

July 2013 Report to the ARRL Board of Directors
for the
Programs and Services Committee

Prepared by David A. Norris, K5UZ, Chair

July 11, 2013

I am pleased to present the report of the Program and Services Committee (P&SC) to the ARRL Board of Directors. The Committee had a busy and productive January meeting with several motions put forth and either sent to staff for research and recommendations or implantation, and a good number of motions sent to the Board for approval. I am most pleased with the way in which the A & F Committee and the P&SC worked together to draft a motion between Director Widen and myself to create a sustaining base of support for LoTW. Furthermore, I was pleased to see the Board act in a most efficient way by deferring the SEC standards recommendation to staff, which will give the ARRL Field Organization the flexibility needed to adapt to a changing world. In May we had a quick roundtable on the PSC reflector to discuss a couple of items and to determine if a meeting was warranted in May either before or after Hamvention in Dayton. It was determined that the short business at hand could and was transacted on the reflector; hence no May meeting was held and the associated expense to the League was not incurred. Two items are that were left on the table from the January P&SC meeting and in the course of discussion in May we decided to add them to the top of the July agenda.

Programs and Services Committee Members for 2013 are: Director Norris, K5UZ - Chair; Director Weaver, K8JE; Director Norton, N6AA; Director Sarratt, W4OZK; Director Lisenco, N2YBB, Vice Director Abernathy, W3TOM.

In this report I shall give a synopsis of the January meeting actions, any actions discussed from January to July. I will briefly discuss some items on the advisory committee reflectors that may be yielding future P&SC work. Finally, I will give a brief listing of potential P&SC agenda items for the July 2013 meeting.

Synopsis of Actions to date 2013:

A.) January 2013:

The January 2013 meeting was held in New Orleans and the following Programs and Services Committee (PSC) members were present:

Director David Norris, K5UZ, Delta Division
Director Dick Norton, N6AA, Southwestern Division
Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Pacific Division
Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, Great Lakes Division
Vice-Director Kent Olson, KA0LDG, Dakota Division

Also present were Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain Division, Vice-Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, Central Division, and Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager in the capacity of recording secretary. Other members of the Board joined the meeting as observers throughout the day. The following items were accomplished:

- Director Milesosky presented his proposal to establish, in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America National Radio Scouting Committee, an “Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award”. The award would recognize ARRL members involved in Scouting that have met certain criteria levels of promoting Amateur Radio within the Scouting community. After discussion and upon the motion of Dr. Weaver, it was approved with a recommendation to be presented to the ARRL Board that “The Programs and Services Committee recommends the creation of an Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award, to be owned by ARRL and operated under the Community Organization Award program of the Boy Scouts of America, with final implementation (qualification criteria, nomination process, administration, etc.) to be jointly determined by ARRL staff and members of ARRL’s previous ad hoc Committee on Scouting.” The motion was adopted and a resolution will be presented to the Board, which passed the motion.
- The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the International Humanitarian Award be awarded to John Bush KH6DLK.
- Upon the motion of Mr. Olson and seconded by Mr. Norton, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the George Hart Distinguished Service Award be awarded to Marcia Forde, KW1U.
- Mr. Olson presented the report of the ECAC for discussion. After discussion, and on the motion of Mr. Norris and second of Mr. Norton, it decided to recommended to the Board that the sunset provision for the ECAC be extended to December 31, 2013.
- The committee discussed concerns over different databases at headquarters not being consistent in terms of the current mailing and email address for ARRL members. Upon Mr. Vallio’s motion and Mr. Norton’s second, the committee voted to recommend to the Board that Headquarters staff be directed to harmonize all membership member email and mailing addresses to reflect the information provided in a member’s individual profile.

- The Committee discussed the ECAC report on recommended training standards for Amateurs appointed as Section Emergency Coordinators. Upon the motion of Mr. Vallio and second of Mr. Norton, it was voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that:
 - Upon the recommendation of the ECAC and with P&SC Committee approval that Section Emergency Coordinators are recommended to complete the following trainings:
 - Strongly recommended:
 - FEMA Independent Study:
 - IS-100.b / ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System
 - IS-200.b / ICS 200 for Single Incidents and Initial Action Incidents
 - IS-700.b (NIMS): An Introduction
 - IS-800.b National Response Framework
 - ARRL Online Emergency Communications Courses:
 - EC-001 Introduction to Emergency Communications
 - EC-016 Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for
 - Radio Amateurs
 - Or other such training as recommended by local / state Emergency Management officials.
- Additional training recommendations:
 - FEMA Professional Development Series:
 - IS-120.a An Introduction to Exercises
 - IS-230.b Fundamentals of Emergency Management
 - IS-235.b Emergency Planning
 - IS-240.a Leadership and Influence
 - IS-241.a Decision Making and Problem Solving
 - IS-242.a Effective Communication
 - IS-244.a Development and Managing Volunteers
 - Red Cross Disaster Services Overview (contact your regional chapter)
- After discussion the Committee decided to make no recommendation on the creation of an ARES badge for ARES MAT team members.
- The meeting was in break from 10:15 until 10:40 when Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, Hudson Division, joined the group.
- The Committee decided to defer the discussion of go-kits to a future meeting.

