

MINUTES OF ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Number 504
Westlake, Texas – March 12, 2016

Pursuant to due notice the Executive Committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. met at 8:30 AM CST Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the DFW Marriott Solana, Westlake, Texas. Present were committee members President Rick Roderick, K5UR; First Vice President Greg Widin, KØGW; Chief Executive Officer and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; and Directors Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, David Norris, K5UZ, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, and Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV. Also present were Second Vice President Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KØQB, General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD, and CEO-Elect Tom Gallagher, NY2RF.

1. The Chair welcomed the first-time attendees. On motion of Mr. Vallio the agenda for the meeting was adopted. The main agenda items were:

1. *Consideration of agenda for the meeting*
2. *President's report*
3. *Chief Executive Officer and Secretary's report*
4. *FCC/regulatory items*
5. *Antenna cases*
6. *Other legal matters*
7. *Legislative matters*
8. *International matters*
9. *Organizational matters*
10. *Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees*
11. *Approval of conventions*
12. *Affiliation of clubs*
13. *Recognition of new Life Members*
14. *Date and place of next meeting*
15. *Other business and adjournment*

2. President Roderick reported on his activities since the January Board meeting. He noted that there is a high level of activity on the legislative front and thanked those who are contributing to these efforts.

3. Mr. Sumner reported that the Headquarters staff changes are proceeding smoothly. Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, retired on March 1 but will conduct the *QST* Classic Radio column and will be listed as a Contributing Editor. CEO-Elect Gallagher arrived in Newington on schedule on February 29 and the transition toward Mr. Sumner's April 18 retirement date is going well.

4. FCC/regulatory items

4.1. Action items

4.1.1. Mr. Imlay observed that there have been several positive developments on FCC enforcement since the October 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee. For example, at the request of the ARRL, Congressman Peter King of New York has been effective in raising the issue of a persistent repeater jamming problem with the FCC. On the other hand, the closure of some field offices has led to the retirement of several experienced engineers who have been helpful in the past. The committee discussed how the ARRL's Official Observer program might be better positioned to provide assistance to the FCC.

On motion of Mr. Roderick, staff was directed to review and evaluate the Official Observer program, solicit input from the field organization, and explore areas of possible improvement including in the area of training for OOs. Vice President Milesosky is to oversee the study on behalf of the Board. A preliminary report to the Executive Committee is due prior to the October 22 EC meeting.

4.1.2. Mr. Imlay reported that the comment period on the ARRL's petition, RM-11759, to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz, expires on March 23 with reply comments due by April 7. The ARRL will file supportive comments. Additional supporting comments would be welcome from those amateurs who were adversely affected by the Commission's excessive reduction of the 80 meter RTTY/data band in 2006.

4.1.3. Mr. Imlay has inquired of FCC staff why there has been no action on the ARRL's petition, RM-11708, since it was placed on Public Notice more than two years ago. While action has been promised in the near future, none is as yet forthcoming.

4.1.4. RM-11760, a petition by an individual radio amateur seeking amendment of the FCC rules to permit the issuance of lifetime operator licenses, was discussed. The issue was one of the topics disposed of in a recent FCC rulemaking proceeding, WT Docket No. 12-283, so it is unclear why the FCC has solicited comments. It was agreed that the ARRL does not need to file comments at this time.

4.1.5. A petition filed by another individual radio amateur that has not yet received a file number was discussed briefly. The petition seeks broader authorization for amateurs to conduct experimental communications using very low power. The ARRL has taken no position on the proposal.

4.1.6. Mr. Imlay reported that he had just made an ex parte submission in ET Docket No. 15-99, the proceeding that should result in finalization of the conditions for amateur use of the 135.7-137.8 kHz and 472-479 kHz allocations. The submission argues for relieving amateurs whose stations are not located within 1 km of an electric transmission line of any obligation for notification prior to commencement of operations.

4.2. Mr. Imlay reported briefly on several ongoing FCC proceedings on which no action has occurred since the January meeting of the Board. With respect to ET Docket No. 14-177, Provision of Mobile Services in the Bands above 24 GHz, he referred to a report by Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, that raises concerns with

regard to the 47.0-47.2 GHz band that has been exclusively allocated to the amateur and amateur-satellite services since the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference. While this band was not initially targeted in this proceeding, recent developments at WRC-15 and at the FCC suggest that there could be a serious threat.

At the suggestion of Mr. Mileskosky it was agreed to add a review of the National Broadband Plan as a standing item on the Executive Committee's meeting agendas.

