

ARRL Executive Committee Meeting

June 06, 2024

2:00 PM ET via Zoom

1. In attendance was President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in the Chair. Present were committee members First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX; Directors Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC; Bill Lippert, AC0W; Jeff Ryan, KORM, and Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ. Present without vote were CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and FCC Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ.

Present as observers were Second Vice President Mike Ritz, W7VO, Treasurer John Sager, WJ7S; International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD; CFO Diane Middleton, W2DLM; Directors Bob Famiglio, K3RF; Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; David Norris, K5UZ, Scott Yonally, N8SY; Mark Tharp, KB7HDX; Tony Marcin, W7XM; John Robert Stratton, N5AUS; Vice Directors Brent Walls, N9BA; Lynn Nelson, W0ND; Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ; Ed Wilson, N2XDD; Phil Temples, K9HI; and Michael Sterba, KG7HQ.

1. Call to Order

President/Chairman Rick Roderick called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He greeted the committee and welcomed everyone.

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

3. Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO Minster extended pleasantries and made note of various updates he had regarding Board action items. He first noted that later in the day he would be working with the Public Relations department to create a Member Bulletin and a website update to be released tomorrow afternoon. These updates will address the requests made by Board members.

QST: The July edition of QST will go online on time. The print version will go out next week, which is a couple of weeks late.

Legal update: CEO Minster informed the committee that CFO Middleton and he met with Andy Corea, the Managing Partner at Murtha Cullina. Mr. Corea has recommended, and CEO Minster agreed, that ARRL's interests will be best supported by two attorneys who will co-manage ARRL's relationship with the Murtha Cullina team. One attorney will handle the full

spectrum of tax-exempt regulatory and business matters while another attorney will handle more adversarial aspects of ARRL's legal needs.

The Life Member Program: CEO Minster noted the new life member program went live on April 3rd. It was announced in the ARRL Letter the following day, April 4th. Student memberships went live on May 9th. Once ARRL makes its way through this time with the network, a grand scale announcement will be made publicly.

The Club Grant Program: CEO Minster remarked that many members of the board already know the Club Grant Program was launched last month at Dayton Hamvention®. Development Director Kevin Beal and Field Services Manager Mike Walters are leading the program. They are currently working in the process of getting the judging team together.

ARRL Strategic Plan: CEO Minster thanked Director Fred Kemmerer for the great job he did leading the Strategic Plan Working Group through the process of putting together a strong piece of work on the youth side of the strategic plan. Focus will turn to the IT segment of the plan. Before the upcoming Board meeting in July, Mr. Minster will complete a presentation of what will be needed for the next three years to ensure the ARRL IT infrastructure is sound, secure, and protected to be presented in July. This will entail a thorough review of the IT elements needed at the next Board meeting.

President Roderick thanked David for his strategic plan efforts and mentioned how everyone will be looking forward to the update at the July Board of Directors Meeting. Additionally, President Roderick thanked Director Kemmerer for his efforts on the steering committee.

CEO Minster then entertained questions.

4. Legislative Update – Director Stratton

Director Stratton, Chairman, Government Affairs Committee, updated the EC on the GAC's efforts to move the passage of H.R. 4006 and S.3690 — the companion private land use restriction removal bills.

The efforts to obtain co-sponsors for H.R.4006 remain focused on members of the House Energy & Commerce Committee as these are the individuals whose support will be needed to obtain Energy & Commerce Committee approval of H.R. 4006. To that end, meetings were held in Washington on May 14-15, 2024 with the key staff members in the offices of nine Committee Members.

After the meetings, Congressman Randy Weber (R-TX-14), Vice Chair of the Communications & Technology Subcommittee announced his co-sponsorship of H.R. 4006. Rep. Weber is

Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee. Cong. Weber's endorsement is a major step forward toward obtaining final approval of H.R.4006 by the Subcommittee and the full Committee.