- Discussion of the ECAC's recommendations on the MDEC position was deferred to a future meeting.
- The status of the NTS was discussed, including problems with filling slots for staff and session operators, as well as handling "spam" messages.
- It was decided to task that: Representatives of the ECAC, HQ staff and appropriate representatives of the CW, Phone and digital NTS communities conduct an evaluation of the NTS with the goal of examining how the NTS and ARES might be harmonized and integrated to include 21st century technologies and needs. It was recommended that Steve Ewald, WV1X, lead this evaluation. The groups should report back to the P&SC in time for the July 2013 meeting.
- After discussion, it was determined that no adjustment to the SET dates was necessary.
- The accepted report of the DXAC on the harmonization of the start date to the CW DXCC award was considered. It was moved by Mr. Vallio and seconded by Mr. Norton that no changes be made to the current rules.
- After discussion, it was decided that both the DXAC and the CAC be tasked to look at remote station operations, the impact that these remote stations cause/create for DXCC and Contesting issues, and possible solutions to resolve such issues. This tasking should be reported back to the P&SC in time for its July 2013 meeting.
- The accepted report of the CAC on the addition of a single op unlimited category recommendation to all ARRL contests was discussed. Upon the motion of Dr. Weaver and second of Mr. Norton, it was decided to take no action at this time.
- The report of the CAC on the RTTY time-off rules was the report was accepted.
- The issue of whether a review of scoring rules in ARRL Contests should be undertaken was discussed with no action taken.
- The Ten Meter Grid Square award was discussed. Mr. Norris reported that the topic is still in discussion with HQ staff and will be continued to future discussion.
- The report of the VUAC was discussed and the report was accepted.
- The committee discussed the proposal of Dr. Woolweaver on the concept of establishing a mobile DXCC award. The terms of reference would be similar to the QRP DXCC award - a signed affirmation that the contacts were made from a station capable of mobile operation, basic award only and not endorsable. Upon the motion of Mr. Vallio and second of Mr. Weaver it was decided to task HQ staff to review the issue and report back to the P&SC for the July 2013 meeting.

- The Committee discussed whether to reconstitute its ad hoc Educational Committee. On the motion of Dr. Weaver and second of Mr. Vallio it was decided to reconstitute the committee. Mr. Norris asked Dr. Woolweaver to serve as Chairman with Mr. Lisenco and Mr. Carlson to serve on the committee, with Headquarters staff appointees to be determined.
- The committee discussed a proposal to allow VE fields test sessions to be filed from the ARRL VE teams. Upon Mr. Vallio's motion and Mr. Norton's second it was voted to task VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, to assess what would be necessary to implement field submission of ARRL VE test results directly to the FCC and report back to the committee for its July 2013 meeting.
- A discussion was held on ways to recognize ARRL clubs with the purpose of prompting them to expand their work. Upon the motion of Mr. Vallio seconded by Mr. Norris it was decided to form a subcommittee reporting to the P&SC to assess appropriate recognitions for affiliated clubs, based on defined metrics such as membership retention, new member growth, participation/activity and ARRL membership levels. Mr. Norris appointed Dr. Weaver, Mr. Lisenco and Mr. Carlson to serve, augmented with HQ staff (to be determined.)
- The committee discussed the status of the LoTW user interface and possible improvements. Concerns were also raised about long-term maintenance of the project. The failure to keep the membership and other LoTW users adequately informed of the issues related to the current failure were specifically troublesome.
- It was decided that Mr. Norris will talk with A&F Chairman Mr. Frenaye and coordinate how the committee should address this before the full Board meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 PM.

An additional PSC Meeting was quickly convened at 12:45 PM on January 19, 2013

The meeting was conducted by Director Norris, K5UZ. The following Programs and Services Committee (PSC) members were present:

Director David Norris, K5UZ, Delta Division
 Director Dick Norton, N6AA, Southwest Division
 Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Pacific Division
 Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, Great Lakes Division
 Vice-Director Kent Olson, KA0LDG, Dakota Division

Director Norris was acting as Chair and recorder for this impromptu session.

Also present was ARRL Public Relations Committee Board Liaison Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Vice Director- Roanoke Division and Director Mike Lisenco.

After receiving the nominations from ARRL Public Relations Committee, the Programs and Services Committee unanimously voted to award the 2012 Bill Leonard, W2SKE Professional Media Award to Lucy Ann Lance (Audio) of Ann Arbor, MI and Lynn Anderson (Print) of Olathe, KS.

