**Report to the ARRL Board of Directors**

**Annual Meeting – January 2021**

Rod Stafford W6ROD

ARRL Int’l Affairs Vice President

It is my pleasure to report to the Board on my activities as ARRL IAVP since the July 2020 Board Meeting.

Generally, the latter half of the year is a busy one for international matters. This year is no exception. However, the COVID pandemic resulted in almost all activities being virtual in nature.

At the top of my list of important tasks in the last 6 months was to participate in some small way in the ARRL search for a CEO during the late spring and summer of 2020. I was asked to interview all of the references supplied by the 4 finalists. It was an interesting and fun process interviewing the references and it gave me some real insight into the abilities and strengths of the finalists in the process. I appreciate the opportunity to assist the Board in making the selection of the new CEO.

**IARU Administrative Council:**

The Administrative Council (AC) conducted its annual meeting virtually in October. The AC meeting generally takes 1½ or 2 days to go through the agenda for in-person meetings. The virtual meeting took place over the span of 3 days. The annual AC meetings are also held just before or after the regional conference each year. This allows the members of the AC to participate as observers at the regional conferences and to be available as resources for issues that might arise during the course of the conference that may have worldwide IARU consequences.

The AC is made up of 9 individuals. The President (VE6SH), the Vice President (LA2RR), the Secretary (K1ZZ) along with 2 members from each of the three regions. Former ARRL President Joel Harrison W5ZN is the Assistant Secretary and also attends the AC meetings. The 6 people from the regions change somewhat since 2 of the 3 regions allow their executive committee members to attend the AC meetings on a rotating basis. Each of the 3 regions can also select someone to attend as an observer. So there can be as many as 13 or so people attending an AC meeting from all parts of the world.

One of the primary tasks of the IARU is to represent amateur radio at the international level at telecommunication organizations such as the Int’l Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the regional telecommunication organizations such as CITEL (R2), APT (R3) and CEPT, ASMG, ATU and RCC (R1). IARU attends the World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) every 3-5 years. The next WRC will take place in 2023. The agenda for the WRC-23 was set at the last WRC in 2019. This allows 4 years for work to be done before the 2023 conference and time for all the necessary sharing studies to be done to work through the agenda items at the WRC. The IARU is very active in participating in the studies and attending numerous meetings on each of the agenda items to make certain amateur radio interests are protected.

Even though the last WRC took place a little over a year ago, the AC preparations are already underway for the WRC-23. Approximately 20 amateurs who are IARU volunteers from around the world are led by IARU VP Garpestad and are engaged in the preparatory process of the ITU and the regional telecommunications organizations (RTO).

Here are some of the WRC-23 agenda items (AI) that may impact amateur radio that are being closely watched by the IARU:

AI – 1.2: Studying certain bands for a primary allocation to the International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) including 3.300-3.400 GHz and 10.0-10.5 GHz along with 3.6-3.8 GHz, 6.425-7.025 GHz and 7.025-7.125 GHz.

Of course, in Region 2 and 3, amateurs have a secondary allocation in 3.400-3.500 GHz and in all three regions there is a secondary allocation at 10.0-10.5 GHz. IARU opposes the identification of 10.0-10.5 GHz for IMT in Region 2. Usage has shown that amateur operations in the 10.0-10.5 GHz is compatible with the other services currently using the band. An allocation to IMT would seriously impair the use of the band by radio amateurs. As for the 3 GHz band, most amateur operation is above 3.400 GHz. In the U.S., this issue regarding 3.300-3.500 GHz may be moot with the recent actions of the FCC related to that band.

AI – 1.12: Studying a possible secondary allocation to the Earth exploration – satellite service (Active) for spaceborn radar sounders in the frequencies around 45 MHz.

Although not directly impacting an amateur allocation, IARU supports sharing studies to make sure that incumbent services in the adjacent bands are protected. For example, the amateur allocation at 50-54 MHz.

AI – 1.14 Review of allocations for Earth exploration – satellite service (passive) in the frequency range 231.5 – 252 GHz.

241-248 GHz is a secondary allocation to the amateur and amateur satellite service. 248-250 GHz is a primary allocation to the amateur and amateur satellite service. IARU will seek to retain the primary allocation at 248-250 GHz. Adjustment of the allocations at 241-248 GHz if absolutely necessary is acceptable if equivalent spectrum access is provided in the 231.5-248 GHz range.

