

**ARRL Executive Committee Meeting**  
**April 22, 2026**  
**2:00 PM ET via Zoom**

**The Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom with President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in the Chair.** Present were committee members First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX; Directors Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Bill Lippert, AC0W, Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, Scott Yonally, N8SY, Ed Wilson, N2XDD. Present without vote were CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and FCC Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ.

**Present as observers** were Second Vice President Rick Niswander, K7GM, International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Treasurer John Sager, WJ7S, Directors Marty Newingham, AG3I, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, Vice Directors Phil Temples, K9HI, Michael Sterba, KG7HQ, David Galletly, KM2O.

- 1. On the Motion of Director Yonally, seconded by Director Zygielbaum, the Agenda was ADOPTED.**
- 2. CEO/Secretary's Report and Update – CEO Minster**

CEO Minster addressed the committee by reviewing numerous bullet points.

**Membership Trends** - Although the last three months have shown a decline in membership, the trend is stabilizing, and CEO Minster is hopeful that ARRL will soon begin to see increases in membership.

**Legislative Update** - CEO Minster noted that the bills are currently in Committee and need to be reviewed and then passed out of Committee before any vote can take place on either side.

**Revenue Subcommittee** – CEO Minster emphasized that Bob Inderbitzen, Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation, serves as the chair of the committee. Recent meetings have taken place, and a report will be released soon. He explained to the committee that while he supports exploring revenue opportunities, it is essential to prioritize net income. This involves evaluating the revenue that benefits ARRL after accounting for all costs associated with implementing a revenue idea. If the revenue generated by an idea is equal to or less than its associated costs, there will be no net income benefit for the organization. In closing, CEO Minster advised committee members that if they have a revenue proposal, they should prepare a one-page summary and send it to Bob Inderbitzen for review.

**FCC renewal process for non-members** – CEO Minster noted for the committee a value proposition set forth by the ESFSC Committee of creating a membership product that includes the renewal of a member's license and one year of membership at a discounted

rate. This would require a motion for a by-law change that would allow the CEO to offer discounts on membership for promotional purposes.

**Events** Orlando's HamCation was a success, and the next event on the calendar is ARRL's flagship event, the Dayton Hamvention. The ARRL team is prepared and excited to attend. CEO Minster noted that after Dayton, ARRL will begin preparations for SEA-PAC and the event in Friedrichshafen, Germany. He also emphasized the commitment to provide a report to the board on revenue and attendance data for ARRL events by the end of 2026.

**HAMSci** – CEO Minster explained that Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen has been actively involved with the organizers of HAMSci for several years. The HAMSci organizers took Bob up on his offer to host this year's HAMSci 2026 event which was held at the nearby Central Connecticut State University. CEO Minster delivered the opening remarks and noted that the event was well received. He also mentioned that many attendees were able to visit the ARRL Headquarters and operate from W1AW.

**Teacher's Institute (TI)** – CEO Minster remarked that he is committed to providing an annual report to be presented to the board documenting program statistics. He noted that conducting Teacher Institutes (TIs) can be challenging due to the smaller Education Department staff and reduced volunteer levels.

**Opt-in / Opt-out:** CEO Minster addressed an issue concerning members' ability to opt-in and opt-out of ARRL electronic communications. Currently, independent third-party companies (Yahoo, Gmail, iCloud, etc.) provide an option to "unsubscribe" from emails by clicking a banner within the emails sent through various platforms. However, these third parties do not offer a way for members to opt-in to receive specific communications that they want or opt-out of those they do not wish to receive. When a member clicks "unsubscribe" on the third-party email instead of logging into ARRL to manage their preferences, they end up unsubscribed from all ARRL communications.

ARRL will be exploring platforms that provide a more effective method for members to manage their communication preferences, ensuring that opting out does not undermine the member's chosen preferences as indicated in Personify. He stated the goal was to have a system that did not permit members to opt-out of three types of communications from ARRL; membership renewal, member bulletins, and FCC license expiration notifications.

**Presentations Working Group** - CEO Minster reminded everyone that he had expressed a concern regarding the quality and effectiveness of positive messaging in forums. Since then, he advised that the ARRL Presentations Working Group, which was created in November, has been reassigned to Director Zygielbaum.

