2015 Activity Report

Great Lakes Division

Dale Williams WA8EFK, Director

Tom Delaney W8WTD, Vice Director

At the January ARRL Board meeting, with the approval and support of the Programs and Services Committee, WA8EFK presented a proposal for creating a new appointment of Assistant Section Traffic Manager, paralleling that of Assistant Section EC. The motion was passed and placed into service. MI SM Larry Camp WB8R provided the early impetus for the new position. Dale was elected to serve on the ARRL Executive Committee and appointed by President Craigie to chair the Ethics and Elections Committee.

In February, WA8EFK, SM Larry Camp WB8R and the Michigan Political Action Team met with Michigan Congressman Tim Wahlberg, to discuss Amateur Radio Parity Act, and obtained the Congressman's agreement to become a co-sponsor. Ohio SM Scott Yonally N8SY and WA8EFK presented the 2014 Herb S. Brier Award from the ARRL to Marion County, OH resident Bill Finnegan. Scott also presented to two of Ohio's outstanding Boy Scout Leaders with a brand new award from the ARRL, the Community Organization (Square Knot) award. The recipients were both from the Muskingum Valley Council #467, Billie Dickson WB8TRK and Matthew Murphy KC8BEW.

In March, WA8EFK, WB8R and the MI Political Action Team had the opportunity to meet with Michigan Governor Snyder as he signed Michigan's long-sought-after equivalent of the PRB-1 Act. Ohio DEC Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was awarded the Red Cross 2015 Senior Hero award in Athens, Ohio. Slattery is a member of his local Red Cross Emergency Communication team.

During April, Alan Morgan KY1O became the new Section Manager for Kentucky. Over the ensuing months, Alan has attended the Section Manager's Workshop and has continued to build his team. In addition, KY has implemented several added media services to keep KY hams abreast of Section happenings. Dale and Vice Director Tom Delaney W8WTD participated in the September 2015 ARRL Kentucky Leadership Conference, at the Greater Louisville Hamfest, addressed two of the meetings and hosted the ARRL Table.

May's big event is always the Dayton Hamvention® and the Great Lakes Division hosted Dayton's ARRL Forum. This year, we welcomed speakers Pres. Kay Craigie N3KN, 1st VP Rick Roderick K5UR, 2nd VP Jim Fenstermaker K9JF, and CTO Brennan Price N4QX.

There were 63 Hamfests and similar gatherings held within the Great Lakes Division during 2015. WA8EFK was able to support our Section Mangers and the Field Organization at eleven of those events and Tom participated at nine during the year. Tom and Dale took advantage of League supplied software at many of these get-togethers to print constituent letters in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

During 2015, W8WTD spoke at five Amateur Radio clubs on behalf of ARRL while WA8EFK served as the guest speaker at four club meetings in the Division. These talks focused on the overall ARRL organizations structure and provided the ideal opportunity to fold in discussion of the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

Sean Kutzko KX9X and Katie Allen WY7YL, members of the ARRL PR Leadership team were guests of the MSU Alumni Association staff at a special Michigan State University-hosted forum on Public Relations. Here the MSU group explained the key factors they use in developing their PR programs and how those ideas can be applied to the ARRL's PR efforts. Dale was able to participate in the closing banquet.

The Great Lakes Division held its biennial Convention in August, hosted by the Voice of Aladdin ARC in Columbus. Tom and Dale conducted the ARRL Forum, and the Awards Meeting in addition to the usual duties of hosting the ARRL Table. Debra Johnson, K1DMJ Manager of the Education Department was our guest ARRL speaker. The attendance broke records for this Hamfest. The Ohio Section also celebrated the newest inductee of the Allan Severson Award when N8SY presented it to Robert Dixon, W8ERD. Michigan SM Larry Camp WB8R presented the ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award to Frank Maynard NF8M and honored Michigan's Ham of the Year, Ed Hude WA8QJE.

In December, Dale WA8EFK accepted the appointment to chair the newly formed Public Service Programs Enhancement Working Group of the Programs and Service Committee. Dale is also serving as a member of the DXCC Card Checking Working Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Williams WA8EFK, Director

Tom Delaney W8WTD, Vice Director