

**Ethics and Elections Committee  
July 2018 – ARRL Board Meeting**

This has been an active six-month period for the ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee with a variety of topics to cover.

**Section Manager Elections**

There were several contested Section Manager (SM) elections within the ARRL during the past six months. In Delta Division we had three complaints filed late in a Section Manager race concerning the use of ARRL resources for campaign purposes. The complaint stated the incumbent SM or one of his designated representatives violated campaign rules in an official ARRL email sent to all sections members signed up for the ARRL section emailing's. This was a heated race between the incumbent SM and at the time the current Section Emergency Coordinator. Being that the E & E Chair had been working closely with both individuals in their respective roles in the ARRL organization, the Chair thought it best to recuse himself and defer this matter to the other committee members. Again, these complaints came late in the election cycle and the incumbent was defeated; hence the E & E Committee determined that no action would be necessary against the offending candidate given the election results. The Committee would however stress that improper use of ARRL resources by any candidate during an ARRL election period will be dealt with quite seriously.

In Central Division the recent Indiana Section Manager race was closely contested and only 23 votes separated the winner from the loser. As of late June, there was indication of a possible recall effort being mounted by unspecified individuals claiming, "many did not receive ballots". HQ staff researched this matter and could find little evidence to support the claim as only one member had requested an additional ballot which was mailed to him in time to be returned and counted. HQ staff also confirmed that ballots were in fact mailed to all Indiana Section ARRL members. Currently we are waiting to see if this recall effort will materialize and require any action from the E & E Committee.

**Use of ARRL Resources in Board Elections**

The Committee also examined what some members considered a violation of the ARRL Election Rules. An official complaint was filed on email statements related to this matter; however, upon further clarification it was determined that the statements were not aimed at the complainant. The complaint was dismissed and the actual incident which was related to a division emailing was more closely examined.

The Committee also advises all who make pronouncements on any apparent election violations that have not yet been substantiated to be cautious of doing so as it may deleteriously influence any race in an election cycle. The proper place to bring any information or direct any questions of this manner is through the E & E Committee. Any false claims knowingly made against a candidate will not be tolerated.

### **Fall 2018 Board Elections**

Early indications suggest several contested division-level races will unfold in the five divisions up for elections this fall. There is a possibility that all five divisions in this election cycle will have contested director races and vice director races. Should this hold true, it may require the E & E members or other Directors not involved in elections for this cycle to act as tellers since the two directors being geographically closest to headquarters may well be in contested races this year and thus unable to act as tellers.

As of July 16, 2018, we have reviewed and certified several nominating petitions for Director and Vice Director candidates as eligible for their respective director and vice director races for the divisions in this election cycle. We will be working through this process until the deadline for filing completed and signed petitions.

The deadline for filing completed nominating petitions is August 17, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Rod Blocksome, K0DAS  
Dale Williams, WA8EFK