

ARRL Executive Committee Meeting

May 08, 2025

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 Bohner, N2ZZ, Bill Lippert, AC0W, Jeff Ryan, K0RM, Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, Scott Yonally, N8SY. Present without vote were CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and FCC Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ.

Present as observers were Second Vice President Mike Ritz, W7VO; International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD; Treasurer John Sager, WJ7S; CFO Diane Middleton, W2DLM; Directors Bob Famiglio, K3RF; Tom Frenaye, K1KI; Mark Tharp, KB7HDX; Vice Directors Phil Temples, K9HI; and Bill Morine, N2COP.

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

CEO Minster provided updates on the following topics.

IARU Restructuring - CEO Minster began his comments on the IARU restructuring by providing the committee with some background on ARRL's role as the International Secretariat. He noted that ARRL serves as the financial backbone of the organization and, as a result, is guaranteed a seat on its board. Additionally, ARRL manages a collaborative process for selecting the IARU president and vice president. CEO Minster mentioned that the idea of restructuring has been discussed for approximately two years.

ARRL President Rick Roderick and CEO Minster recently attended the IARU centennial celebration in Paris. This trip provided both CEO Minster and President Roderick with the opportunity to discuss important details regarding the restructuring with key decision-makers. Although many aspects of the plan still needs to be finalized, the primary framework of the restructuring proposes a "one country, one vote" voting system. CEO Minster noted that this change would significantly reduce ARRL's influence on voting regarding important directives of the IARU. Furthermore, it was highlighted that the same level of financial support that ARRL has been providing to IARU is still expected, despite the new organizational structure and the limitations on ARRL's role within it.

After discussion by the committee, CEO Minster advised there is a scheduled call next week to further address ARRL's concerns.

Strategy Plan Status – CEO Minster explained that he and others have been working on the online launch. There has been a delay because CEO Minster was not satisfied with the format in which the strategy was being designed for the website. The marketing team is currently addressing this issue. He also commented on the company’s fiscal future and elaborated on ARRL’s focus. One area he sees great potential for growth is in cultivating donor relationships. CEO Minster suggested possible ideas for attracting a younger audience and highlighted the success the Director of Development has had with the creation of the Estate Planning Guide. Additionally, CEO Minster spoke to various members and organizations that have previously expressed interest in supporting ARRL’s commitment to the hobby, with the aim of protecting it for many years, if not generations, to come.

Two additional strategy ideas were presented to the committee. One being that CEO Minster would eventually like to see a non-dues membership model. This would require a significant endowment to support the organization. The second is to create a “Hall of Radio Operators”. The intent is to create a place where silent keys can have a space online in which to document their activities, show who they are as a ham, and post pictures. The main appeal of this idea is that it will remain online and accessible after the individual becomes a silent key, thus forming an eternal voice for those who pass so that their own legacy will be forever accessible.

Teachers Institute - CEO Minster noted the construction of the new Teacher’s Institute (TI) classroom, which is being designed as a combination conference room, should be finished in time for the first Teacher’s Institute taking place at HQ during the week of June 9th.

Additionally, Education & Learning Manager Steve Goodgame has secured a TI session at Johns Hopkins University.

Legislative Update - CEO Minster began his update on the legislative status by discussing his partnership with Director Stratton and the immediate resubmission of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. He pointed out that there is currently a significant delay due to the political landscape following Trump's election, as many larger issues are now dominating Washington's attention. As a result, there is not the same level of support from lawmakers that the ARRL experienced last year. CEO Minster expressed concern that it is now May and that the congressional recess in August is approaching.

CEO Minster then entertained questions.

3. Status of Open Board Motions

July 2023 Board Meeting

Minute 21 - Action: Directs CEO to address nine training initiatives. Plan due to A&F 1/1/24 with updates at 2024 Board Meetings

CEO Minister confirmed that QST is featuring training articles. CEO Minister also mentioned ARRL has launched On The Air Live, and so far, the attendance has been very good. Mr. Greene is continuing to develop these programs, and the live licensing classes are also nearly ready to launch shortly after Dayton.

The feedback regarding ham radio operators who say they have no time is interesting. The feedback is not very positive regarding the idea of creating content and distributing it to people who are busy and lack available time. It was concluded that this challenge would be better addressed by clubs. However, Ed Snyder is developing the Marconi III program, which he plans to seek funding for. This new program will target individuals in the age range of 30 to 55. This was discussed at the A&F meeting, and ARRL's goal is to engage those who feel they lack time by encouraging their participation in club activities. For instance, participants could attend a kit night and build a whisper beacon to put on the air.

Ultimately, ARRL learned that simply creating content for busy individuals would not be effective, so that will be integrated into the strategy moving forward.

