From the ARRL CEO to all Section Managers

Happy New Year! I want to take this opportunity, now that the Annual Board meeting is complete and our 2021 operation plan approved, to reach out to you to share some updates.

First, we have begun the task to completely restructure the way we interact with you, our Section Managers. You probably won’t be surprised by this, but on a call last week a Section Manager remarked “This is the first time I’ve ever had HQ call me!” Well friends, stay tuned. There are big changes in the wind. I have put together a committee – that I will be adding to this week – of Vice Directors, Section Managers, and radio club leaders – to create a new program to transform the way we engage and support each other. Elements of this new program will include customizable content, leadership training, and more ways to collaborate. As someone who came up through a few fairly successful clubs, I can tell you: I am *EXCITED* to be working on this initiative!

Second, we have quite a slate of projects going on at HQ. We are working to make our content more accessible and timelier to the vision impaired and blind. We are working to reengineer W1HQ into an extension of the ARRL Lab that will lead to initiatives with Raspberry Pi’s, Node Red, MQTT, and other technologies that will contribute more know-how and experiences we can share with members. We have a fantastic opportunity for the Diamond Club this year, giving a nod to the First Day Covers bearing the commemorative Amateur Radio postal stamps from 1964. We are evaluating options on completely rebuilding LoTW – Logbook of The World – and Awards Processing into a new platform. And one of the projects I will be looking for feedback from all of you on is our 2022-2026 5-year strategy!

Last, I want to address what is going on in the world around us right now. You probably read this morning a strongly worded and controversial statement from the FCC regarding the prohibited use of amateur and personal radios for committing or facilitating crimes. ARRL immediately responded with a statement on the purpose of Amateur Radio and that we, as an organization, do not support the misuse of Amateur Radio as that is inconsistent with its purpose AND our values! I encourage you that if you receive a request to ‘comment’, please direct those requests to arrl.org or to ARRL HQ.

Thanks for your volunteerism and leadership. I am very much looking forward to working with you. Stay tuned for a late February ‘all hands’ Zoom conference I will be doing with Section Managers.

Very 73.

David, NA2AA