AI – 1.18: Studies relating to spectrum needs and potential new allocations to the mobile satellite service in the following bands: 3.300-3.315 GHz, 3.385-3.400 GHz and other bands for future development of narrowband mobile satellite services.

The IARU position is that there is no objection to the introduction of narrowband MSS at 3.300-3.315 and 3.385-3.400 provided the amateur secondary allocation at 3.300-3.400 GHz is maintained in Region 2 and 3.

AI – 9.1 Topic A: Protection of radio spectrum-reliant space weather sensors used for global prediction and warnings.

This agenda item could include broad amounts of spectrum from 13 kHz up to at least 15 GHz. A significant amount of amateur radio activity occurs in this range. The IARU view is that in considering any potential new regulatory provisions for the recognition of space weather systems that additional constraints on incumbent services, including the amateur service, must be avoided.

AI 9.1 Topic B: Studies on technical and operational measures in the frequency band 1.240-1.300 GHz to ensure the protection of the radionavigation-satellite service (space to earth).

After many years of operational experience, wide scale interference into any primary service in this frequency band has not happened. Radio amateurs have successfully coexisted with the primary users and there is no need for further regulatory, operational or technical measures.

At each AC meeting, the AC receives reports from various coordinators. They are the EMC Coordinator, the IARU Beacon Project Coordinator, the Satellite Advisor and the Special Advisor for Emergency Communications (which is me).

For the last 10 years or so, I have represented the IARU at the ITU Development Sector Study Group 2 meetings. One of the subjects covered in SG2 includes disaster communications. I reported on my activities since the last AC meeting. That included reports for the October 2019 SG2 meeting and the last in-person meeting of February 2020 before the COVID situation arose and subsequent meetings became virtual meetings. My report detailed arrangements for the ITU Development Sector World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) that is set to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I will be attending the WTDC on behalf of IARU.

In 2019, the AC created a committee (IARU VHF+ Committee) to deal with growing pressure from other spectrum users on the amateur spectrum allocations above 144 MHz. There are a number of administrations advocating spectrum sharing to accommodate other services without waiting for any ITU WRC process. The committee’s mandate is to identify and coordinate the amateur radio spectrum on bands above 144 MHz that could be targets for spectrum sharing and to arrive at a plan for dealing with the attempts to impose sharing of such bands. The AC requested input from member societies as the committee gathers information about usage of the bands that may become “targets” for sharing. Information was provided by a very active user of the UHF and SHF bands and from a knowledgeable ARRL columnist dealing with those bands.

The AC established the Working Group on the Future of IARU and the group reported to the AC at the meeting. The output or deliverables from the group are recommendations regarding any changes that need to be made by the IARU to become a more flexible organization to ways to strengthen its relationships with other stakeholders in the international community of spectrum users. The Working Group will report to the AC at the 2021 AC meeting.

As a general rule, the Secretary of IARU issues a “calendar” sometime after the AC meeting. The IARU *Calendar* is the official means of communication from the IARU to all of the member societies. It usually is sent out when the AC is asking the member societies to take some action. In late December 2020, the Secretary issued *Calendar* *201*. It contained some of the information about the meeting that is discussed above. It also announced that there were 2 new IARU member societies. All applications for new IARU member societies must first be approved by the regional executive committee where the society is located. If the region approves, then the application goes to the AC. If everything seems to be in order, the AC directs that a vote take place with all IARU member societies casting a vote whether to admit the new society or not. In *Calendar 201*, the Secretary announced that the Saudi Amateur Radio Society (SARS) and the Seychelles Amateur Radio Association (SARA) each received enough votes and are the 2 newest IARU societies. The Calendar also announced that 2 new Region 1 societies had been approved by Region 1 and the AC directed a vote on the new applications. The voting period is underway for worldwide IARU societies to vote on the 2 new applications. The applications are from the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR) which is IARU Proposal No. 261 and the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society (BARS) which is IARU Proposal No. 262. The deadline for each of these proposals is 5 months after the date of the *Calendar*, or 28 May 2021. I have prepared two motions proposing that the ARRL Board of Directors vote YES on the admission of both ARUKR and BARS as IARU member societies. The motions are attached to this report.