Minute 22 – Action: Directs CEO to address seven points regarding how-to articles mainly about remote stations. Implementation should begin in 2023, content second half 2023. Plan due A&F 1/1/24 with updates at 2024 Board meetings.

Publications and Editorial have been working on an extended relationship with Gerry Hull, W1VE, who will write for ARRL. Publications have also created a special remote issue for the July NCJ. CEO Minister noted his recent column on remote radio which has received good feedback from members. CEO Minister recently had a meeting regarding ARRL's 2026 publications, and one of those publications will be a book on remote radio.

Thus far, ARRL has received great feedback on the different approach that ARRL took with the "Salty Walt" book. As noted by CEO Minister, this positive response encourages ARRL to follow a similar path with the remote radio book in 2026. Instead of having just one author, the Publications and Editorial Department plans to include multiple contributors and real-life remote stories throughout the book. The intention being for 2026 is to publish another book in the style of "Salty Walt" that addresses the topic of remote radio.

Minute 40 – Action: Revised minute 31 from Motion at January meeting regarding Awards & Recognition Day. CEO to direct HQ staff to determine club anniversary award eligibility and forward nominations to EC for review and approval on semi-annual basis.

President Roderick noted this was previously addressed and completed.

January 2024 Board Meeting

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

First Vice President McIntyre confirmed all the steps for generating and hosting a coding competition are complete. The event is ready for ARRL to promote the launch.

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

Director Yonally told the committee this objective is underway, and CEO Minster noted that Publications has ARES advertising planned for QST, but unfortunately, the cyber-attack set ARRL back. ARRL still intends to promote the program in non-amateur radio publications to reach individuals involved in various aspects of emergency communications. One issue ARRL has faced is that there is no complete database with all the ARES groups in one program. For some time, ARRL's Director of Emergency Management, Josh Johnston, has been working with the Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs), and the Section Managers to create this database. EMCOMM's goal is to ensure that if someone outside of amateur radio visits ARRL's ARES page, they can easily find and contact the local ARES group. Once the database is properly populated, ARRL can begin advertising in related publications to generate interest in ARES from outside the amateur radio community.

Director Yonally noted that at the last ECFSC meeting it was reported by EMCOMM Director Josh Johnston has the registration form is up and running. ARES groups should be able to register again.

Minute 48 – Action: By-law 46 Special Committee – IVP Stafford Chair, Action Pending

International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford updated the committee that in January, a period was designated for Directors to provide comments and suggest changes to the documents presented. He advised that no comments were received. About a week and a half ago, he asked the committee members to take one last look at the documents, considering that nobody had suggested any changes. As a result, the documents are ready to move forward. The next step is for CEO Minster to share the documents with the ARRL attorneys for their legal opinion. Once ARRL has the opinion letter, the final version of the documents will be circulated among the directors at least 30 days prior to the July 2025 Board Meeting.

Minute 51 – Action: Ad Hoc working group to develop options and recommendations for programs to consider assisting amateur radio licenses in limited operating situations - Director Baker, Chair.

President Roderick noted Director Baker relayed to him in the recent A&F meeting last week that the Working Group got a slow start, but he's going to be calling the group together. This effort will be made in conjunction with and support of ARRL's legislative effort.

July 2024 Board Meeting

Minute 17 – Action: Directors Workbook Ad Hoc Committee – Director Zygielbaum, Chair

Director Zygielbaum explained the Director Workbook review has turned out to be quite an effort. Once the committee delved into the workbook, they realized it was an extensive document. Former Board Director Dale Williams and Director Zygielbaum have been focusing on separating and organizing the content. Mr. Williams has had some distractions, which have contributed to the slower pace than what was intended. The committee's goal is to propose a standard procedure and reference book instead of the workbook. This new document will include all the items found in the workbook, excluding those that the committee believes should be addressed in standing orders as policies. Each item will be attributed to a specific individual in the organization that if changes are necessary or questions arise, can be addressed by them as needed.

Minute 18 - Action: Governance and Field Organization Study Group – Director Ryan, Chair

Director Ryan reported that the committee needs a clear idea of what is needed to achieve the Governance goal of possibly re-working the organizations structure. The committee decided it would be best to consult a third party with expertise in organizational structure, particularly for nonprofits. The committee received a suggestion from headquarters and interviewed the firm. However, after meeting with their representatives, they were left with the impression that they would not be a good fit for ARRL's needs. Consequently, the committee did not receive substantial input from them. During Director Ryan's last discussion with headquarters, it was suggested that the committee consider finding a larger firm with nationally recognized credentials. The next step is to clarify ARRL's needs and consider approaching this project incrementally, rather than attempting to address everything at once.

