

**ARRL Executive Committee Meeting**  
**April 5, 2021**  
**11:00 AM ET via Zoom**

**1. The Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors was called to order at 10:58 AM Eastern Time via Zoom with President Rick Roderick in the Chair.** Present were committee members Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Kermit Carlson, W9XA; Bud Hippisley, W2RU; John Robert Stratton, N5AUS; Dale Williams, WA8EFK; Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF; and David Minster, NA2AA. Also present were ARRL FCC Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ, and Carla Pereira, KC1HSX, serving as meeting recorder.

Present as observers were Ria Jairam, N2RJ, Vernon Lippert, AC0W, Mike Ritz, W7VO, Jeff Ryan, KORM, Dan Grady, N2SRK, Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ, Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, Bill Morine, N2COP, Phil Temples, K9HI, Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, Scott Yonally, N8SY, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Rod Stafford, W6ROD, and Rick Niswander, K7GM.

**2. On the motion of Mr. Abernethy, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Agenda was ADOPTED.**

**3. International Matters - Appointment of IARU Secretary**

Mr. Stafford explained that the current IARU Secretary stated his intention to step down on July 1, 2021, and that as Secretariat of the IARU, the ARRL has the right and obligation to appoint a new Secretary. As stated in the League's Standing Orders, once the Executive Committee approves of a nominee, the nomination would then be sent to the full Board for ratification. Mr. Stafford then presented for approval the nomination of Mr. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, currently serving as Assistant Secretary, followed by a brief discussion of Mr. Harrison's experience and training under the current Secretary.

**On the motion of Mr. Roderick, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, the nomination of W5ZN for IARU Secretary was APPROVED.**

**4. Investment Management Committee - Preliminary Status Report**

Mr. Morine reported the Committee's meetings to date, noting that he was elected chair of the committee, and they have been reviewing the responsibilities of the committee and all Board members in investment management oversight. He also touched upon the efficacy of the current investment policy statement, the different types of investing, and common models of non-profit investment management. The committee will prepare a report for the Board of Directors meeting in July.

**5. July Board Meeting Arrangements**

Mr. Minster stated that HQ staff have been doing preliminary research on holding an in-person Board meeting this July while still meeting the current state guidelines. There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of holding an in-person, remote, or "hybrid" meeting.

**Mr. Stratton moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, to hold a fully in-person Board of Directors meeting for July 2021 (based on CT state restrictions). The motion CARRIED.**

**6. Chief Executive Officer/Secretary's Report**

Personnel:

**On the motion of Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Hippisley, the group moved into a Committee of the Whole to discuss personnel matters from 11:53 AM – 12:56 PM ET.**

**7. On the motion of Mr. Abernethy, seconded by Mr. Hippisley, the report of the Committee of the Whole was ADOPTED.**

*The Committee was on break from 12:58 – 1:16 PM with all returning as noted above.*

**8. Chief Executive Officer/Secretary's Report continued**

*Personify:* Mr. Minster resumed his report with a status update on the Personify project, noting he was able to hire a project manager with Personify experience. He discussed the scope of work remaining, potential completion dates and additional funding needs. Responding to an inquiry, Mr. Minster will submit the overall financial commitment to date on the project to the full Board.

*Membership:* Mr. Minster next discussed Membership, reporting that on a preliminary search, it appears that a significant portion of Life Member membership records include members who are Silent Keys. He noted that the current method for identifying Silent Keys is highly unreliable, and HQ staff are working on updating all of these records using newer and more reliable methods.

Mr. Minster also discussed a new procedure for recognizing Centurion members (members who are 100 or older): the Membership team will now identify those members, and the corresponding Director will decide how to proceed with the award presentation. The committee also agreed to include a \$100 gift certificate along with the award. ARRL Public Information Officers will be notified as well so that they may publicize that news with members of their divisions.

*Legal Structure Review Committee:* Mr. Minster reported that while the Legal Structure Review Committee had not had the opportunity to meet, the League's CT Counsel advised submitting the changes to the Articles of Incorporation previously approved but not filed with the Secretary of State. The committee will meet to review the articles and work out the timing on filings.

