

ARRL Executive Committee Meeting
December 14, 2023
2:00 PM ET via Zoom

1. **The Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom with President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in the Chair.** Present were committee members Directors Jim Bohner, N2ZZ, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC; Kristen McIntyre, K6WX; Dale Williams, WA8EFK and Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ. Present without vote were CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and FCC Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ.

Present as observers were Treasurer John Sager, WJ7S; International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD; CFO Diane Middleton, W2DLM; Directors Bob Famiglio, K3RF; Jeff Ryan, K0RM; Bill Lippert, AC0W; Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; Vice Directors Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ; Mark Tharp, KB7HDX; Tony Marcin, W7XM; Scott Yonally, N8SY and Vice Director Elect Roy Hook, W8REH.

2. **On the Motion of Director Zygielbaum, seconded by Director Kemmerer, the Agenda was ADOPTED.**

3. **Chief Executive Officer/Secretary's Update**

On the Motion of CEO Minster, seconded by Director Bohner, it was **VOTED** unanimously to enter the committee of the whole to discuss a business transaction and a human resources matter at 2:05 p.m.

At 2:15 p.m. the Committee rose from the Committee of the Whole.

Director Bohner moved, seconded by Director Zygielbaum, to adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole. The Motion was **APPROVED** by unanimous vote.

CEO Minster provided updates on several topics including:

Trademarks – The ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager has been working very closely with the intellectual property attorney in Washington, D.C. to ensure all ARRL trademarks are appropriately updated and protected.

Dues Restructuring – Emails were sent to 93,000 members reminding them of the dues restructuring and increase. It was explained that *QST* and *On the Air* publications included with membership would be in digital format, with an a la carte option to purchase print. The Member Services Department has been fielding calls from members opting to continue print

QST for a prorated fee to “true-up” their print subscription with their membership while others confirmed their desire to be strictly digital.

Life Membership – CEO Minster reported that he and CFO Middleton worked with the third-party actuaries to develop pricing for the life membership option. They presented recommendations to the Administration & Finance Committee (A&F) for consideration.

ARRL.NET – Struggles continue with the email system intended for member’s email forwarding benefit. Staff discussed the possibility of returning to POBox as the vendor, however, they are discontinuing these services as of January 1. Research was completed and a viable solution has been found at a comparable cost.

Strategic Plan – The Strategic Plan Working Group has engaged in a significant amount of work to develop the strategic plan. A final recommendation is targeted for the July Board of Directors meeting.

New Membership Type – CEO Minster informed the Committee that he suggested at the November A&F Meeting a new no-cost membership option to full-time students 21 years of age or younger. For no charge they would have access to ARRL resources and potentially supplemental “landing zones” for these young people. CEO Minster reminded the Committee this change would require a change to the by-laws.

Logbook of the World and DXCC system – CEO Minster provided an update on the activities of the two LoTW committees’ activities and his desire to integrate a new DXCC system with LoTW.

Technicians on the Air Program: Getting technicians active on six and ten meters.

Antenna – ARRL has been working with DX Commander on a small portable or small home-based ground mounted vertical antenna that supports six and ten meters. DX Commander is based in the U.K. and will be using DX Engineering as their U.S. Distributor for all the DX Commander antenna except the one designed for ARRL.

Technician Day – ARRL held a Technician Day at W1AW on Saturday, December 9th. About ten technician operators participated. Staff had a lot of fun meeting them and were able to get some great content from the event that can be used on ARRL’s Facebook, YouTube, and magazine platforms.

CEO Minster also provided additional information and updates related to potential new products.

CEO Minster then entertained questions.

4. **FCC Counsel's Update**

Mr. Siddall provided updates on Washington matters and future action with regard to pending issues at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In addition to pending ARRL petitions and related dockets, counsel addressed three FCC rulemakings and the White House National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) initiative.

60-meters: Over 3450 comments were filed in the 60-meter WRC-2015 implementation proceeding. The vast majority of the submissions were by individual radio amateurs and radio amateur groups voicing support for continuing the current 100-watt power limit and access to the four individual channels outside the new proposed 15-kHz band. The record is being reviewed and Counsel will follow up with meetings with government staffs.

SMC petition: The comment period for the SMC (high-speed traders') petition has concluded. Counsel will be following up and noted that headquarters staff has been further analyzing interference issues.

Symbol rate limits: Counsel discussed the FCC's proposal to follow its deletion of the HF symbol rates with deleting the symbol rates applicable to other bands below 450 MHz. Comments will be filed in January.

National Spectrum Strategy (NSS): The NSS was crafted after discussions and input from government and private spectrum users, including the ARRL on behalf of Amateur Radio. In late March Counsel Siddall addressed Amateur Radio concerns before a panel of federal government decisionmakers at a Washington session and followed up with written comments in April. Counsel Siddall also met with NTIA's Senior Spectrum Advisor and staff in July. The principal focus of the NSS is to identify additional spectrum for commercial use, making it imperative for Radio Amateurs to fully explain the public interest in ensuring a vibrant Amateur Radio Service. The NSS was released in November and a plan for implementation is expected in March, 2024. ARRL remains fully engaged in the process.

5. **Recognition of New Life Members**

The committee reviewed the list of new Life Members.

On the Motion of Director Dale Williams, seconded by Director McIntyre, the recognition of new Life Members **CARRIED** unanimously (with applause).

6. **Other Business**

President Rick Roderick thanked the Committee for their time and reminded everyone that Red-Badge Day was Sunday, December 17, 2023, and looked forward to seeing everyone on the air.

- 7. There being no further business, and on the Motion by Director Boehner, seconded by Director Kemmerer, the Committee VOTED to adjourn at 2:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Danielle Bialoglowy,
Executive Assistant