The committee then moved to table Motion PSC No. 6 and pass the ECAC recommendations for Section Emergency Coordinator Minimum Training Standard Guidelines to Staff for incorporation into ARRL Public Service literature.

Director Norris also informed the Committee that he and Director Greg Widin, K0GW (Dakota Division) from A & F had a motion pertaining to LoTW which was going to be introduced to the Board.

The committee adjourned at 12:55 CST.

B.) PSC Reflector Exchanges and Correspondences:

The issue of a DXCC Rules change for Kosovo was brought up along with A CAC recommendation on some operator class changes as a preliminary assessment for a May meeting in Dayton. The Committee felt it that the Kosovo issue would resolve itself and the CAC recommendation on a single operator assisted class for ARRL 10m and ARRL 160m required staff to help us with our decision. Hence, no action was taken on Kosovo and the CAC recommendation was tabled until we had staff on hand to assist in the effort. With only these two issues before us and the resolution thereof, and some logistical problems faced by Committee members it was decided the Dayton meeting wasn't necessary and any further business could wait until the July meeting.

C.) Advisory Committee Reflector Traffic and Reports:

DXAC: There was no task assigned the DXAC in January 2013; however Chair N7KA reports of high enthusiasm in the DX community with the second peak of the current sunspot activity. There is a discussion ongoing about Kingman Reef and hope is high on a number of rare ones being QRV in the future. N7KA further reports that feedback to the DXAC is mostly positive with respect to LoTW 1.14.1.

VUAC: Chair Steve Clark, AG4V shares some concerns as do a couple of other members on the lack of progress and a couple of other issues attributed to conflicting goals where there could be no consensus among the VUAC or the contesting community. Steve's report lists these problem areas which may need to be addressed by the P&SC or the full ARRL Board of directors at some point. The P&SC will look at these matters as we progress through this year. It is AG4V's thought that the VUAC should sunset as scheduled on July 31, 2013.

CAC: According to Chair Al Dewey, K0AD it is the desire of the CAC that a SO assisted category be added to the ARRL 10m and ARRL 160m contests. Reflector traffic supports this

concept and it is their wish that the P&SC or the Board make a similar motion. I should note that with further discussion between K0AD, several members in the contesting community and other PSC members, the P&SC Chair has a more favorable opinion of the CAC recommendation and thinks this should be taken up. Since no tasking was given to the CAC in January, this was the brunt of all that was discussed.

ECAC: There has been much activity here mostly concerning the analysis of survey data from the NTS and Emergency Managers' polling conducted by the ECAC with the assistance of Steve Ewald and . There should be some concrete recommendations coming forth from the work on the assigned tasks. It is hoped that the committee will complete the assigned task by the July P&SC meeting deadline of July 18, 2013. The ECAC is due to sunset January 31, 2014.

D.) The following is a list of tentative agenda topics for July 2013 meeting of the Programs and Services Committee:

- 1.) CAC's recommendation on creating a SO Assisted Category in 10m & 160m Contests.
- 2.) Kosovo: Do we want a DXCC rule change to allow this? Retroactive?
- 3.) DXAC Report
- 4.) DXCC Mobile Award Update
- 5.) CAC Report
- 6.) Request to do away with signal reports in ARRL contest.
- 7.) Tasking: Review of ARRL Contest Rules/ Possible Revisions per CQ Contest changes.
- 8.) Field Day Rules: Change request- Do not allow D Class stations to call CQ.
- 9.) Field Day Rules: Add a vintage radio class "V Class" or bonus points for vintage equipment.
- 10.) VUAC Report
- 11.) Public Relations Committee Report
- 12.) Awards
- 13.) MVP Report- NN1N
- 14.) Awards Committee Report
- 15.) Regulatory Branch Report
- 16.) Education Dept. Report
- 17.) Ad Hoc Education Committee Report
- 18.) Clubs Report - Norm
- 19.) Ad Hoc Clubs Committee Report
- 20.) VEC Report
- 21.) Field Services Report
- 22.) Emergency Preparedness Report- KI1U: a) Report; b) MDEC Rec's; c) SEC Std's update
- 23.) ECAC Report- a) Accept; b) Actions
- 24.) NTS Issues: a)KI1U; b)WV1X;
- 25.) NTS/NTSD MPG Chapter 6
- 26.) PSHR Revisions

There will in all likelihood be additions and deletions from the above list as amateur radio presents a dynamic and fluid environment. The Programs and Services Committee looks forward to engaging the issues and problems the ARRL and amateur radio face and through thoughtful and educated discussion, set about to help solve the issues that confront us while finding ways to make our hobby more enjoyable. We wish to make amateur radio just as meaningful and fun in the second century of the ARRL as it has been in the past.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Norris, K5UZ
Director, Delta Division
Chairman, P. & S. C.