

Minutes, ARRL Executive Committee Meeting

Monday May 20, 2019 9:00 AM

Marriott at the University of Dayton, Dayton OH

Agenda:

1. *Welcome and consideration of agenda for the meeting*
2. *Approval of Agenda*
3. *President's Report*
4. *Chief Executive Officer/Secretary's Report*
5. *FCC Counsel's Report*
 - A. *FCC/Regulatory items*
6. *Legal Matters*
 - A. *Local Antenna/RFI cases*
 - B. *Other Legal/Regulatory Matters*
8. *Legislative Matters*
9. *Organizational Matters*
 - A. *Relocation of HQ domicile from CT to DE*
 - B. *Unfiled amendments to Articles and Bylaws*
 - C. *ARRL Publication Policy*
 - D. *Use of USB stick devices instead of CDs for publications*
 - E. *Status of Mintz + Hoke / Lifelong Learning project*
 - F. *Graduated Life Membership Dues*
 - G. *Consideration of trademark issues and status*
 - H. *Consideration of existing server structure vs moving the existing server structure to the cloud*
10. *Review of pending action items including work in progress by committees*
11. *Recognition of new Life Members*
12. *Other Business*
 - A. *Motion to award President's Award*
 - B. *Motion to form committee on communications to membership*
13. *Adjournment*

1. The ARRL Executive Committee met at the Marriott at the University of Dayton, Dayton OH on Monday May 20, 2019 at 9:00 EDT with Rick Roderick, K5UR, in the Chair. Present were committee members First Vice-President Greg Widin, KØGW; CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX; and Directors Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Fred Hopengarten, K1VR; Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT; George "Bud" Hippisley, W2RU; and

John Robert Stratton, N5AUS. Also present were Second Vice-President Bob Vallio W6RGG; International Affairs Vice-President Jay Bellows KØQB; ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ; Assistant Secretary Dan Henderson, N1ND; and Executive Manager Carla Pereira, KC1HSX. Also in attendance were Directors Matt Holden, KØBBC; Mike Ritz. W7VO; and Richard Norton, N6AA.

2. On the motion of Mr. Stratton, seconded by Mr. Hippisley, the agenda was ADOPTED as amended.
3. Mr. Roderick gave his observations on how things have progressed in the first half of 2019. He is receiving positive feedback from many members. He noted that he believes response to member concerns appears to be quite positive. He has received numerous questions about the Amateur Radio Parity Act and stressed that we need to assure our members that we have not given up on our efforts. He remains concerned about the disconnect that Technician class licensees make up over half of the Amateur population, but only make up about 16% of ARRL membership. He emphasized that we need to focus on increasing ARRL membership and perhaps explore some new initiatives to enhance recruiting members.
4. The Executive Committee expressed its thanks and extended its compliments to the ARRL staff and volunteers for their outstanding work at the just completed National Convention as part of Dayton Hamvention 2019.
5. Dr. Michel presented the report of the Chief Executive Officer and entertained questions. He reported that the FCC has laid the ground work for several high-profile enforcement actions, pending action by the full Commission. The Headquarters staff reorganization was implemented in February and is working well. The work and organization of the Headquarters management council is off to a good start. He has discussed management software projects with the IT department. The Mintz + Hoke lifelong learning project is progressing well.
6. Mr. Roderick welcomed Attorney Siddall to discuss his FCC Counsel's report and entertain questions. Attorney Siddall began by discussing his understanding of his duties to the ARRL as Washington Counsel. He outlined the internal processes of how a decision is reached at the Commission.

The Committee was on break from 10:10 AM until 10:25 AM when the discussion of Attorney Siddall's report continued. Attorney Siddall commented on several pending FCC issues. Efforts are underway for meetings in Washington, DC between ARRL officials and FCC officials and others to discuss these pending items.

Mr. Tiemstra moved, seconded Mr. Abernethy that a committee of Mr. Stratton, Mr. Hopengarten, and Mr. Widin be formed to draft a briefing paper by June 3, 2019 on the symbol rate petition for comment by the EC in advance of the June 11, 2019 meetings in DC. The motion was adopted.

Discussion turned to the Technician Enhancement petition filed in February 2018. Attorney Siddall stated that if the ARRL wished to amend its petition, it should be done before the FCC has moved to drafting of an NPRM.

The Committee broke for lunch at 12:02 PM until 1:02 PM.

7. A discussion was entertained on the legal assistance provided by the ARRL to members. The directors were encouraged to solicit new Volunteer Counsels and Volunteer Consulting Engineers, as the number of participants in both programs is diminishing. The Regulatory Information office will work with the ARLDAC committee as a first-tier triage for these types of issues.