**IARU Restructuring** – CEO Minster noted the previous presentation on the IARU restructuring IARU President Tim Ellam delivered at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting in January 2026. CEO Minster noted that he, President Roderick, and various members of the board provided IARU President Ellam with honest feedback regarding the concerns ARRL has about the new structure of the IARU. Since that time, the response to ARRL's concerns has been weak.

**Youth on the Air (YOTA) Camp Funding** - CEO Minster provided a brief summary for those committee members who were not present at the previous A&F meeting in which a discussion was had that focused on ARRL's potential sponsorship or funding for the YOTA Camp in the future. A conference call involving Andy Milluzzi, Ed Wilson, and Steve Goodgame took place with YOTA Director Neil Rapp to gather more information.

CEO Minster noted that Region 1 has a large successful YOTA program funded by IARU Region 1 that has been running cost effectively.

CEO Minster entertained questions.

### **3. Status of Open Board Motions and Standing Committees**

President Roderick moved forward to address open items from previous board meetings and requested updates from the standing committee chairs. President Roderick began with asking CEO Minster if he had an update on if ARRL Members currently have access to ARRL Section and Division email other than their own. CEO Minster explained that this has been open to members now for a couple of years. He further advised that he would have the Marketing Department notify members via the ARRL Letter of the ability to access this information on the ARRL website.

#### January 2024 Board Meeting

Minute 41 – Action: CEO Creates coding competition for those less than 22 years of age.

CEO Minster informed the committee that the ARRL hosted a coding competition, which received five complete submissions. He noted one entry, in particular, in which the participant used AI and included their full prompt, allowing ARRL to see exactly how they utilized AI to generate the code. CEO Minster advised that there is a judging committee in place.

As per President Roderick this action is now closed.

Minute 43 – Action: CEO to establish permanent program for ARES, to include marketing and development of materials, etc.

CEO Minster advised that ARRL provides ARES advertisements in QST. He reminded the committee that the original motion called for an advertising campaign beyond ARRL; however, that aspect still needs to be finalized. He expressed confidence that ARRL has the necessary components in place and simply needs to decide which areas to focus on for the advertising. This is the only remaining item open from the motion.

Minute 51 – Action: Ad Hoc Working Group to develop options and recommendations for programs to consider assisting Amateur Radio licensees in limited operating situations.

President Roderick acknowledged Director Boehner's support regarding this directive and asked him for an update.

Director Boehner reminded the committee that at the January 2024 board meeting, former Director Kemmerer had proposed a motion that was unanimously approved by the board. This motion aimed to create a program that would parallel the legislative efforts made by ARRL. Monthly meetings were conducted involving members who were encouraged to share individual ideas on how to enable more people to get on the air. Director Boehner expressed his desire to complete the objective and offered to be the lead point person to for the project. The first action he took was to outline a two-phase plan. Phase 1 involved developing a webpage for the committee's work. For Phase 2, he plans to engage the amateur radio community and enable members to submit articles. The committee would continue holding committee meetings to finalize the submissions before they are sent to staff for posting on the website.

#### July 2024 Board Meeting

Minute 17 – Action: Directors Workbook Ad Hoc Committee

Director Zygielbaum informed the committee that the workbook is more complex than he initially thought. So far, the committee has restructured the workbook and developed a new outline. The Ad Hoc Committee plans to propose a new title for the workbook: "Director Standard Practice and Reference." He also noted that each section will include a reference guide to direct readers back to the original sources of information, including the position responsible for each section.

Minute 20 – Action: Limited space initiatives regarding publications and other promotions.

CEO Minster informed the committee that ARRL has two publications focused on limited space antennas and indoor operation, which relate to HOA alternatives. Both books are selling well.

As per President Roderick this action is now closed.

Minute 22 – Action: Three-year Strategy Communication to Members

CEO Minster noted that during the January board meeting, he asked everyone to review the strategy documents, slides, and presentation and provide feedback. Following responses to the documents CEO Minster met with Mr. Inderbitzen for a follow-up. The next step is to post the information on the website.

#### January 2025 Board Meeting

Minute 25 – Action: CEO and Director Stratton assigned Legislative action.

CEO Minster noted that many of the recent legislative developments have been communicated in real-time to the ODV. He emphasized that the bills are currently in

Committee and need to be reviewed and then passed out of Committee before any vote can take place on either side.

