

**Report of the President
ARRL Board of Directors
July 2019**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to provide this Report to you as President. It continues to be a great honor to serve as an Officer of the League.

The Landscape – The Future

I've written regularly in these reports and also in my President's letter for the Annual Report about how we are seeing a changing landscape in Amateur Radio. A major concern I continue to have is the disconnect I see with the traditional and aging operators and those of the next generation. There is a gap, a huge gap between those two generations, and it presents a challenge in both recruiting new hams into the hobby and recruiting them to join the League.

Over half of the Amateurs today are Technician class hams yet only about 16% belong to the League. That is unacceptable. Why can't we attract more Technicians to join the League? The Board has been working on this issue for quite a while, so it's not that the League is not trying. In fact, the League has been studying what needs to be done, performed extensive research, has tried new approaches, and developed programs and services that the new generation ham has expressed an interest in. The Lifelong Learning Department and related initiatives is key to this effort.

In addition to the Lifelong Learning initiative, the petition to expand HF privileges for the Technician class will bring the Technician class more in line with the new generation ham, which, you will recall, was based on input from over 8000 responses.

I will sound like a broken record here. We must increase our membership numbers. Granted, we are still suffering from the dues increase in 2016 and the rebound is tracking along the path of the last recovery from a dues increase years before, but it seems we ought to be doing better than we are. I want to challenge all of us to step up the recruiting efforts.

At the end of June, we had 156,388 members. That's a loss of 404 members for that month alone. We shouldn't be losing members at this stage of recovering from the dues increase. We should be turning positive.

Maybe it's time we seriously considered the structure of life membership. Maybe it's time we launched a targeted membership recruiting campaign with incentives.

As I travel around the country and meet with clubs and attend hamfests, I hear the same concerns raised by our members. In fact, I am encountering more worry and concern for the future of our wonderful hobby than I ever have before. Many of the clubs are having similar problems with fewer members and the difficulties in getting members to step up to leadership roles. We are not alone in the challenge to grow and sustain the hobby. But this challenge is on us. They are looking to the League for leadership, guidance, and ideas on what they can do. It's our job to meet the challenge. We are the leaders of Amateur Radio. You wouldn't be on the Board if your constituents didn't perceive you to be a leader! Think about that.

We are doing a number of things to try and meet the challenge, but the numbers don't show it yet. We still have a lot of work to do to grow the hobby, and the League. We must maintain focus and attention to efforts that will bridge the gap.

You've heard me say this before, and it's worth saying again, to grow and survive, we must do better at addressing these changing times. Let's honor our past but let's be leaders and move forward embracing the future.

Remember, where is your legacy? What will they remember about you?

Volunteer Monitor Program

The first initiative I embarked on when I became President was to create a committee to study the OO Program. Such a study was long overdue. The project took time but resulted in the creation of the new Volunteer Monitor (VM) program. Fortunately, we have Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, leading the way to oversee the development and implementation phases of the program.

Since the last Board meeting, the ARRL and FCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding officially establishing the Volunteer Monitor program. The selection of Volunteer Monitors is underway. Applicants are being vetted through a formal process and those selected will receive training and certification for 3-year terms.

This is an exciting time. I have high expectations that the new VM program and the new alliance with the FCC will be a great benefit to Amateur Radio.

Attack on 2 Meters

We were surprised to learn of an agenda item for the World Radiocommunications Conference in 2023 to study a range of frequencies, including potentially reassigning the 144-146 MHz segment as a primary Aeronautical Mobile Service allocation. As proposed, it is not an eviction or re-

allocation of Amateurs, per se, but nonetheless is unwelcome and presents significant challenges.

Our members immediately raised a lot of questions and concerns. No doubt this will be a major topic for some time as it works through the process as a potential agenda item. Fortunately, IARU and member societies are rallying to launch a major effort to fight it. The ARRL will be part of that effort.

Wireless Power Transmission

You will hear more and more about wireless power transmissions (WPT) in the future. This is a serious matter, and an international problem. The Board has discussed WPT in the past but we really need to step up our game on this issue.

WPT is the transmission of power from a power source to an electrical load wirelessly using the electromagnetic field. As these systems develop, the potential for interference could be substantial. Technology is changing and the current emission standards will not work, especially for systems operating at higher power. The concern is that current emission limits are not appropriate protection for the Amateur spectrum.

The Board needs to direct attention to this issue quickly so that alliances (i.e. government entities, industry groups) and strategies can be developed to address WPT.

Staff

I am so proud of our Headquarters Staff! I get compliments on our Staff everywhere I go. They are hard workers and dedicated. And that goes for all of the volunteers as well. I sincerely appreciate everything you do for Amateur Radio and for the League! Thank you!

I also want to thank the Board for your work and devotion to Amateur Radio and the League. I'm proud to serve alongside you. It's always a pleasure to travel to the various Divisions, meeting your constituents and seeing the work you are doing for the betterment of Amateur Radio.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Roderick - K5UR
President