**IARU REGION 2:**

IARU Region 2 had 4 virtual meetings during 2020 and there were a number of developments within R2. The R2 EC started a program of on-line workshops during 2020. The workshops were pretty successful. Several hundred viewers participated in the live streaming events and almost 3,000 views total. Subjects covered initially by the workshops were WinLink (English and Spanish), Emergency Communications and Satellite Communications. The Satellite Workshop had about 300 virtual attendees for the live presentation. Based upon the response to the workshops and lessons learned, more workshops are going to be planned for 2021. Region 2 has about 42 member societies within its geographical area.

One of the issues that has developed over the years within IARU is the speed with which changes, both organizationally and technically, can be made. In the past, items like band planning changes haven’t been addressed for long periods of time between triennial conferences. The R2 EC modified its “Standard Operating Procedures” so that band planning changes from the permanent R2 Band Planning Committee, with the approval of the EC, can circulate the band planning changes to the R2 member societies. If no more than one objection is received to the change, the change is deemed accepted and reported as such at the next triennial conference. In Region 1, there is a very active band planning committee that works on issues all the time and changes are made without waiting until the next conference.

R2 now has a Liaison for Youth. Sterling Mann N0SSC was appointed to the position in August. Sterling and Ward Silver N0AX presented a youth action plan to the EC which was approved. The goal of the IARU Region 2 Youth Action Plan is “to promote community between young radio amateurs by facilitation of online and offline meetings between youth through spontaneous groups and member societies of IARU Region 2.” The Liaison for Youth will serve as Region 2 contact for individuals, groups and organizations. Sterling will make introductions and connections between interested groups and organizations, help locate or arrange for IARU resources for events and organizations and provide publicity assistance for events and organizations. Region 2 hopes to pattern the success of the YOTA (Youth on the Air) program in Region 1. More on this later in this report dealing with the Region 1 Conference. Some of the tasks that the Liaison for Youth will be involved in are surveying youth and determining their interests, identifying strong leaders and facilitators for groups of youth, facilitate online “meet ups” with the end result of hopefully getting youth interested in amateur radio and on-the-air activities. It will be interesting to follow this R2 development to determine if their efforts are successful.

At the August 2020 Region 2 EC meeting, Kermit Carlson gave a detailed review of the issue of Wireless Power Transfer – Electric Vehicles (WPT-EV) as one of the most critical issues currently under study. Kermit serves as the IARU EMC Representative at CISPR.WPT-EV is designed to be used for home charging of vehicles and could present an enormous amount of noise to amateurs in the area where vehicles are being charged by way of WPT-EV. There needs to be accurate and up-to-date information as to the noise levels in various environments in order to demonstrate potential impacts by WPT to HF operations within the amateur bands. Incidentally, ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare W1RFI serves as the R2 EMC Coordinator. It is good to see ARRL staff and volunteers involved at the regional level.

A beta release of WSJT added additional frequencies in the software which could extend FT8/FT4 operation and conflicting with other digital modes. Alphonse Penney VO1NO serves as chair of the R2 Band Planning Committee and contacted R1 and R3 about this development. They formed a team to work together to re-plan IARU guidance for the digital segments to accommodate the rapid growth of FT8/FT4. The group will continue to work with K1JT to try to find a reasonable plan for accommodating operations on all digital modes.

Dr. Cesar Pio Santos HR2P has served as the IARU Region 2 Emergency Coordinator for almost 10 years. He recently stepped down from that position and the R2 EC appointed Dr. Carlos Alberto Santamaria CO2JC to replace Dr. Santos.

The ARRL is the largest dues contributor to IARU Region 2. The pandemic and its impact on travel caused all in-person meetings for R2 to be suspended until further notice. It is likely no in-person meetings will be held until at least mid-2021. Therefore, travel costs for the region decreased drastically this year. Accordingly, the R2 EC approved a member society dues reduction of 50% for 2021. ARRL dues for 2020 were approximately $18,890.

**IARU REGION 1:**

As most of you are aware, each of the 3 IARU regions conducts a regional conference every three years on a rotating basis. Each year, one of the 3 regional conferences is held. 2020 was the year when IARU Region 1 was to hold its regional conference. The officers and directors proposed to hold a virtual conference in 2020 to take care of much of the usual conference business and then hold an in-person second portion of the conference in 2021 to take care of some of the other conference matters such as election of officers and election of the R1 EC members. The second portion, the in-person portion, will be held later in 2021 when international travel has resumed and it is safe for gatherings to take place. At least that is the plan at this point.

