**2017 Annual Report to the ARRL Board of Directors**

**Great Lakes Division**

**Great Lakes Division Awards & Honors, presented at Great Lakes HamCon:**

George S. Wilson Lifetime Achievement Award - Jim Weaver K8JE

Amateur of the Year - Stan Broadway N8BHL

Young Amateur of the Year - Christopher Brault KD8YVJ

Technical Achievement Award - Bob Dixon W8ERD

Joe Phillips Newsletter Award - Portage, OH *Radiogram*, Tom Parkerson KB8UUZ Editor

Vice Director Delaney and I wish to extend an important Thank You to our Section Managers for their wonderful efforts in promoting amateur radio and ARRL in their respective Sections. Alan KY1O, Larry WB8R and Scott N8SY, you guys are the greatest! Along with the kudos comes the time for change as MI SM Larry Camp has decided to pass the reins. Jim Kvochik K8JK has accepted the SM position on an interim basis until an election is scheduled. Jim has agreed to run for SM at that time. Our thanks go out to Larry for an outstanding 6 years as SM and also to Jim for agreeing to step into the SM position.

**Political actions:** : Through the work of SGL Mark Currens N4VER, the Governor of KY issued a statewide proclamation for Field Day this year. This is the first such action by the Commonwealth to duly recognize Amateur Radio. We are grateful for the support amateur radio is now receiving through that office.

Michigan's Governor Snyder proclaimed June 19 -25 as Amateur Radio Week.

Michigan PA 556 (PRB-1 language codified into state law early in 2015) required the formation of an Antenna Advisory group to be made up of representatives from the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Township Association, a representative from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget and Amateur Radio representatives. MI SM Larry Camp WB8R and Dir. Dale Williams WA8EFK were selected to represent Amateur Radio. The first meeting of this group was held in May, 2017 at the Michigan State Police Headquarters with said representatives in attendance. The purpose of this Advisory group is to provide accurate information and education about amateur radio antenna issues, and to realistically discuss the necessity of radio amateurs to have an outside antenna of some sort to be able to operate in both urban and rural environments. It is believed that such an advisory group may be the first of its type in the nation.

**Emergencies:** ARES Activations: KY recently completed its annual state-wide COMEX exercise which included significant Amateur Radio involvement.

 Amateur Radio Operators were called to staff several Emergency Operations Centers during a communications failure in northeastern Ohio when the 911 / MARCS system went down. Amateur Operators filled the gap with DMR and analog communications to the needed emergency centers.

ARES training in all three Great Lakes Div. Sections continues at high levels all aimed at insuring NIMS compliance and interoperability with adjacent communities.

Annual Ohio ARES Conference was held on April 1st. There were 120 in attendance from all over Ohio.

**Major Events:** Steve Morgan W4NHO took office as the new KY SM on April 17. This is Steve's second tour as SM, having served from 1991 to 1997.

In February, The Michigan Department of State Police and Homeland Security sponsored its annual Communications Interoperability Conference, where the services of radio amateurs across the state were highlighted. The forum also welcomed Ohio SEC Stan Broadway N8BHL, who presented a review of Ohio’s ARES activities during the Republican National Convention / NAACP National Convention / Toledo National Air Show that occurred all within the same week. The 2018 conference will include a presentation by Mike Corey highlighting the Amateur Radio Actions in assisting Puerto Rico following Hurricane Katrina, and Director Williams will present an overview of the forthcoming ARES upgrades.

Hamfests/Conventions: Hamvention weekend went well. The move from HARA to the new venue in Xenia was a new adventure for everyone and it worked! The Ohio Section hosted a booth where folks could meet and greet and get information on where things were located at the hamfest.

The new Great Lakes HamCon hosted the GL Division Convention was held October 7 & 8 at Michigan International Speedway. A consortium of 21 amateur radio clubs known as the Great Lakes ARA, sponsored the event. First year attendance was 1250 and now Great Lakes HamCon will be a continuing event. There were 21 forums, Ham-in-a-Day Class, FCC Exams, Banquet, and Wouff Hong initiation. HamCon welcomed ARRL President Rick Roderick as the keynote speaker.

**Clubs:** The Great Lakes Division has welcomed five clubs to ARRL Affiliation status so far this year, while two clubs have been recently recognized as Special Service Clubs. The Great Lakes Division ARRL membership stands at 11, 968, with 232 Affiliated Clubs, 91 of which are Special Service Clubs. We have seen a 3.1% decline in aggregate membership over the past 12 months. The figures are in precise alignment with the forecast decline discussed at the Jan 2015 Board Meeting and are predicted to flatten in 2018.

**Service:** Vice Director Delaney W8WTD has been working with HQ staff on the production of a video to promote the ARISS Program. Tom also serves on the Entry Level Licensing Committee evaluating a possible new licensing structure. W8WTD was appointed to the Education Subcommittee of the PSC. Dir. Williams is a member of the ARRL Executive Committee, the ARRL Foundation and serves as chair of the Public Service Enhancement Working Group.

73,

Dale Williams WA8EFK

Director

Great Lakes Division