### July 2025 Board Meeting

Minute 14 – Action: CEO maintain list of neutral third parties per BL 42 and BL 46

CEO Minster informed the committee that this directive is still open and that IAVP Stafford noted for the committee that he needs to reach out and contact parties who were referred to him. As of the date of this meeting, the updated By-laws 42 and 46 have not raised any issues that would necessitate contacting a third party.

Minute 30 – Action: CEO establish yearlong semi-quincentennial USA operating event for 2026.

CEO Minster noted that, as previously stated, work is well underway. He further elaborated that the Marketing team has been in collaboration with USA 250.

As per President Roderick this action is now closed.

Director Boehner requested an update on the Worked All States (WAS) content being added with results to the ARRL website. CEO Minster acknowledged he could advise the committee of an update but advised it was confidential in nature and would only do so if the committee went into the committee of the whole.

**Director Boehner moved, seconded Director Yonally that the committee would move into the committee of the whole to discuss a personnel matter.**

**The committee was in the committee of the whole from 3:20 PM to 3:24 PM.**

**Director Yonally moved, seconded by Director Boehner, to accept the report of the committee of the whole.**

Minute 31 – Action: CEO develop and implement 10 Band DXCC Award.

CEO Minster informed the committee that Radiosport has developed the award, and he had just seen it for the first time the day prior. The next step will be to look into doing an email campaign so that all those who qualify will give members the ability to get their 10-band plaque.

Minute 33 – Action: CEO take following action to implement by December 31, 2025:

- a. Develop online club affiliation applications.
- b. Develop online Special Service Club application.
- c. Develop club application dashboard.
- d. Develop online ARRL membership verification for clubs.

e. Enhance club finder and mapping integration.

CEO Minster announced that the applications for online club affiliation, the online Special Service Club, the club application dashboard, online ARRL membership verification for clubs, and the enhanced club finder and mapping integration have all been completed and successfully tested. An ARRL webpage titled clubs.arrl.org has been implemented and hosts all the aforementioned features. CEO Minster did advise the committee that the ECFSC Committee just recently updated the club approval rule so that if a division director does not approve a club within 72 hours, the application will go back to the Director of Emergency Management and Field Services for approval and to start the onboarding process.

As per President Roderick this action is now closed.

Minute 34 & 36 – Action: As part of Year of the Club, create initiative to recognize clubs that achieve greater than 70% ARRL membership. CEO to create a program to promote and recognize ARRL Affiliated or Special Service Club websites.

CEO Minster announced that these initiatives, which complement each other, have been implemented.

As per President Roderick these actions are now closed.

Minute 37 – Action: ECFSC study to enhance Public Information Program at Section Level

Director Yonally explained that the ECFSC Committee have created a PowerPoint presentation, which has now been passed on to the PR committee for their review. Director Yonally is currently awaiting feedback from the PR committee.

Minute 40 – Action: PSC – Apply digital contest frequencies for Field Day and other operating events.

Director Lippert mentioned that PSC during their October meeting approved adding to the Field Day Packet. He further explained that Field Day is the only ARRL event that would be affected as all other events are either phone or CW. He confirmed with HQ recently that the information is in the 2026 ARRL Field Day rules packet.

As per President Roderick this action is now closed.

Minute 46, 49, & 51 – 46 Action: A&F – Collect quantitative financial and attendance information for existing events and provide yearly report. 49 Action: A&F – collect quantitative data on activity of TI graduates and reports made at certain yearly intervals for 10 years. 51 Action: A&F – collect quantitative data on new licenses and add statistical data on membership webpage.

CEO Minster stated that all three directives will be met via annual reports for each, that will contain the “quantitative data” that ARRL is able to access. For the events, the information will be for events in which ARRL attends. For the Teacher’s Institute (TI), and new licensing the time frame will be for the previous year.

Minute 48 – Action: CEO to create lifestyle book on high-performance clubs.

CEO Minster advised that an author is contracted with ARRL and is working on the publication. The book is in the works and will be completed in 2026.

### January 2026 Board Meeting

Minute 37 & 38 – 37 Action: ITAC – To establish a review and approval process for all ARRL associated websites that are not managed by headquarters. 38 Action: ITAC – ITAC, CEO, and ARRL Staff to explore revenue opportunities by providing additional LoTW services.

First Vice President Kristen McIntyre mentioned she will cover both topics at the same time. First Vice President McIntyre explained that, for minute thirty-seven, she and the committee have only just begun their work. The ITAC Committee has held preliminary discussions to determine the scope of their review and to get a sense of how in-depth they want to go.