The virtual portion of the conference took place in October 2020. I was granted permission to participate as an observer in the conference. The ARRL is not a member of Region 1 but we have in the past attended the Region 1 conferences as observers. R1 has the largest number of member societies amongst the 3 regions and it has been beneficial attending their events and discussing amateur radio matters with some of the R1 societies that have infrequent contact with ARRL officials. We attend the R2 and R3 conferences as we are members of both of those regions.

Incidentally, since most all of the current directors and officers have not attended an IARU regional conference, I have attached to this report a brief summary of what actually takes place at a regional conference. Hopefully, this will be helpful information in understanding the activities carried out at these conferences.

To start off the R1 virtual event, the R1 Youth Working Group conducted a session. Several years ago, R1 decided to really step up its efforts to attract young people to amateur radio. The region has taken the challenge to heart and has done some good work in making attracting youth a priority.

At the beginning of the conference the Youth Working Group made a presentation about its activities during the 3 years since the last R1 conference. Youth is defined as anyone under age 26 years by the way. Lisa Leenders PA2LS has been the Chair of the Youth WG for a number of years and has been very active in promoting the goals of the WG. Lisa was licensed when she was 13 years old but having “aged out” so to speak since she is now in her early 20’s and has turned over the chair of the WG to a younger ham, Philipp DK6SP.

Among other things, the WG has sponsored the YOTA Summer Camp and 7 sub-regional summer camps (not in COVID 2020) for young hams, sponsored contests and they are very active on social media. December each year is YOTA (Youngsters on the Air) month and in December 2019 over 130,000 QSOs were identified as youth QSOs among the young ham operators.

Under the YOTA Youth Contest Program, youth members from IARU member societies are invited to take part in a contest from some of the so called “Top-Gun” stations around the world. These young hams will learn how to operate the contest station, improve their contest skills and will aim for the best results together as a team.

The R1 member societies have started appointing youth coordinators to promote the goals of the R1 youth program. Over 30 of the societies now have youth coordinators.

Region2 and 3 have now officially adopted a youth program along the lines of the Region 1 program.

Region 1 has over 100 member societies and has a very active and diversified group of working groups and committees that carry out the work of the region. Region 1 relies heavily on a core group of volunteers to take part in its committee and working group activities on a year-round basis. There are five Permanent Committees, which act in an advisory capacity with the aim of considering policies and coordinating activities in the relevant parts of the radio frequency spectrum or Regional activity.

* Spectrum and Regulatory Liaison Committee
* HF Committee
* VHF/UHF/Microwave Committee
* EMC Committee
* Political Relations Committee

In addition there are four Working Groups covering specific activities within amateur radio:

* ARDF — Direction Finding Working Group
* HST — High Speed Telegraphy Working Group
* STARS (Support for the Amateur Radio Service) Working Group
* Youth Working Group

There are also Coordinators covering other areas of activity which do not warrant a full Working Group being established. They cover the following areas:

* ARSPEX (Amateur Radio Space Exploration)
* Emergency Communications
* HF beacons
* IARUMS — IARU monitoring system
* International Programme for Disabled Amateurs (IPDA)
* Regulatory Affairs
* Satellites
* VHF/UHF/Microwave beacons

Among the actions taken by the R1 conference, the group has planned a workshop on the future of amateur radio to take place during the in-person 2021 portion of the conference. The region has been working with a consultant to develop a plan to have a full range discussion about amateur radio and actions needed to be taken in the future to preserve and strengthen the service.

R1 created a Technology Working Group. The new TWG will look for opportunities to expand the horizon of radio amateurs, within the IARU and National Societies context and will create a home for science-oriented people to enhance their activities by including Amateur Radio. Hopefully, it will also create an opportunity to encourage young people who are studying for an engineering or science career to join the rank of Radio Amateurs to further their interest and in the process contribute to growing amateur radio.

R1 has had a campaign for several years which measures the noise levels within the HF bands. It is providing a lot of information to counter some out of date noise level measurements from years ago that are being used for sharing radio service purposes by telecommunication regulatory organizations including the ITU. The work in R1 will continue and expand within the region.

