

July 2023 Report Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee (EC-FSC)

The Emergency Communications / Field Service Committee met via Zoom 8 times in the first six months of 2023. In addition our five sub-committees continued their responsibilities and the results of their continuing efforts are contained in their individual reports attached as annexes to this document.

Those sub-committees are:

- "ARES" chaired by Director Boehner N2ZZ
- "Field Service Restructuring" chaired by Director Stratton N5AUS
- "Clubs," chaired by Vice Director Hudgens WB4RHQ
- "NTS," chaired by Director Kemmerer AB1OC(ad hoc)
- "Participant Insurance" chaired by Director Famiglio K3RF

The charge to this committee through Board Minute 55 passed at the January 2022 meeting is as follows:

1. The Emergency Communications and Field Services is tasked to create a guideline document describing the expected relationship between Division Directors/Vice Directors and the Section Managers and their appointees within the Division. The guidelines must be sensitive to the existing reporting responsibilities of the Section Managers to the Field Organization managers. The development of the document shall be done in a manner that engages review and contributions by members of the Board as well as the appropriate Field Organization managers at ARRL headquarters. The intent is to facilitate effective communications and coordination in both directions between Division Directors/Vice Directors and Section Managers without interfering with the normal chain-of-command in the Field Organization.
2. The ECFSC will recommend a process to distribute the guidelines and engage Division Directors/Vice Directors and Section Managers to accomplish its goals.

Notable accomplishments and ongoing processes during the first half of this year this year include the following:

1. Electronic Certificates for Affiliated and Special Service Clubs. They are also now available on-line for club officers to download and print at their convenience.
2. Beta testing Form 2, nearing completion. This is the reporting form for ARES EC's and DEC's to use. These reports automatically integrate into the already existing Form 4 that the SEC uses to report to Headquarters.
3. Investigation into insurance for ARES members has been completed. At this time no insurance company has elected to pick up this option.
4. Investigation into and consideration of a working agreement with the Native American Nations and ARES is on-going.
5. Two new pamphlets have been created as promotional tools for ARES.
6. NTS 2.0 is on-going and has been received in the field with great success. This project will help to bring our NTS into the twenty-first century. We have modernized our Radiogram system to all different types of message forms to be transmitted via amateur radio, including the ICS 213 form that is most commonly used by FEMA and Red Cross.
7. The ARES Plan has been updated.
8. Links on the ARRL website for ARES that pointed to old or non-existing documentation have been deleted or corrected.
9. Reviewed legacy appointments for ARES.
10. Redesigning the EC-001 and EC-016 courses. This redesign will change these classes to be more in tune with FEMA's ICS classes.

11. Club Recognition Program. This program will now review and recognize on a regular basis those clubs reaching milestones of 25, 50, 75 and 100 years.
12. New Ham Listing has been redesigned to now include not only new hams but also upgraded hams, new ARRL members and lapsed ARRL members.
13. Work on-going designing a special spreadsheet program that would help encourage clubs to use the Club Commission program to their advantage.

These results are the result of diligent sub-committee effort, combined with product from assigned Working Groups and Subject Matter Experts. These, combined in a collaborative form with the dilligence of our ARRL Headquarters Staff are bringing about the needed improvements and modernization of ARRL's Emergency Communications efforts and the entire ARRL Field Organization.

**For the Committee,
Chairman**



Dale R. Williams WA8EFK

Committee Members:

Jeff Beals WA4AW
Jim Boehner N2ZZ
Lee Cooper W5LHC
Bob Famiglio K3RF
Ed Hudgens WB4RHQ
John Robert Stratton N5AUS
Mark Tharp KB7HDX
Nomar Vizcarrondo NP4H
Scott Yonally N8SY
Dale Williams WA8EFK

Committee Staff Liaisons:

Josh Johnson, KE5MHV
Director of Emergency Services
Mike Walters, W8ZY
Manager, Field Services