On the 14th Director Stratton and Matt Keelen of The Vogel Group attended a private dinner with an influential Senator on the Senate Committee On Commerce, Science & Transportation to discuss support for S.3690.

The League's efforts to prevent the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) from imposing a special use authorization fee of \$1,400/year on Amateur Radio facilities in national forests moved significantly closer to success with the announcement of the bi-partisan Senate Agriculture Committee Rural Prosperity & Food Security Act of 2024. With the support of Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sen. Risch (R-ID), and Sen. Boozeman (R-AR), Section 8508, of the Act, if adopted, would waive USFS special use fees for Amateur Radio. The effort is not over as the House Agriculture Committee's companion bill contains less favorable language, which the Committee and its House supporters are actively working to improve.

Director Stratton ended by advising the GAC's expenditures remain under budget. Directors were urged to contact Director Stratton for more detail on the Committee's initiatives.

Director Stratton left the meeting at 2:44 pm.

5. Coding competition Update - First Vice Director Kristen McIntyre

First Vice President McIntyre explained the deep dive she has undergone to further educate herself on coding competitions and their make-up so she can put together a solid program for ARRL. She met with a contact who works for the Tesla Science Center in New York. This gentleman gave her useful information and websites to look at, such as, NASA's coding challenge. She noted that she has specification sheets as well and has researched various aspects that will help us navigate the downfalls of such a program such as understanding how some participants will try to beat the system and take advantage of loopholes to gain advantage over other contestants. Vice President McIntyre feels she has just about enough material and knowledge at this point to put together a program for ARRL.

First Vice President Kristen McIntyre entertained questions.

Mr. Minster left the meeting at 3:00 pm.

6. FCC Counsel's Update - David Siddall

Mr. Siddall provided updates on Washington matters and plans for future actions with regard to pending issues at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Pending Petitions: Multiple important petitions have been pending at the Commission for a number of years. Mr. Siddall and the EC discussed how to proceed on each of the pending

ARRL petitions. Those of ARRL and others that address Part 97 changes have completed comment cycles, but none has received further action. A report will be made at the July Board meeting.

Mr. Roderick expressed his dissatisfaction with the FCC's inaction on the ARRL petitions but also noted that the Commission's recent favorable action on the long-pending symbol rate proceeding offers hope. Nevertheless, given the most optimistic FCC timeline for addressing our key proceedings, it could be 2026 before we see final and hopefully favorable determinations.

SMC petition: The comment period for the SMC (high-speed traders') petition concluded and there has not been any subsequent action, but various parties have been meeting with FCC staff. ARRL Lab staff have been engaged in monitoring and further analyses. FCC experimental licenses continue to be issued and renewed without a requirement for transmission of signal identification. There is ongoing monitoring and follow-up related to this petition.

Follow-on symbol rate proceeding: Comments and reply comments have been filed with regard to the remaining amateur bands that have symbol rate restrictions. Almost all comments favor deleting the restriction. The issue is now with the FCC staff for their consideration.

60-meters: Over 3450 comments were filed in the 60-meter WRC-2015 implementation proceeding, the vast majority of which were by individual radio amateurs and groups voicing support for a 100-watt PEP power limit on the proposed new 15 kHz segment with continued access to the current four channels outside that segment. Counsel is following up with the appropriate staff(s).

New FCC Proceedings: The FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau has requested information from communications service providers and the public regarding disruptions in communications between May 7 and 11, 2024, that resulted from unusual solar activity. ARRL released a news article on the request and encouraged radio amateurs to provide information thereon to the Bureau. The Commission also initiated a proceeding to address the integrity and security equipment of its equipment authorization program. The Commission's proposals will be reviewed in light of persistent RF interference from non-compliant devices and transmitters.

FCC Council David Siddall entertained questions.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, and on the Motion by Director Ryan, seconded by Director Boehner, the Committee VOTED to adjourn at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by,
Danielle Bialoglowy, KC1UKS
Executive Assistant