The R1 member societies are being encouraged to raise awareness of their national administrations and their telecommunication regulators of the risk of WPT-EV to radio communications, including amateur radio.

At the close of the conference, the consensus was that the virtual conference really was not quite as effective as an in-person meeting but under the circumstances went fairly well. Everyone was looking forward to the in-person meeting in 2021 along with the workshop on the future of amateur radio.

**IARU REGION 3:**

The Region 3 Directors met virtually in October. The meeting had been planned to take place in-person in Thailand which will be the site of the R3 Conference in 2022. However, the pandemic caused the group to get together on a Zoom conference. They were joined by IARU President Time Ellam VE6SH and IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad LA2RR. R3 is the smallest of the 3 regions in the category of number of member societies with 29 member societies.

The directors discussed the work of the IARU Future Committee and the R3 Directors noted the importance of the work of this project. Members of the R3 leadership will participate in the work of the committee which involves moving or evolving toward a more flexible organization and strengthening relationships with all stakeholders in the amateur radio community and the telecommunications community.

The R3 Directors made a point of encouraging the R3 member societies to work with their administrations. One of the major duties of each IARU member society is for the society to maintain good contact and good relations with the country’s telecommunication authority. In many parts of the world it is difficult to get the member societies to enter into and maintain a relationship with the regulator. Region 3 is trying to encourage the effort among the societies. My observation of the years is that in many societies, they just don’t make the effort to maintain such a relationship. Then, when it comes time for the administration to cast a vote at either regional telecommunication meetings or at ITU meetings, there has been no input from the member society even on pure amateur radio related issues. It is an uphill battle that must continue and the member societies must be vigilant in this effort.

The R3 HF band plan will need to be revised to accommodate digital modes that are gaining popularity especially on 40 meters. There will be an effort to harmonize the R3 band plan with the other regions where possible to do so.

There was concern at the meeting about the upcoming 2022 R3 Conference that is set for October 2021 in Bangkok, Thailand. It is hoped that the conference can be an in-person event but a final decision on that issue will be made in the spring of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Stafford W6ROD

Int’l Affairs Vice President

IAVP 1

Moved by: Mr. Stafford

Seconded by:

**Admission of the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR) to IARU**

Whereas, the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR) has forwarded an application for IARU Membership through IARU Region 1 to the IARU Secretary;

Whereas, the application reflects that ARUKR meets the requirements for IARU Member Society status;

Whereas, there is no current IARU Member Society in the Kyrgyz Republic;

Whereas, the IARU Administrative Council voted to conduct a vote of all member societies on the admission of ARUKR as contained in IARU Proposal No. 261;

Whereas, in order to be counted, Proposal 261 voting sheets must be received by the International Secretariat no later than 28 May 2021;

THEREFORE, after due and careful consideration, the ARRL Board of Directors directs the ARRL CEO/Secretary to vote YES on IARU Proposal No. 261 concerning the admission of the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR) as an IARU Member Society and to forward the Proposal No. 261 Vote Sheet to the IARU International Secretariat to be received prior to 28 May 2021.

IAVP 2

Moved by: Mr. Stafford

Seconded by:

**Admission of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society (BARS) to IARU**

Whereas, the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society (BARS) has forwarded an application for IARU Membership through IARU Region 1 to the IARU Secretary;

Whereas, the application reflects that BARS meets the requirements for IARU Member Society status;

Whereas, there is no current IARU Member Society in the Bahrain\*;

Whereas, the IARU Administrative Council voted to conduct a vote of all member societies on the admission of BARS as contained in IARU Proposal No. 262;

Whereas, in order to be counted, Proposal 262 voting sheets must be received by the International Secretariat no later than 28 May 2021;

THEREFORE, after due and careful consideration, the ARRL Board of Directors directs the ARRL CEO/Secretary to vote YES on IARU Proposal No. 262 concerning the admission of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society (BARS) as an IARU Member Society and to forward the Proposal No. 262 Vote Sheet to the IARU International Secretariat to be received prior to 28 May 2021.

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\* There was a previous IARU Member Society in Bahrain, the Amateur Radio Association Bahrain (ARAB). Before taking up the application of BARS, the status of ARAB had to be determined. ARAB’s membership rights were suspended in 2016 due to non-payment of dues and lack of activity. Following an investigation, the IARU Administrative Council and the Region 1 Executive Committee were satisfied that ARAB no longer exists. Therefore, the application of BARS could be considered.

