

## **ARRL Programs and Services Committee**

### **Report to Board of Directors July 2026**

The Programs and Services Committee (PSC) meet twice during the first half of 2026. First time was January 15 during the January Board Meeting in Windsor, CT. The second meeting was April 29 via zoom to discuss some recommendations from DXAC and CAC.

Following is a short summary of some of the discussions and actions of the Committee:

#### **Awards:**

Approved the Terms of Reference for a new award, The Mary Hobart, K1MMH Medal of Distinction.

Awards approved and recommended to the Board are:

- *Doug DeMaw Technical Excellence Award* – Robert Zavrel W7SX
- *George Hart Distinguished Service Award* - Keith Kaiser WA0TJT
- *ARRL International Humanitarian Award* – Ambarish Naq Biswas VU2JFA

#### **Field Day:**

The committee approved a few minor changes/additions to the Field Day packet. First is for digital contacts to reduce congestion recommending using the same frequencies used in the ARRL Digital Contest and to include those. Second is to include how to properly log contacts with the ISS and to work with the ISS program so they know and use the proper category for their exchange.

#### **DX Advisory Committee (DXAC):**

The DXAC met has finished their review of DXCC rules called DXCC-2025. While a lot of discussion took place, in the end no changes were made except in the Card Checker rules. Here is a summary of the changes:

- Changed the service term to be 3 years and coincide with the Division Directors term. This simplifies the term renewal process.
- Revised the number of card checkers per section the Director can appoint a maximum of 4, excluding DX Club card checkers.
- Clarified that card checkers can check cards for DXCC and for WAS, VUCC and IARU WAC.
- Clarified the requirements needed to be a card checker.

- Added to the rules requirement for checking 160-meter cards which has been used for several years.

### **Contest Advisory Committee (CAC):**

CAC has had discussions on the following topics in the past 6 months:

- RTTY Roundup off time rule is confusing to people, trying to clarify.
- Should we discontinue accepting paper logs?
- Discussing the decline in ARRL Sweepstakes participation and what can be done to reverse.
- Review participation levels in VHF and above contests to see if anything needs to be done there. Should see recommendations at PSC July meeting.
- Reviewing log submittal deadlines to see if ARRL's should be reduced. Most CQ contests are at 5 days with many ARRL contests at 7 days or more.

Contesting Items approved by PSC at its two meetings are:

- Approved discontinuing accepting paper contest logs. This starts with 2026 ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest. This eliminates staff needing to enter paper logs for log checking and scoring.
- Approved some changes to ARRL Sweepstakes rules. One is to recognize participants that operate 6 hours or less. Another is to allow people to use a second call sign during the second half of the contest. After a recent CAC meeting these changes are on hold as CAC does not like the revision PSC made to the 6 hour or less recognition.

### **Committee Members:**

- Bill Lippert, ACØW, Dakota Division Director (Chair)
- Tom Frenaye, K1KI, New England Director (CAC Liaison)
- David Norris, K5UZ, Delta Division Director (DXAC Liaison)
- Richard Norton, N6AA, Southwestern Division Director
- Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Roanoke Division Director
- David Proper, K2DP, Midwest Division Vice Director
- Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD, Pacific Division Vice Director
- Andrew Milluzzi, KK4LWR, Southeast Division Vice Director
- Roy Hook, W8REH, Great Lakes Division Vice Director
- Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, (Staff Liaison)

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Lippert, ACØW  
Chair Programs and Services Committee  
ARRL Director Dakota Division