

Executive Committee Teleconference – Wednesday December 12, 2018

1. The Executive Committee met by teleconference on Wednesday December 12, 2018 at 5:00 PM EST, President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in the chair. Members present were Tom Frenaye, K1KI; Dale Williams WA8EFK; Matt Holden KØBBC; David Norris, K5UZ; Jim Boehner, N2ZZ. Vice-President Greg Widin, KØGW; and Chief Executive Officer Howard Michel, WB2ITX. Also present were Vice Presidents Bob Vallio, W6RGG; Jay Bellows, KØQB; General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD; and Assistant Secretary Dan Henderson, N1ND, who acted as recording secretary.
2. Mr. Imlay was asked for an update on WT Docket No. 16-239, the long-delayed symbol rate docket proceeding. He reported it is his understanding that the Report and Order is currently being drafted by the Mobility Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. A question was asked whether it would be useful for ARRL to file an ex parte response to recent comments reportedly filed with the Commission by multiple parties, both opposing and in support of the proposed deletion of the Symbol Rate limit for HF data emissions. After discussion, the Committee determined that no further comments were necessary and that the General Counsel should continue to urge that this proceeding be resolved without further delay.
3. The Committee next discussed the pros and cons of the filing of a Petition for Rule Making to implement administratively the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, which had been previously authorized by the Board before December 31, 2018. Discussion focused on whether the Petition should be filed at this time. Given that Congressional and Administration support has been arranged and is ready to move forward before the end of the year. The alternative is to delay the filing until after the January Board meeting. The General Counsel urged the filing immediately, consistent with representations that had been made to Congressional, FCC and Administration supporters of the planned administrative implementation. To act inconsistently with those prior representations to critical supporters would adversely affect our credibility and jeopardize the advocacy plan that had been irrevocably initiated during this calendar year. Mr. Frenaye moved, seconded by Dr. Boehner, to approve the filing of a petition with the FCC by December 31, 2018 to implement the major goals of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, in accordance with existing ARRL Board policy, after Executive Committee and full Board review of the draft Petition, which had been previously circulated by the General Counsel. Mr. Roderick stated that while he supports filing the petition, it was his preference to file after the first of the year. A roll call being requested, the motion passed by a vote of 4 aye and 2 no, with Mr. Frenaye, Dr. Boehner, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Norris voting aye and Mr. Holden and Mr. Roderick voting no.

The Committee requested that information detailing the rationale behind their authorization to file the petition at this time be circulated to the incoming members of the Board as well as to the current Board.
4. Mr. Imlay asked for guidance on dealing with a request to ARRL from AMSAT for assistance in addressing new proposed FCC regulations on orbital debris mitigation from small satellite deployments. He was authorized to engage in discussions with AMSAT on the issue and to report to the Committee.
5. There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniel Henderson N1ND
Assistant Secretary. ARRL