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

CEO Minster reported to the committee ARRL recently reintroduced a book about operating from indoors, and it has been an overwhelming success. ARRL launched it a couple of weeks before the January Board meeting, and by then, ARRL had already sold over a thousand copies. ARRL sold out of the first run of 2,500 books and are now into the second print cycle. This second run will include a bookmark with a QR code that directs readers to a page where they can donate to the Washington Legislative Fund. This initiative is currently ongoing.

Minute 21 – Action: Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) – McIntyre Chair

First Vice President McIntyre told the Committee that ITAC, has been meeting regularly, approximately every two weeks, to address the aftermath of the cyber-attack. They are close to completing that process, and most systems are now up and running. The Committee is transitioning from crisis management to ongoing housekeeping tasks. In their upcoming meeting, they will discuss goals and strategy moving forward, as well as the structure of their charter, which was part of a previous motion. Everyone is expected to bring a charter item to the next meeting. Additionally, they anticipate generating some valuable ideas for the transition from firefighting to strategic planning.

First Vice President McIntyre was asked if the committee was open to additional outside members yet. She replied that she would like to get the committee charter in place first but if anyone has any recommendations, they should email her their names.

Minute 22 – Action: 3 Year Strategy – CEO Minster

This was covered previously in this meeting.

January 2025 Board Meeting

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

This was covered previously in this meeting.

Minute 26 - Action: By-law 42, 46, and Director Zygielbaum 7, pending action

This was covered previously in this meeting.

July 2022 Board Meeting

Minute 23 – Action: Election Review Committee – Director Zygielbaum, Chair

Back in July 2022, the Election Review Committee began its discussions, and at that time, there was a lot happening. Director Zygielbaum stated the committee is meeting regularly. He explained that the committee has reviewed election related documents, including the By-Laws, and the four other documents that outline the election processes. The conclusion is to consolidate everything into the By-Laws and a single document titled "Election Procedures and Rules." This document will be maintained by the Elections and Ethics Committee subject to board approval.

4. FCC Counsel’s Update and FCC Matters – Counsel Siddall

Mr. Siddall began by briefly summarizing the effect of recent judicial decisions that may impact the FCC's method of assessing forfeitures in enforcement cases. Relevant cases remain pending before multiple Courts of Appeal, and ultimately the scope of the FCC's forfeiture authority may be decided by the Supreme Court if lower court opinions differ. Mr. Siddall also noted recent changes in industry organizations relevant to ARRL's spectrum defense and commented separately on ARRL legislative activities.

With regard to the status of the Amateur temporary secondary band at 3.3 – 3.45 GHz and other spectrum at issue in legislation to renew the FCC's authority to auction spectrum, Counsel Siddall reported that this subject now is being considered as part of the Reconciliation process in the House and Senate so as to recognize spectrum revenues to partially offset the costs of other provisions in that bill. Opposition remains strong from the Department of Defense (DoD) and related interests to requiring the 3.1 – 3.45 GHz band be auctioned to commercial interests. Also being debated is the total amount of spectrum Congress should require be identified for auction. The amount being discussed ranges from 450 to 2500 megahertz. At the low end, most of the spectrum likely would come from the "up to" 420 megahertz of federal government spectrum that DoD suggested in April. While no Amateur spectrum was included in DoD's proposal, in at least one instance the contemplated changes likely would result in more federal government operations moving to a neighboring band where Amateurs operate on a secondary basis and could constrain our operations there. At the high end it is unclear what additional spectrum would be identified, but dangers to Amateur spectrum increase as the amount of spectrum required to be identified increases.

Counsel Siddall then discussed the ARRL's April comments filed in the FCC's "Delete, Delete, Delete" proceeding. ARRL proposed rule modifications or deletions in ten areas. He then provided an update on NextNav's petition to reallocate a substantial portion of the 902-928 MHz band for cellular service and related Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) technology as a complement or alternative to GPS, and on a related FCC Notice of Inquiry (NOI) released in March taking a broader look at PNT technologies and solutions. ARRL will file reply comments next week in the NOI proceeding to emphasize that better approaches are available for complementary PNT than that proposed by NextNav.

Mr. Siddall wrapped up with updates on the SMC high frequency trading petition, information about an interference case, and information related to experimental licenses.

5. Recognition of New Life Members

The committee reviewed the list of new Life Members.

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

6. Other Business

President Rick Roderick thanked the Committee for their time.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, and on the Motion by Director Yonally, seconded by Director Boehner, the Committee VOTED to adjourn at 3:55 p.m.

Submitted by,
Danielle LaFleur, KC1UKS
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