Minute thirty-eight, has had progress in exploring revenue opportunities. The members of the ITAC Committee are aware that multiple companies are scraping data from LoTW to process their awards. First Vice President McIntyre expressed her desire to charge these third parties for the information they are extracting for their own benefit.

Minute 41 - CEO to establish single band DXCC Honor Rolls for 160 - 6 meters (excluding 60 meters)

CEO Minster noted this objective will happen after the completion of the 10-Band DXCC is established and made available to the members.

Minute 44 - Counsel Siddall and the EC explore options for reducing FCC workload by changing to a lifetime Amateur Radio license, and by allowing secure forwarding of health and welfare messaging, especially for use in the Amateur Radio Service.

Counsel Siddall started his comments by noting that in regard to the lifetime license option, his research found that the FCC issues several types of lifetime operator licenses, including the general radio operator license, which has various categories; but that there are no lifetime station licenses currently issued. The amateur license serves as both an operator license and a station license. To his knowledge, the FCC has never issued lifetime station licenses. Typically, there is a distinction between the operator, who is usually a paid employee operating the station, and the station license itself. ARRL aims to build a strong case to demonstrate that the operator and station licenses for amateur stations are compatible with the concept of a lifetime license. A second issue that arose is that while

some countries offer lifetime amateur licenses, they often include specific reporting requirements or periodic payment of fees. He will work through these issues and intends to present a report to the Executive Committee before the July board meeting.

Minute 47 - E&E Committee with the CEO and CFO to appoint a working group to study and identify possible ways to reduce the overall time required to conduct ARRL elections for Division Directors and Vice Directors. Report of findings due by July 2026 Board meeting.

E&E Committee Chair Frenaye mentioned that this objective still needs to be completed, and he hopes to start work on it in the coming weeks.

Minute 50 - CEO and Strategic Plan Working Group to finish the update to the ARRL Strategic Plan developed for 2010-2015 to help guide our future plans. Should include input from ARRL Officials and including volunteers and ARRL members. Target completion in 2027.

Discussed previously in the meeting

President Roderick requested comments from the chairs of the standing committees. First, Programs and Services Chair Lippert noted that the DXCC Honor Roll was already brought up earlier in the discussion. The Programs and Services Committee has reached out to various clubs for input on the Honor Roll and held a meeting last week. The outcome of that meeting is that no changes will be made to the Honor Roll, as about 90% of the feedback received was against any modifications. They are exploring the possibility of introducing a new type of DXCC award that can be added for various stages leading up to the Honor Roll.

A&F Committee Chair Director Tharp advised that the committee has no additional updates than what was already covered in the previous meeting held last week.

ECFSC Committee Chair Director Yonally noted that the committee has a meeting tomorrow night and there will be no updates until after that meeting is held.

#### **4. FCC Counsel's Update on FCC Matters – Counsel Siddall**

Counsel Siddall opened his remarks by stating that Supreme Court cases rarely are relevant to amateur matters, but this year is different. Significant cases will be decided before the Court recesses in late June or early July.

Two such cases address whether the Federal Reserve and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) are constitutionally permitted to operate independent of direct Presidential control. If the FTC effectively is found to be constitutionally required to be within the Executive Branch, the FCC and multiple other agencies established by Congress as independent regulatory agencies almost surely also will lose their independent status and be subjected to Presidential direction and control. Counsel Siddall is monitoring these cases and will monitor their aftermath. The decisions could have significant consequences for all activities regulated by the FCC, including those of amateur radio operators.

Another Supreme Court case this term involves a challenge to the FCC's enforcement capabilities. The issue is whether the FCC can enforce its rules against three cell phone carriers or whether, because the FCC is not part of the judicial branch, it lacks the authority to impose forfeitures on cellular carriers. The result of this case will apply to all FCC enforcement cases, including those affecting amateur radio operators.

Counsel Siddall also alerted the committee to developments regarding the FCC fiscal year budget, which continues to be cut. The President's budget proposed a 5 percent reduction to the FCC's proposed budget which, factoring in inflation, represents an effective cut of 8 to 8.5 percent. Additionally, last week, the House Appropriations Committee proposed additional cuts to the FCC budget. Under the original 5 percent cut the Wireless Bureau was projected to lose twelve or thirteen staff members. The Enforcement Bureau would lose a similar number. The total FCC staff count potentially will be lowered to just over 1,100 people.

