**Board Meeting Summary Talking Points**

* A break-even budget was adopted by the Board upon the recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee; but without revenue growth there is little flexibility for significant organizational investment or new member offerings. The staff is also looking at each legacy program to evaluate its relevance and sustainability. Financial discipline will be required to meet the approved plan; and senior staff has put into place new monitoring procedures and monthly reviews with key managers.
* The Board will continue to explore ideas for the creation of a more appropriate entry-level license class. There has been no significant review of the licensing structure with an view to creating a new license class, similar to what many countries offer along the lines of a “foundation” license, in over a decade. There is no specific proposal at this time but Board committee tasked with looking at this topic will continue to explore options that make sense, which would potentially expose a new segment of the population to Amateur Radio.
* The legislation objectives for the 115th Congress were defined as:
  + Objective #1: The ARRL seeks early passage of H.R. 555 and any Senate Companion Bill that might be introduced, as being in the best interests of Amateur Radio Operators nationwide:
  + Objective #2: The ARRL opposes legislation that would lead to the reallocation of amateur spectrum or to sharing arrangements that reduce the utility of existing allocations.
  + Objective #3: The ARRL opposes legislation that diminishes the rights of federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters or encourages the deployment of spectrum-polluting technologies.
  + Objective #4: The ARRL seeks recognition of the unique resources, capabilities, and expertise of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation addressing communications issues related to emergencies, disasters, or homeland security.
  + Objective #5: The ARRL supports the complementary legislative objectives of other radio-communication services.

HR 555, which was introduced into the US House of Representatives on January 13, 2017 was passed by the full House only 10-days later on January 23. It has been sent to the US Senate for consideration. The ARRL legislative team is working diligently to secure passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act Once it becomes law, the ARRL will work to ensure that adequate service rules for its implementation into Part 97 are considered and included by the FCC.

* Adopted changes to the DXCC rules that would allow more DXCC card checking field appointments, making it easier for Members to get DXCC applications checked. Each Director is now able to appoint additional DXCC card checkers to ensure good coverage for field checking opportunities in their Division. The new rules also formalize procedures for retention and replacement of current card checkers as necessary. It also allows 160-meter cards to be checked by almost any field checker.
* Adopted a policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice-Directors. This identifies a framework under which members of the Board will operate to insure good governance and enhance its ability to perform its fiduciary responsibilities while representing the ARRL.
* ARRL Headquarters will be focusing on “five big things” during the coming year:
  + Stabilizing organizational operating finances
    - Better monitoring of revenue and expenses in each department
  + New opportunities for outreach
    - Development of new educational initiatives, to develop age and content appropriate curriculum for students that can be shared and utilized in many diverse learning environments
  + Seeking opportunities for corporate and institutional funding and the programs that will attract these donors
  + Replacing legacy IT systems
    - Current computer networks and infrastructure is dated and the risk of a permanent failure, which would significantly disrupt ARRL HQ and program operation, is not insignificant. The IT department, working with consultants, have identified needs and will continue addressing them.
  + New approaches to organizational management and governance.
    - HQ staff is developing new systems and procedure to improve the quality, accountability and the timeliness of internal decision-making.