need to become good hams. The committee can only recommend that these issues be revisited from time to time.

Having achieved its goals, the committee recommends to the Board that it be dissolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Delaney, W8WTD, Chair