Moving on to specific amateur matters, Counsel Siddall discussed continued ongoing issues with regard to one specific applicant for multiple experimental licenses in the 222 and 420 MHz bands, particularly in the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. areas. ARRL filed objections to four applications in February and assisted the Washington, D.C. area coordinator in filing objections to another application. All five objections demonstrate how the emissions proposed in the applications would interfere with amateur radio operations and offered to work with the applicant to prevent interference. At this time, the applications have not been approved.

Counsel Siddall also noted that preparations for temporary but intense spectrum use are underway for the upcoming 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles (LA28). The FCC proactively reached out to Counsel Siddall for assistance with coordinating temporary uses of the 420 to 450 MHz band in particular. Counsel connected the FCC and the LA28 private coordinator with the amateur coordinator designated by the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association (SCRRBA) for this purpose.

Counsel Siddall continued his report by noting that currently the most contested proceeding being followed is the NextNav petition to repurpose 902 to 928 MHz. The FCC reportedly has a draft notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), but it has not been released to the public. While the record evidences a general consensus that GPS and related complementary satellite positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) systems need to be strengthened and supplemented, Counsel Siddall remains hopeful that policymakers will realize that the NextNav proposal is one of the weakest among multiple proposals and that the 902-928 MHz band is very intensely used throughout the U.S.

Counsel Siddall also reported that recently a question arose regarding whether identifying a Part 15 unlicensed transmission with an amateur callsign subjects the operator to Part 97 (amateur radio) rules. The answer is no; amateurs can use their callsigns for Part 15 transmissions or any other similar communication without the communication being

classified as within the amateur service. In the specific case being responded to the transmissions would only come under Part 97 if the equipment employed is not certified for Part 15 use or operated with power levels or antennas not permitted by Part 15 regulations. Similarly, unlicensed WiFi signals and the like can use amateur call signs without coming under Part 97 rules.

President Roderick asked Counsel Siddall for his thoughts on the current FCC climate and the pending ARRL rulemakings. Counsel Siddall expressed optimism for the long term but observed that over time decision-making at the FCC has shifted from the bureaus to the chair's office. This has resulted in delays in addressing issues for multiple services, including the Amateur Service. Counsel Siddall proposed packaging issues together, including new matters such as those raised by Motion 44 at the January meeting discussed above and geared toward saving Commission resources at a time when the FCC budget and staff are shrinking to the level of 40 years ago.

## **5. IARU – IAVP Stafford**

IAVP Rod Stafford began his comments by reminding the Committee of the presentation made by IARU President Tim Ellam during the annual Board of Directors meeting this past January. In February 2026, the committee addressing governance issues proposed some changes. They introduced a new designation for board members called "Sustaining Board Member" (SBM). Each of the three regions can designate one society as an SBM based on the financial contributions that society makes to the region. This would add three new positions to the board of the organization. The ongoing discussions around the Constitution and bylaws seem to focus on additional incentives for the ARRL to continue their financial support. Unfortunately, it seems that instead of addressing the ARRL's objections comprehensively, the IARU continues to adhere to the same general framework for the new constitution and bylaws. At some point, ARRL may need to firmly state that it does not support the new initiative.

IAVP Stafford further explained the relationship between the IARU and the ITU. In his experience with the IARU governance committee, the new structure is likely to enhance their impact at the ITU or improve the processes through which the IARU safeguards amateur radio frequencies. Over the years, the IARU has built a solid reputation within ITU circles. They have done commendable work and will continue to do so, but this reputation is independent of whether they are an incorporated association or an unincorporated one. The ITU views the IARU as the representative body for amateur radio and has acknowledged their credibility in this role.

President Roderick informed the committee that he shares the same view as IAVP Stafford and CEO Minster. He mentioned that he has had extensive and frank discussions with President Ellam to voice ARRL's displeasure with the proposed changes to the IARU's reorganization.

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

The committee reviewed the list of new Life Members.

**On the Motion of Director Boehner, seconded by Director Zygielbaum, the recognition of new Life Members CARRIED unanimously with applause.**

## **7. Adjourn**

**There being no further business, and on the Motion by Director Yonally , seconded by Director Boehner, the Committee VOTED to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,  
Danielle LaFleur, KC1UKS  
Sr. Executive Assistant