*ARRL Website and Logbook of the World:* Mr. Minster reported that our new server has been updated with the most current security software and all passwords and permissions have been changed in order to combat ongoing spam and pop ups issues.

*Emergency Communications:* Mr. Minster discussed the technical issues around ARES Connect being discontinued, including short- and long-term goals for the new software that will be adopted.

*Working Group Updates:* Mr. Minster reported that the Field Services Working Group is being reformed in order to meet its goals. The Minute 31 Youth Working Radio Group met with the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) who have expressed an interest in mentoring interested youth at the local level. Responding to a question regarding the Development working group, Mr. Minster stated that expects to have a consultant's report to the Board before the July Board meeting.

*Video Streaming/Content Production:* The focus has been on improving the technical quality of the videos we produce, with Mr. Minster stating that we have sought input from active video producers on the best equipment/tools for our needs. There was discussion regarding the best use of funds to produce the highest quality output we can with the equipment that we currently own, as well as how to maximize our investment with new tools/software.

*The committee was on lunch break from 1:59 – 2:47 PM with all returning as noted above.*

*Member Engagement:* Mr. Minster stated that membership numbers are exceeding plan and discussed some of the new avenues being explored to engage with members. There was also a discussion of possible events being reinstated this year.

*Vision Impaired Content Access:* Mr. Minster reported that we have begun posting a simple text version of ARRL Letter onto the blind-hams.groups.io every week. He also discussed pulling time sensitive content out of QST, such as hamfests and events, to put into this same format so that we can work with that community on the formatting that will best meet their needs.

*Vendor Outreach:* Mr. Minster discussed the League's new agreement with MagLight, possible collaboration with DX Engineering tied to Cycle 25, and partnering on some milestone events, such as HRO's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mr. Minster then opened the floor to questions. Responding to a question about the status of Mintz + Hoke's work, Mr. Minster stated that any progress on those plans continues to be delayed by the Personify implementation upon which those plans are dependent. Responding to an inquiry regarding 3<sup>rd</sup>-party advertising, he noted that the Advertising Manager has been reaching out to different vendors, and any suggestions would be welcome. Mr. Minster also briefly addressed questions regarding historical preservation, the VEC transition from paper to digital, and outreach to newly licensed non-members.

## **7. FCC Counsel's Report**

Mr. Siddall discussed the status of pending FCC proceedings, including when the new FCC application fees may go into effect and how the FCC expects the fee collection process to work in conjunction with VEC administration of examinations. International testing was discussed, as

were HF Band plan issues. There also was discussion regarding outstanding matters related to the new radio frequency exposure requirements and the dates on which they will go into effect.

*The committee was on break from 4:24 – 4:39 PM with all returning as noted above.*

#### **8. Legislative Advocacy Committee status report**

Mr. Stratton updated the committee on the status of Congresswoman Debbie Lasko's resolution to declare a National Amateur Radio Operators Day. She is planning to reintroduce the resolution by April 18 and welcomes our support. We have prepared communication to share with members on how they can help.

#### **9. Non-marketable imported radios sold in the amateur radio market**

Mr. Carlson reviewed the problems regarding the promotion and marketing of amateur radio equipment to non-licensed users, noting that *QST* has covered this issue several times; he will forward these pieces to the committee. Mr. Siddall added that the FCC also is concerned with the misuse of radios without proper licensing such as these. The committee discussed drafting a proposed statement from the ARRL opposing improper use of radios. Mr. Carlson will begin working on the draft to share with the committee.

#### **10. 9 cm Band Plan**

Mr. Carlson started the discussion regarding creation of a new calling frequency on 3 GHz, rather than amend the whole band plan, and proposed options.

**On the motion of Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Williams, the adoption of a new calling frequency 3400.1 was ADOPTED.**

#### **11. Recognition of new Life Members**

There was a discussion regarding recent changes to the billing options for Life Memberships; Mr. Minster will follow up on the matter with the committee. The committee then reviewed the list of new Life Members.

**On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the recognition of new Life Members CARRIED (with applause).**

#### **12. Other Business**

The next Executive Committee is scheduled for May 3, 2021 at 11 AM ET.

**13. There being no further business, on the motion of Mr. Hippisley, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, the meeting adjourned at 5:44 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Carla Pereira, KC1HSX