8. Mr. Tiemstra updated the Executive Committee on the efforts to reassess the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Legislative Committee of the Board is working on a plan of action to be presented to the full Board at its July meeting. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Hopengarten will work with Mr. Henderson to develop materials to share with states dealing with distracted driving legislation.

9. Discussion on relocation of ARRL corporate domicile to Delaware was tabled until the Fall Executive Committee meeting.

10. Discussion moved to issues related to unfiled amendments to the Articles of Association and bylaws. On the motion of Mr. Tiemstra and second of Mr. Hippisley, it was decided that the members of the Executive Committee undertake a review of recently passed amendments that were unfiled and to bring any concerns or problems discovered to the attention of the other members of the Executive Committee at least 10 days prior to their Fall meeting.

11. The Committee discussed questions raised about the ARRL's publication policy. Dr. Michel reviewed the approach for making decisions on what titles might be added or the format in which those publications might be offered.

12. Dr. Michel discussed the status of the Mintz + Hoke lifelong learning project. He will provide the Executive Committee with a copy of the contract with Mintz + Hoke.

The Committee was on break from 2:43 PM until 3:03 PM with all previously listed present except Mr. Ritz who had left the meeting during the break.

13. Mr. Abernethy discussed the topic of a graduated life membership dues reduction after an individual had reached a certain age. On the motion of Mr. Abernethy seconded by Mr. Stratton, the committee referred the topic to the Administration and Finance committee for consideration, asking for a recommendation to be presented to the full Board in January 2020.

14. Mr. Stratton raised the question of housing ARRL data on local servers versus hosting on the cloud. Dr. Michel reported that certain ARRL server uses are already scheduled to be migrated to the cloud. Dr. Michel will work with Directors Jairam and Holden and the Administration and Finance committee on this topic.

15. The issue of intellectual property, trademarks and branding was raised by Mr. Stratton. After discussion Mr. Stratton, moved, seconded by Mr. Tiemstra, that an independent trademark and copyright firm be retained to review and register/correct/repair any trademark found in need or deficient, after reviewing the reports previously provided to the ARRL by the ARRL Trademark Committee, Mr. Famiglio, Mr. Imlay, and the Day Pitney law firm. After additional discussion, the motion was adopted.

16. The committee authorized Attorney Siddall to prepare and file an ex parte filing on FCC RM-11785 related to the recent 2017 Canadian implementation of a higher power level limit on the 60-Meter band.

17. It was decided that the Fall Executive Committee will be held October 12, 2019 in Denver, CO.

18. On the motion of Mr. Abernethy seconded by Mr. Stratton the life membership nominations provided by the Membership Manager's office were approved (with applause).

19. On the motion of Dr. Widin and second of Mr. Hopengarten, it was voted (with applause) that:

Whereas the President's Award was created to recognize individuals showing long-term dedication to support the programs of ARRL, and

Whereas Rick Murphy, K1MU, has diligently worked to upgrade and improve TQSL to help amateurs more easily and successfully use Logbook of The World; and

Whereas Rick Murphy single-handedly re-wrote the TQSL application in order to make it accessible to screen readers used by those with reduced vision; and

Whereas Rick Murphy added capability to TQSL to display information to users in other languages besides English, so that TQSL is now available in more than 10 languages; and

Whereas Rick consistently supports users online with questions concerning the use of TQSL;

Now, therefore, the ARRL Board of Directors confers on Rick Murphy, K1MU, the President's Award, in recognition of his dedication and technical excellence in supporting and extending TQSL for the benefit of all amateurs worldwide using Logbook of The World.

20. On the motion of Dr Widin and seconded Mr. Abernethy, it was voted that:

Whereas the ARRL has communications as one of its core activities; and

Whereas ARRL members have expressed interest in improved communications between ARRL and its members; and

Whereas the ARRL Board of Directors also wishes to enhance member communications;

Therefore, the ARRL hereby establishes an Ad Hoc Committee on Communications with ARRL Members, to review communications with members and member perceptions of League communications. The committee shall consider which areas 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 committee shall report progress to the Executive Committee and the Board at their regular meetings and present a final report to the Board at its January 2020 meeting, including any suggested amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws 60 days prior to the Board meeting.

The committee shall consist of five members: Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, Chair; Fred Hopengarten, K1VR; Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ; Howard Michel, WB2ITX; and David Isgur, N1RSN.

21. Mr. Abernethy noted that the 150th birthday of Hiram Percy Maxim is coming later this year. The Committee requested Mr. Abernethy to contact the Programs and Services Committee and Mr. Fusaro about appropriate activities to celebrate the event.

22. There being no further business, on the motion of Mr. Widin seconded by Mr. Stratton, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Henderson, N1ND
Assistant Secretary, ARRL