On motion of Mr. Vallio, Mr. Imlay and Mr. Price were directed to develop a petition for FCC rulemaking to implement the WRC-15 5 MHz band allocation while retaining the existing domestic channels.

5. Local antenna cases

5.1. A decision by the Third Circuit United States Court of Appeals in Philadelphia is awaited on the appeal of Jeff DePolo, WN3A, from an unfavorable decision of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

5.2. Mr. Imlay is awaiting further information from Myles Landstein, N2EHG, who suffered an adverse decision in a state court in New York and reportedly plans to appeal.

6. Other legal/regulatory matters

6.1. Mr. Imlay described a possible opportunity for Amateur Radio emergency communications volunteers to gain access to some facilities associated with FirstNet, a nationwide public safety broadband network. After discussion, Mr. Imlay was asked to investigate further and report back to the Executive Committee next week.

6.2. Mr. Imlay reported that slow progress is being made on the transfer of responsibility and funding for the Handiham Program from Allina Health to the ARRL. There are legal requirements of the State of Minnesota that must be met in order to effect the transfer.

6.3. Mr. Williams asked if there was any interest in pursuing relief from the restriction on the gain of external RF power amplifiers to 15 dB. After discussion, no action was taken at this time.

The committee recessed for lunch at 11:56 AM, reconvening at 1:00 PM.

7. Legislative matters

Progress toward the passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R.1301 and S.1685, was reviewed. After discussion, on motion of Mr. Lisenco it was VOTED to instruct the Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee to continue dialogue with the Community Associations Institute and to report back to the Executive Committee. Dr. Woolweaver voted no.

8. International matters

8.1. Mr. Bellows reported briefly on preparations for the October IARU Region 2 Conference in Chile.

8.2. Mr. Sumner explained the procedure to be followed later this year for the appointment of the IARU Secretary.

9. Organizational matters

9.1. Continuing where the 2015 Executive Committee had left off, the committee completed its review of the Standing Orders of the ARRL Board of Directors and agreed on recommendations for retention, deletion, and amendments as well as on referrals to other Standing Committees for their review. Once the referrals are completed the recommendations will be submitted for consideration and action by the Board.

9.2. Mr. Sumner delivered the report on establishing a Digital Media Content Channel that was requested by the Board at Minute 41 of its January 2016 meeting. Mr. Gallagher provided an addendum describing a pilot podcast that was produced by staff and shared with the Executive Committee earlier in the week. The report and pilot podcast were both favorably received. Staff was encouraged to continue to develop ideas along similar lines.

9.3. Mr. Sumner reported that there is clear evidence that the National Frequency Coordinators' Council, Inc. (NFCC) is no longer functioning. After discussion, Mr. Sumner was authorized to send a letter to the last NFCC officials of record giving 90 days' notice that the ARRL is exercising its right to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding between ARRL and NFCC.

10. Mr. Sumner reviewed a list of Board directives on which final action is pending. With the delivery of the Digital Media Content Channel report there are only five items remaining on the list, one of which should be completed shortly.

11. On motion of Mr. Williams, the holding of the following ARRL conventions was approved (all in 2016 except as noted):

OzarkCon QRP Conference, April 1-2, Branson, MO

Wisconsin Section, April 2, Milwaukee

South Carolina Section, May 7, Spartanburg

Northern Florida Section, July 8-9, Milton

Kansas State, August 21, Salina

New England Division, September 9-11, Boxborough, MA

North Dakota State, September 24, West Fargo

Florida State, October 7-8, Melbourne

Connecticut State, October 16, Meriden

West Central Florida Section, December 9-10, Plant City

Southern Florida Section, February 3-4, 2017, Ft. Lauderdale

New England Division, September 8-10, 2017, Boxborough, MA

12. Pending applications from clubs for ARRL affiliation were cleared by email prior to the meeting, so there were none to be proposed for approval at this time. The ARRL now has 2,366 affiliated clubs: 2,175 in Category 1, 54 in Category 2, 124 in Category 3, and 13 in Category 4.

13. On motion of Mr. Vallio, the committee recognized 276 recently elected Life Members and instructed the Secretary to publish the list in *QST*.

14. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on October 22 at a place to be determined.

15. Other business

Mr. Roderick thanked all participants for their hard work and attention and observed that this was Mr. Sumner's last meeting as CEO and Secretary.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Lisenco, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary