



ARRL
The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

ARRL Membership Dues and Related Adjustments

JULY 23RD, 2023

Adjustments



- Regular dues (US) will increase to \$59/year on January 1, 2024.
- Members' will continue to have access to *QST* and *On The Air (OTA)* magazines in digital form online.
 - Print and mailed *QST/OTA* magazines becomes optional add-ons to membership (Maxim donors are unaffected). Each magazine subscription is \$25 per year.
 - Regular members will need to purchase an add-on subscription to continue receiving printed *QST* and *OTA* after January 1, 2024.
 - Current Life members as of July 2023 may opt-in to continue receiving printed *QST* or *OTA*. The opt-in period ends June 2024.
- Monthly payment plan options are being created for members aged 70+ to help senior members who are experiencing financial stress.
- We are undertaking work to determine revenue neutral pricing for Life Memberships. ARRL has paused new Life Memberships until year end 2023.
- ARRL has been and continues to develop plans to grow membership and create additional income streams to offset rising costs.

Why Now



- ARRL has experienced significant losses over the last 4 years.
 - Inflation is the primary driver for our losses.
 - Publishers are moving away from print publications resulting in our print costs increasing at a higher rate than other costs.
 - These trends have created financial pressure and are expected to be with us for the foreseeable future.
- We have partially covered operating losses using earnings from our investment portfolio, but losses are also eroding capital.
 - Only a portion of our portfolio (~\$15M) can be used to address this situation.
- ARRL has been systematically taking steps to reduce costs for several years. Steps have included:
 - Delaying hiring for open positions.
 - Outsourcing work to contractors in lieu of staffing full-time positions.
 - Consolidating responsibilities to reduce staffing levels.
- We cannot go much further without reducing or eliminating benefits & programs that members have told us are important.

Decision Process



- We created a survey and solicited member input to understand our members' views. Input included:
 - Benefits and programs that are most important to members.
 - Affordability and approaches to a dues increase and related adjustments.
- Survey response was very good; ~20,000 members. We've shared the summary of the responses on arrrl.org.
- We also received input via hamfests and member forums.
- ARRL expended considerable effort developing a plan.
 - Carefully reviewed input and feedback from survey responses.
 - Considered a range of actions to try to balance member input and the need to address ARRL's financial health.
 - The set of adjustments outlined in this package have been adopted by the Board.



ARRL is the strongest voice
PROMOTING & PROTECTING amateur radio.

“Without ARRL, amateur radio would not exist today!”

- Spectrum Defense
- Advocacy in local, national, and international regulation and policymaking
- Support from restrictive antenna regulation & zoning
- Volunteer Monitor Program
- Promoting amateur radio to the public
- ARRL Teacher's Institute programs to promote STEM learning through amateur radio

Membership



Benefits

- 4 digital magazines
QST · *On the Air* · *QEX* · *NCJ*
- Periodicals archive and other members-only website content
- E-newsletters
- Product Review and ARRL Lab testing of equipment

Services

- ARRL VEC license exam sessions, and license renewal service
- Logbook of The World
- ARRL Lab, technical and RFI support
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Regulatory Information Service (help with rules and regs)
- W1HQ Radio Lab and showcase

Programs

- 2,500 Affiliated Radio Clubs
- ARRL Field Day
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®)
- National Traffic System
- ARRL Learning Center training · webinars
- ARRL Contests
- ARRL Awards
DXCC · Worked All States & more
- W1AW
bulletins · code practice · guest ops
- ARRL Field Organization: support for Amateur Radio through volunteerism



1. When was the last time that ARRL raised dues?

The last increases were in 2016; 8 years ago, and before that 2001.

2. Why do we need to raise dues?

We need to ensure a vibrant and financially healthy ARRL so we can continue to serve the Amateur Radio community. ARRL has experienced significant financial losses during the last 4 years due to inflation. We expect rising costs to continue and result in additional financial pressure.

3. Why does ARRL need \$59 per year for dues?

ARRL applies staff and resources to a variety of efforts that promote and protect Amateur Radio for the benefit of our members. Chief among these efforts are spectrum defense, regulatory advocacy at the International, Federal and State levels, support for licensing and operator training, work to promote Amateur Radio in schools, and more. ARRL also allocates resources to member benefits and programs such as Field Day, LoTW, contests, EmComm programs, member technical support, product reviews, and other programs. It is essential that ARRL continue these efforts to ensure the continued existence of Amateur Radio worldwide.



4. Why did ARRL make print QST and On the Air magazine a paid option?

All members will continue to have access to all four ARRL magazines in digital format online. Printing and mailing QST and OTA are an important part of ARRL's costs, and these costs have increased faster than inflation. Results from our member survey indicate that a significant portion of our members are willing to read these magazines in a digital form online. We chose this approach to minimize the increase in dues. This gives members a choice on whether to pay the additional cost for print magazines.

5. What was the purpose of the member survey that was conducted in May 2023?

We felt it was important to seek input from our members about various options under consideration and what they valued most about ARRL membership. This feedback from the more than 20,000 members who responded was used extensively in our planning.



6. What is ARRL doing to cut costs? Is this an alternative to a dues increase?

ARRL has been systematically taking steps to reduce costs for several years. Steps have included delaying hiring for open positions, outsourcing work to contractors in lieu of staffing full-time positions, consolidating responsibilities to reduce staffing levels, and other actions designed to control our costs. We continue to look for additional ways to lower our costs, but we cannot go much further without reducing or eliminating member benefits and programs which our members have told us are important to them.

7. What is ARRL doing to help senior members under financial stress to continue to afford dues and print publications?

ARRL is creating monthly payment options for dues and print magazines for members that are 70-years and older. If you are 70+ years old and need help in this area, please contact Member Services at HQ for details.

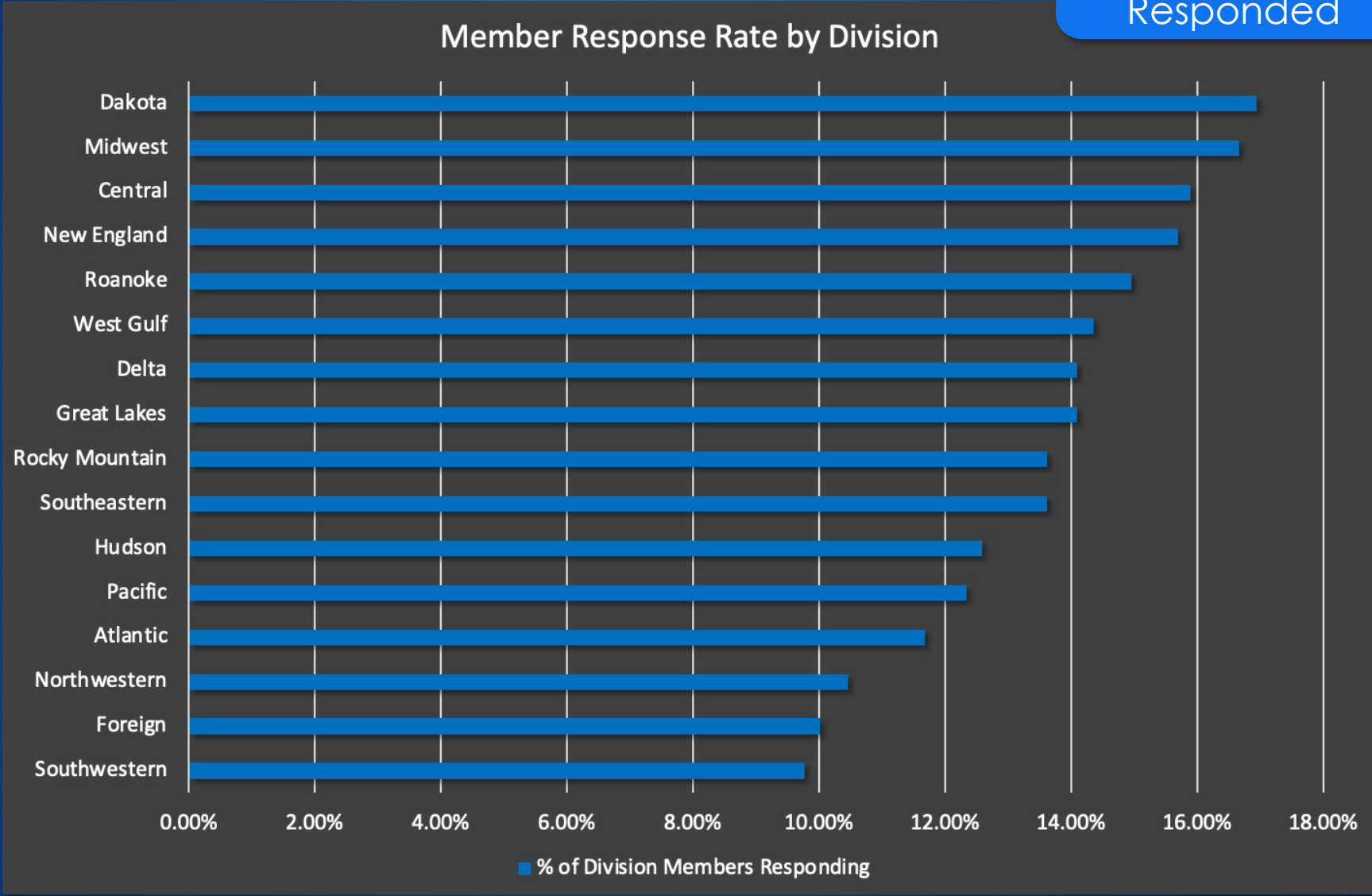


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Member Survey Results

Member Survey Results

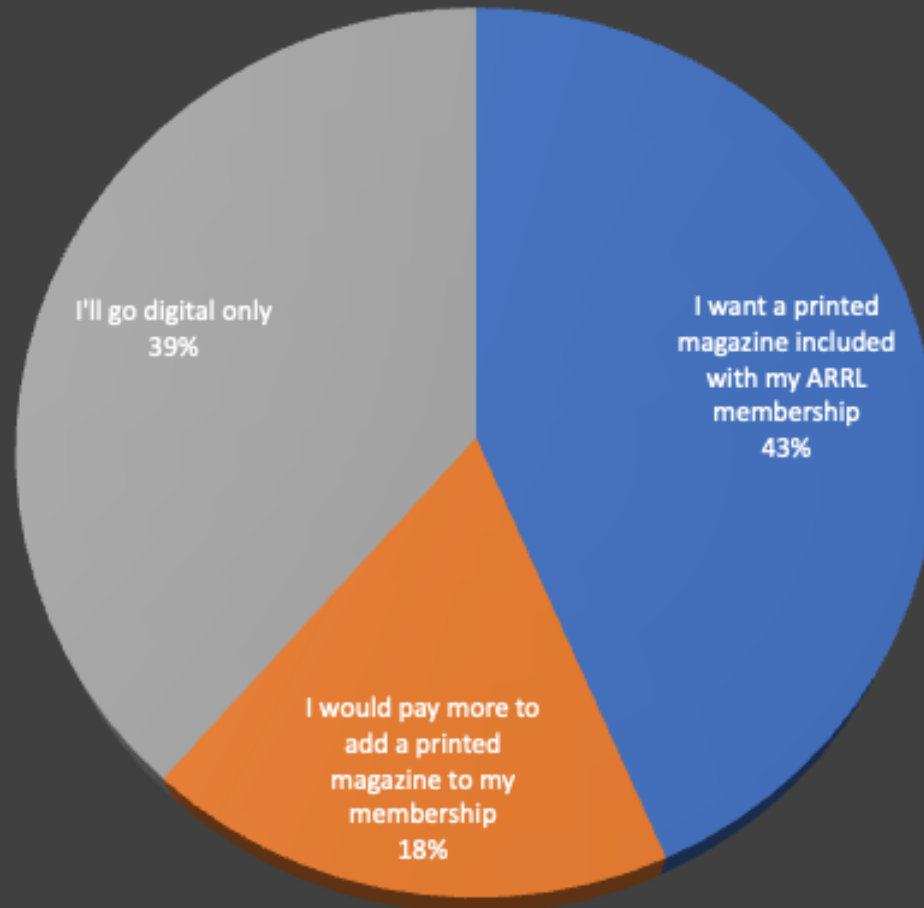
Total of 20,077
Members
Responded



Member Survey Results

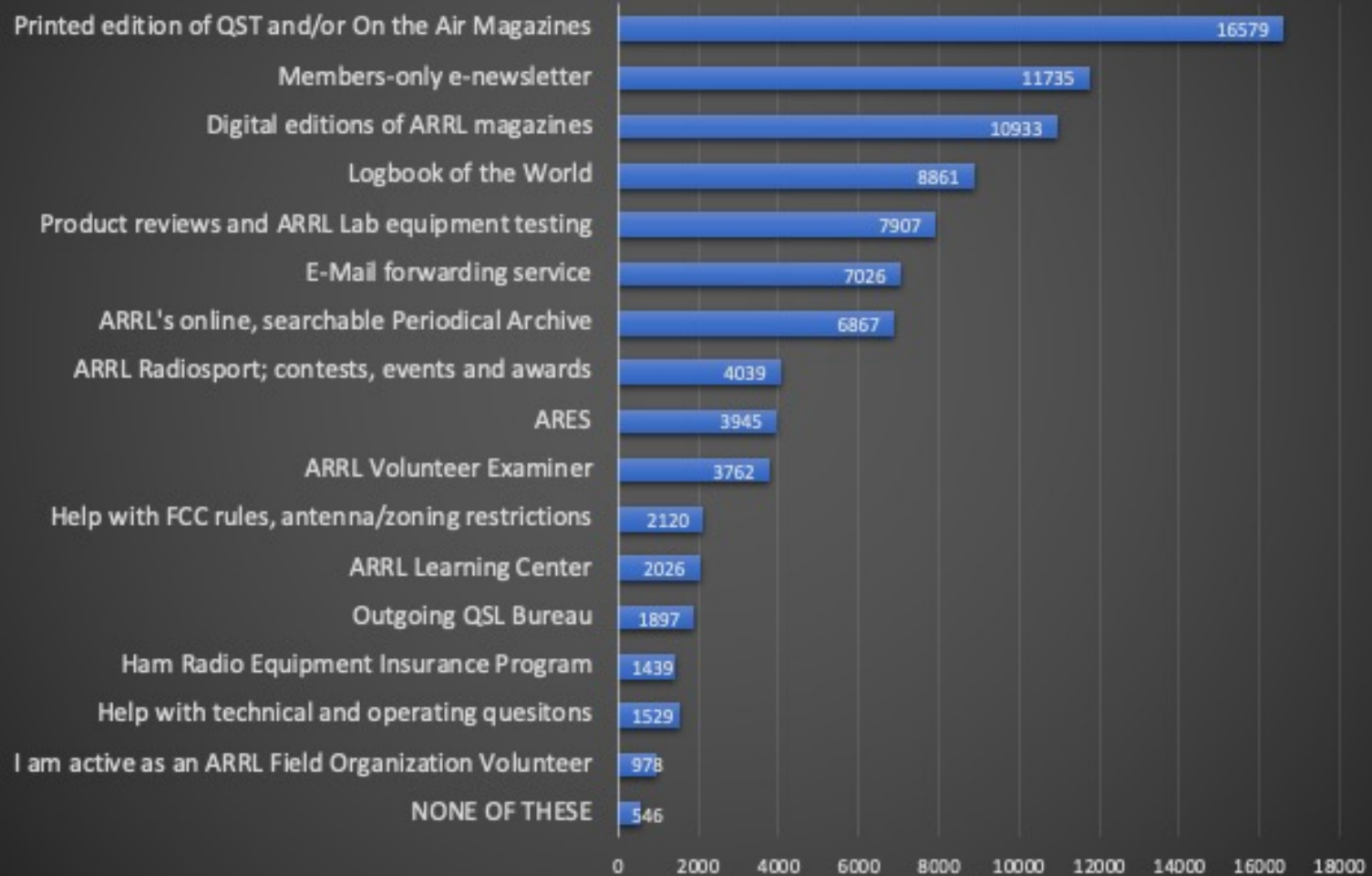


Question 1 - Members receive all four ARRL magazines in digital format. If we were to separate the printed magazine from being included in the base membership, would you still choose to receive it as an add on?



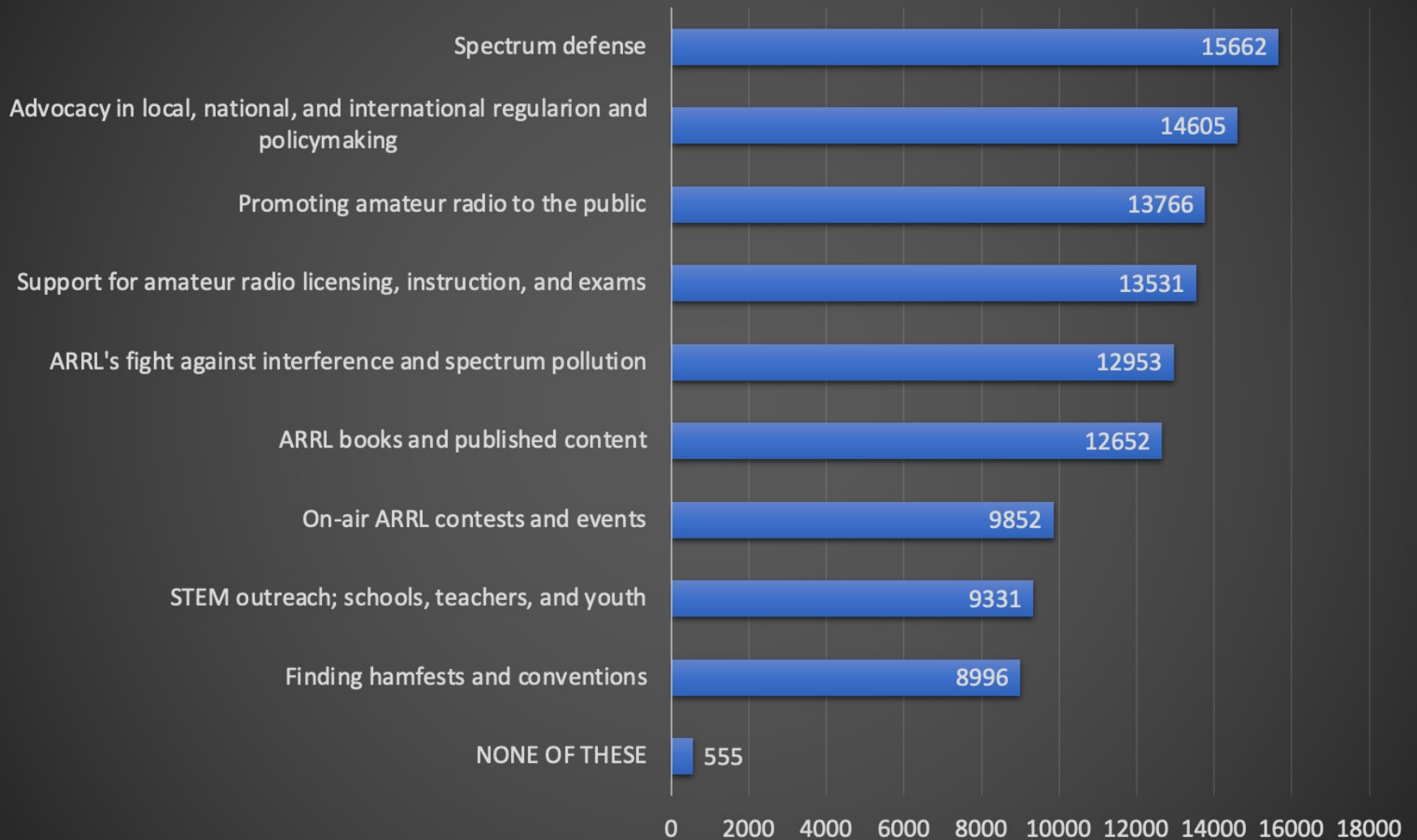
Member Survey Results

Question 2 - Which of the following ARRL membership benefits, services, and programs have you used in the last 12 months?



Member Survey Results

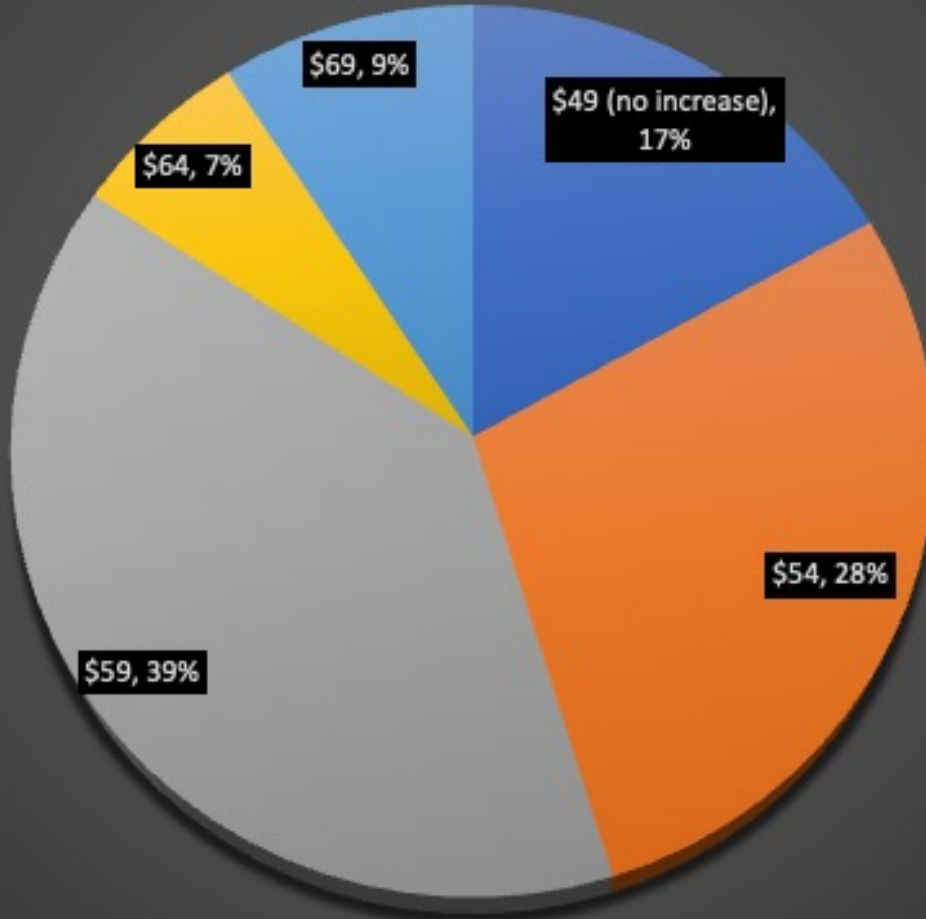
Question 3 - I value my membership for ARRL's work in the following areas



Member Survey Results



Question 4 - ARRL cannot continue to operate at the current dues level. What annual dues rate do you feel is reasonable for ARRL to set?



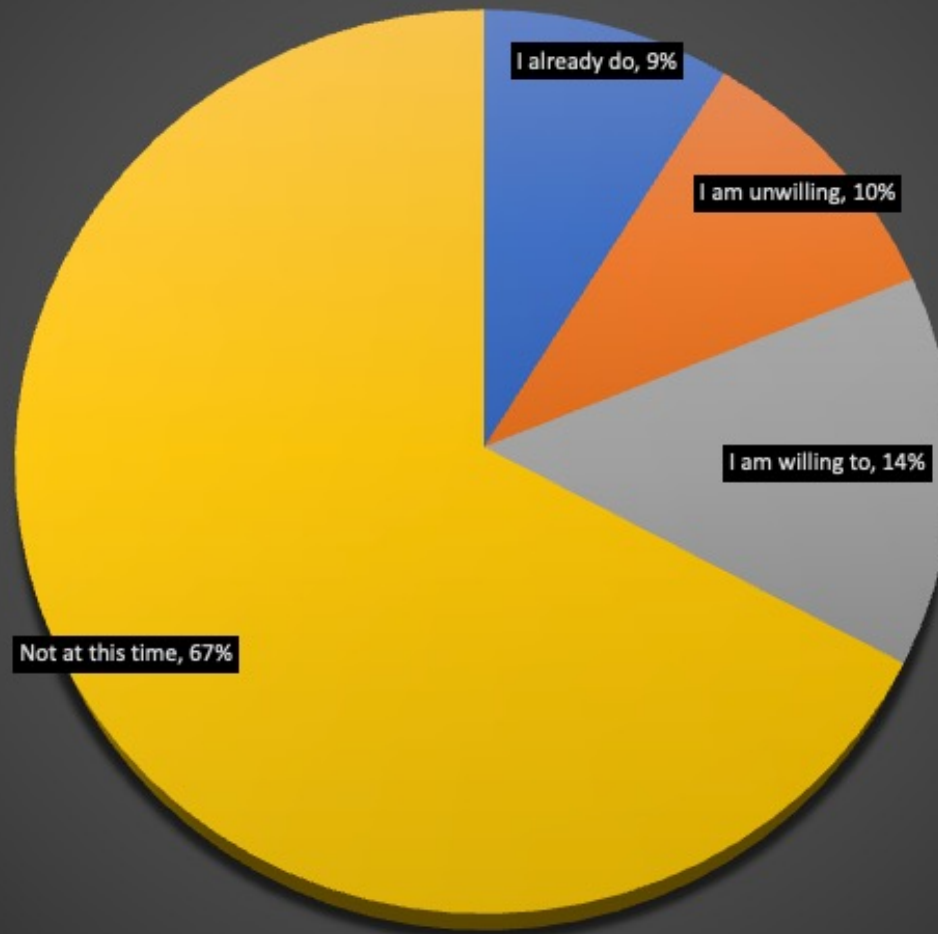
Average (all resps.)
\$57.14

Average (only incr.)
\$58.79

Member Survey Results



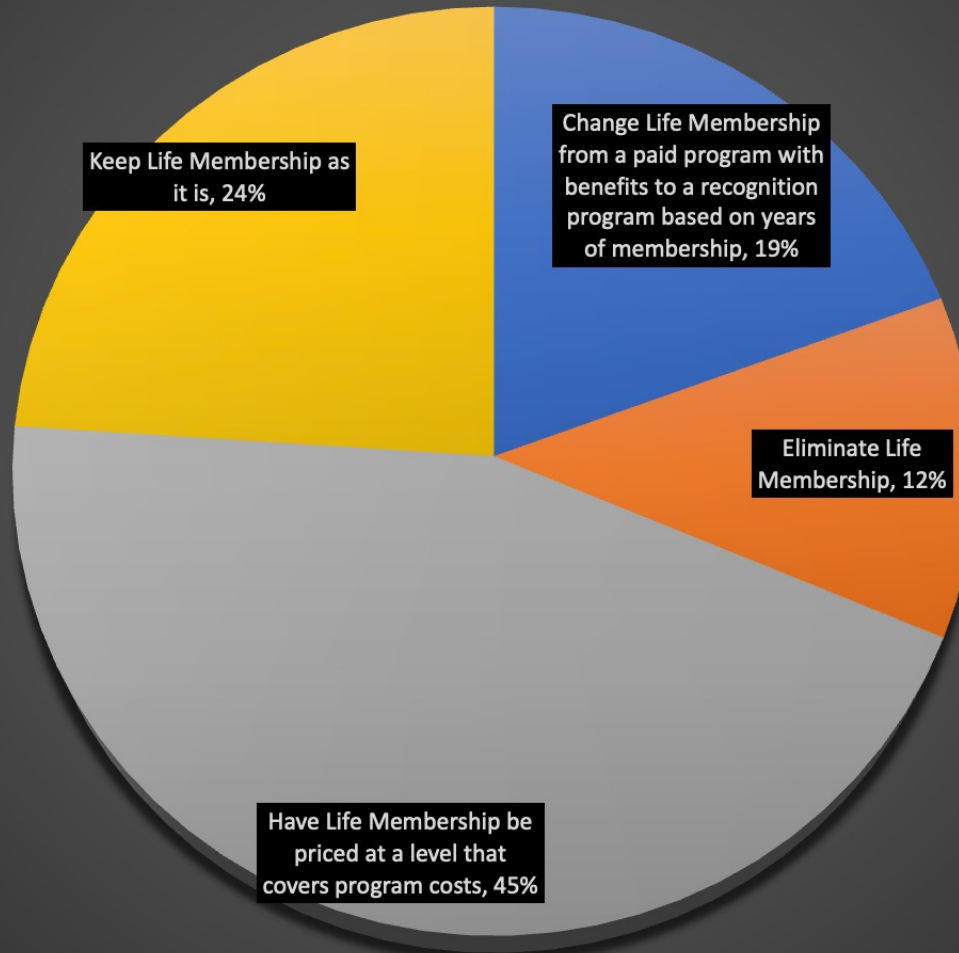
Question 5 - Do you (or could you) support ARRL financially beyond annual dues through Diamond Club, Spectrum Defense Fund, or other donation opportunities?



Member Survey Results



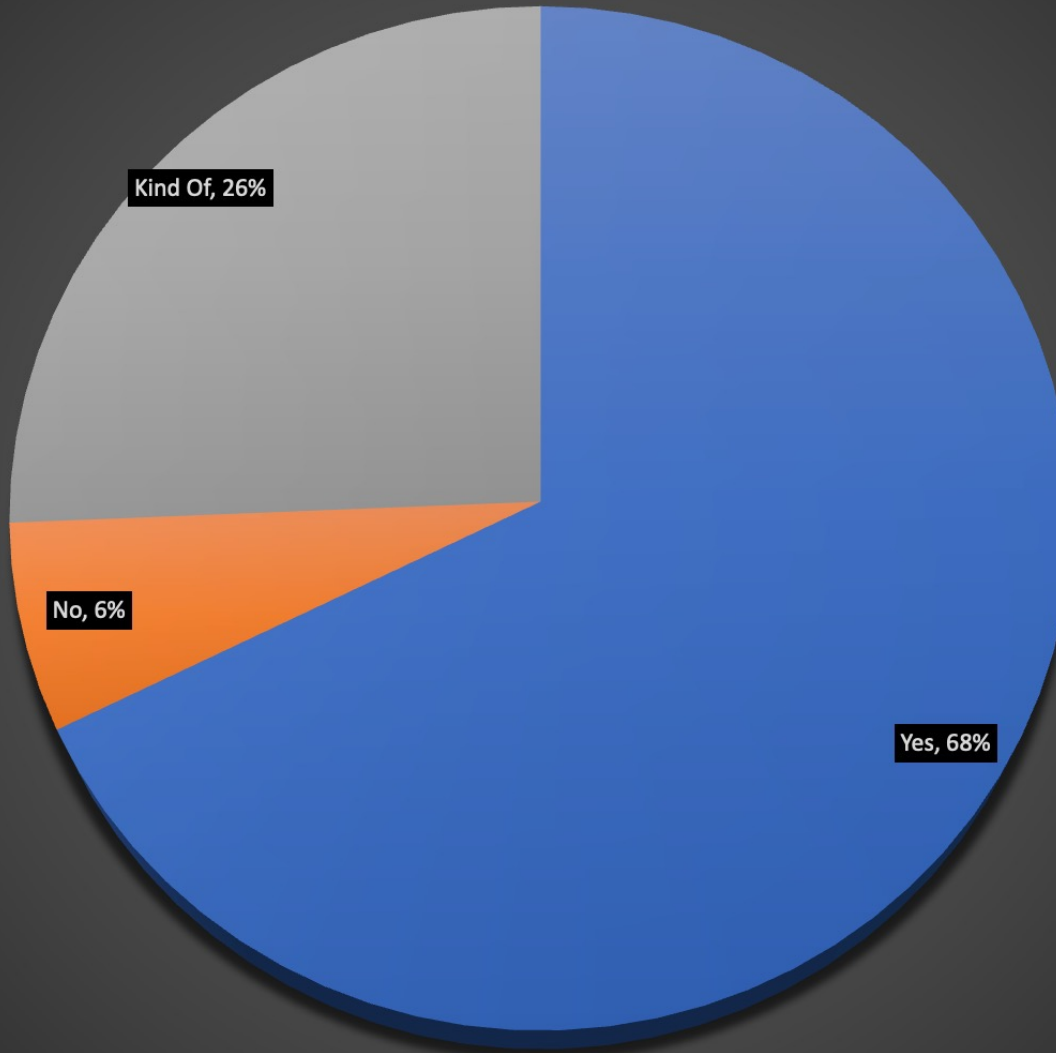
Question 6 – ARRL Life Membership does not cover expenses for the membership. For future Life Memberships should ARRL:



Member Survey Results

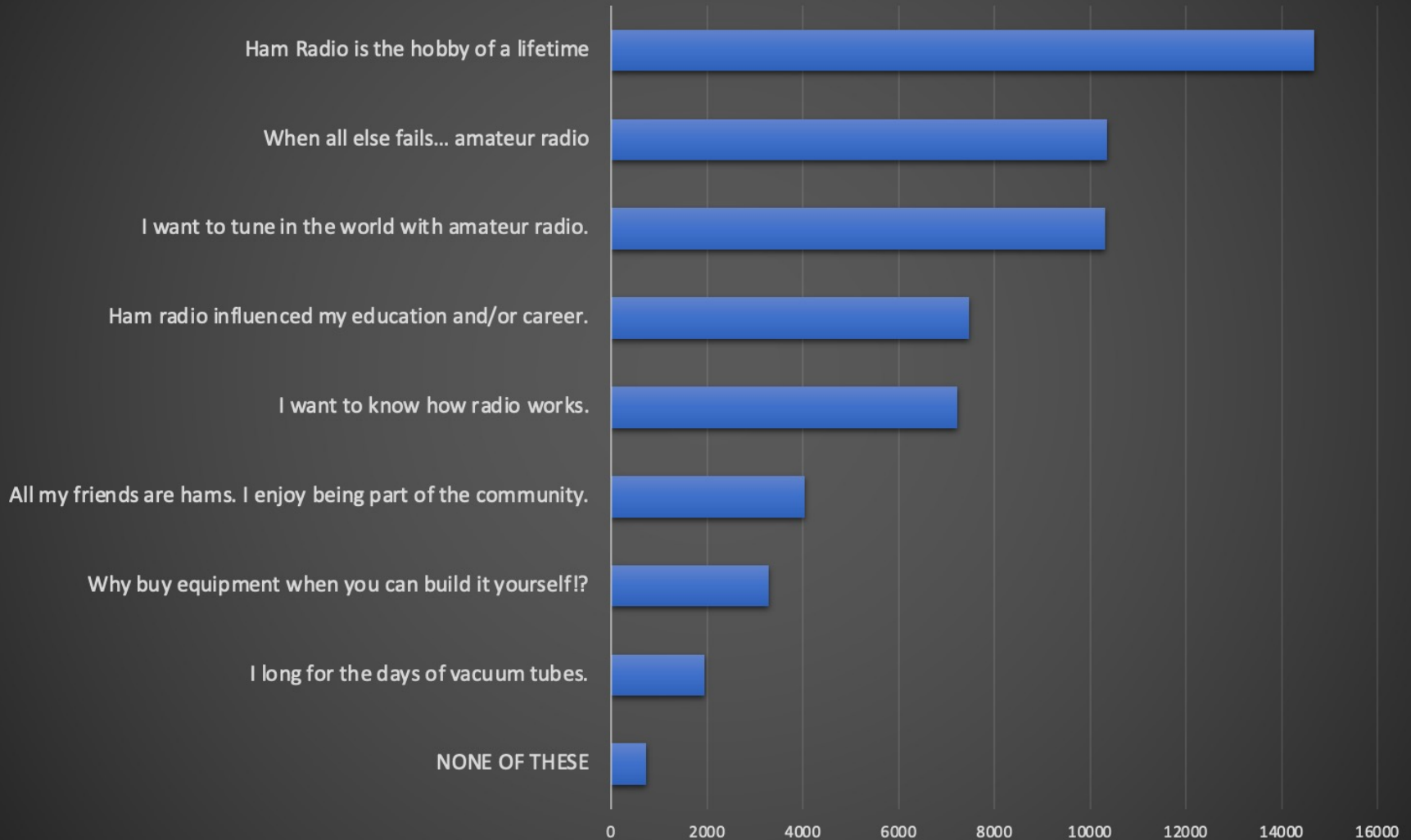


Question 8: Do you consider yourself an active ham?



Member Survey Results

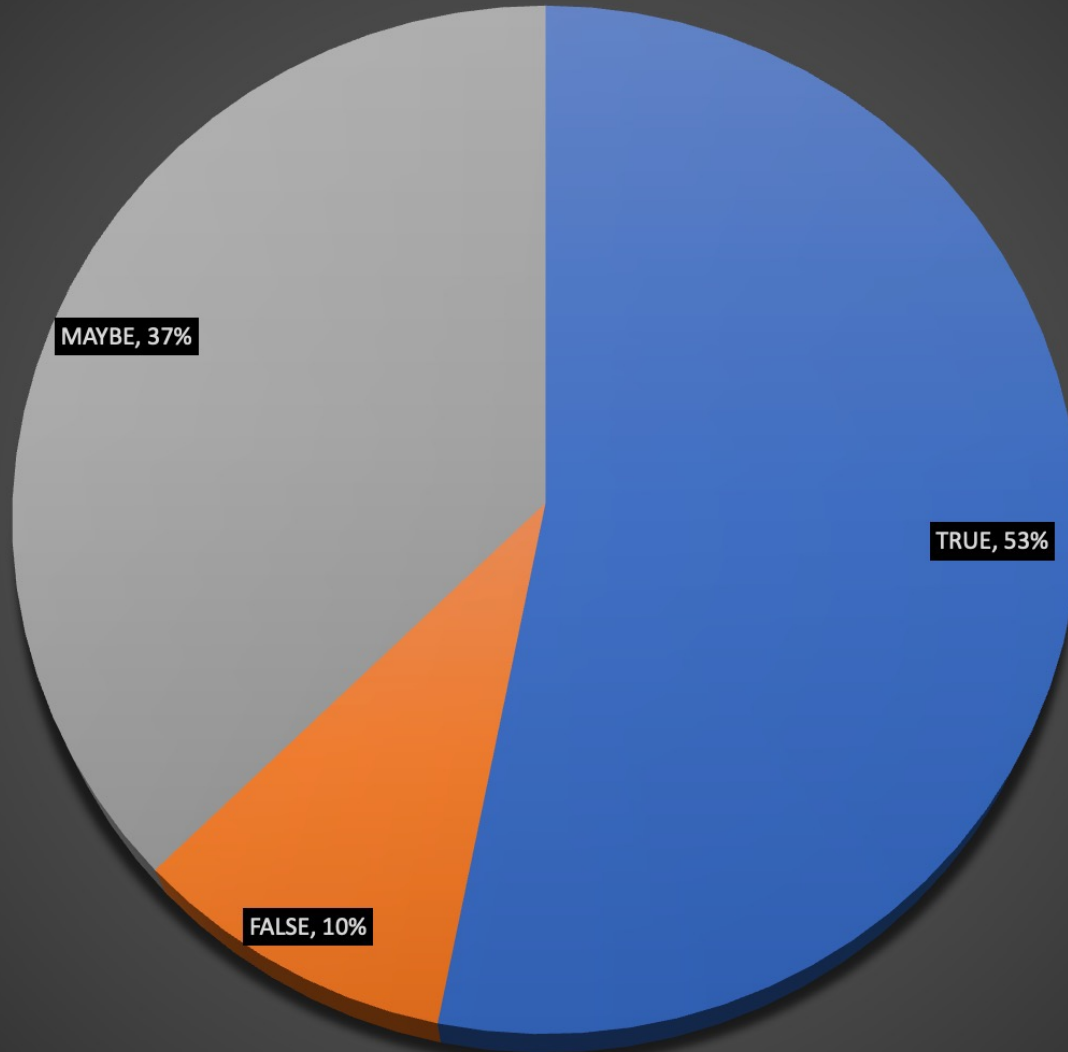
Question 9: Which of the following statements best describes your participation in amateur radio?



Member Survey Results



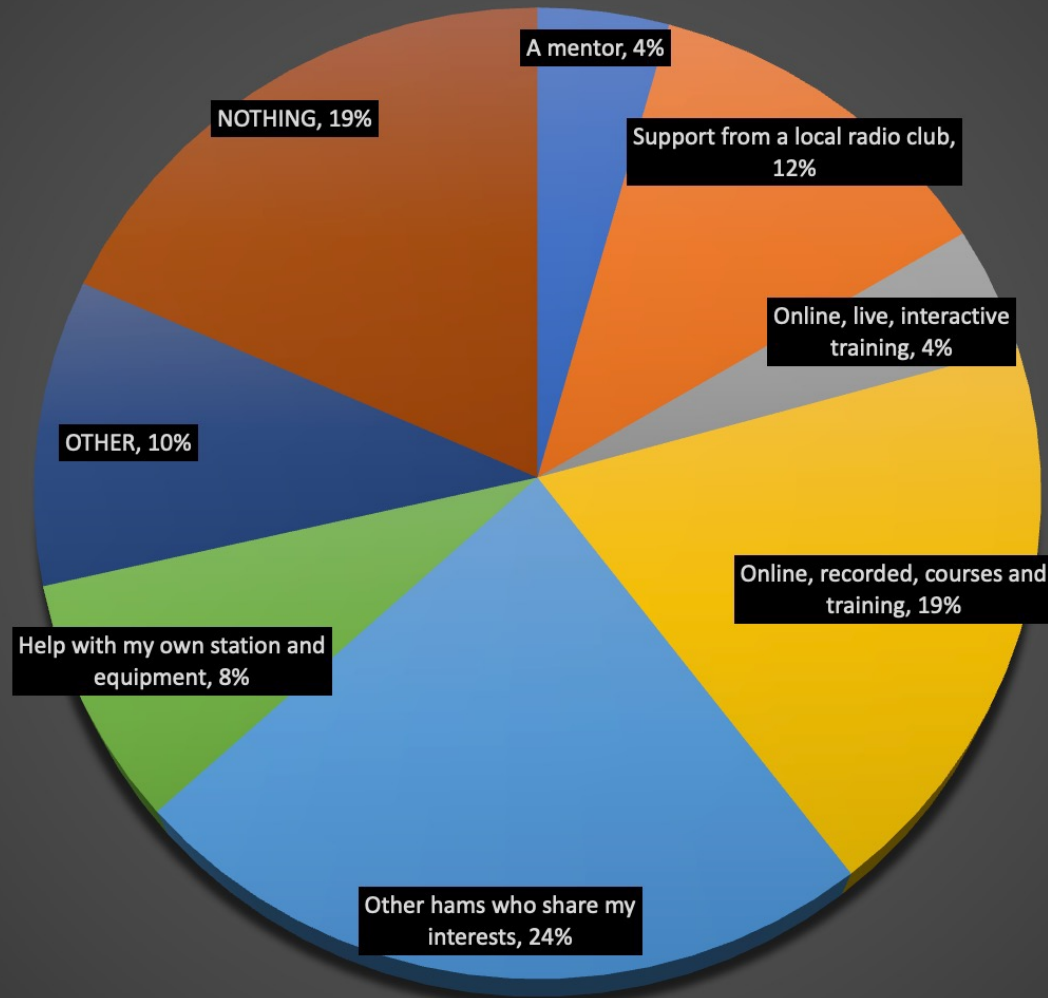
Question 10: Without ARRL, amateur radio might not exist today.



Member Survey Results



Question 11: What, if anything, might help you stay active (or become more active) in amateur radio?



Member Survey Results



Question 12: ARRL currently sells an end-fed half-wave antenna kit.
Should ARRL offer more kits and radio products?