**Summary of Regional Conference Proceedings**

One of the things I intended to do in my capacity as the IAVP this time around was to try to give the members of the board family a better understanding of what goes on at the international level of amateur radio. Since few directors have had the opportunity to participate in regional conferences it seemed that was a good place to start.

There are 3 IARU regional organizations. Each year one of the regional organizations conducts a regional conference. 2020 was the year for Region 1 to hold its conference. As noted earlier in my report, R1 decided to have a virtual conference to handle many of the functions performed at a regional conference and then later in 2021 hold the remainder of the conference when in-person meetings can be held. This discussion will present the situation as it was pre-COVID and as it will likely be post-COVID.

Regional conferences usually begin on Mondays. The weekend prior to the conference is used by the conference organizers to meet and get last minute details taken care of prior to the start of the conference. It also allows for travel on the weekend for those that are taking time away from their work to minimize the time away from work. There are instances when conference activities do take place on the weekend prior to the conference. For example, there are emergency communications programs lasting a half day or a full day that have been conducted prior to conferences. R2 did that a few years ago.

The IARU Administrative Council (AC) generally meets in the area of the conference either before or after the conferences and generally at the same venue. When I was IARU Secretary, I always preferred the AC meeting prior to the regional conference. I wanted to have the 2 day long AC meeting when I was fresh and could fully devote all my energy to the AC meeting rather than sitting through a week-long conference and then having the AC meeting. I think in the last couple of years the AC has continued to meet prior to the conference.

On Monday morning the conference begins with the First Plenary Session. The Plenary on the first day is usually filled with welcoming addresses from the host member society, any regulatory officials attending the conference from either the country where the host society is located or from any of the international organizations like ITU, CITEL, CEPT, etc, along with remarks from the IARU President. The Chairman of the conference is usually elected (candidates for these positions were asked if they would serve prior to the conference) along with committee chairs and secretaries for any of the conference committees or working groups. The organizers of the conference have usually arranged for committee chairs and secretaries prior to the start of the conference and the voting is usually a confirmation of the nominated persons for those positions.

Also during the first plenary, there are reports related to all the member societies that are present and available to vote and whether any of the attending societies hold proxies from societies who are unable to attend but wish to cast votes on any matters coming before the conference.

In the larger conferences, it may take a bit longer to accomplish the above tasks simply due to the number of committees that are populated and the number of speakers who participate in the opening ceremonies. Typically in the afternoon of the first day, the committees start their work. I will list the committees that Region 1 uses during their conferences. There are several. In R2 and R3 there are generally not as many committees. This is due to the number of societies who submit contributions to the conference. Region 1 has over 100 member societies and they generate more contributions and requests than the other two regions. R2 has about 42 member societies and R3 has about 29 or so member societies. At this plenary session, the schedule for the committee meetings is announced so that delegations from the member societies can determine what committees the delegations will participate in and who will attend those meetings. The larger member societies generally will have several people attending the conference. Some may be interested in the administrative committee that handles things like how the region and the conferences are run and they will attend those committee meetings and report back to their delegations on the progress of the work in that committee. Some are interested in HF matters or VHF/UHF matters and will attend those committee meetings and report back to their delegations on those matters.

Region 1 generally has the following committees working during a conference:

C1: Steering Committee

C2: Credentials and Finance Committee

C3: General Administrative and Organizational Committee

C4: Permanent HF Committee

C5: Permanent VHF/UHF and Micrwave Committee

C6: Election and Ballot Committee

C7: Permanent EMC Committee.

There may also be special ad hoc committees that operate during the conference to address special issues that come before the conference.

In the other two regions, there are usually not that many committees operating. For example, in R3 they generally have two working groups that take care of all the contributions to the conference. There simply is not the volume of contributions that are generated in Region 1.

Region 2 usually has the following committees operating during the conference:

Administrative Matters Committee

Operational, Regulatory and Technical Committee (ORT)

Finance Committee

Credentials Committee

Electoral Committee

The committees usually carry out their work on Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday (if necessary). Committee C3 and C4 may have a large number of papers to discuss and they may really push to get all the work done that has been assigned to them. The papers that have been submitted by any of the member societies or by the region Executive Committee have already been assigned to the appropriate committee by the C1 Steering Committee for resolution or a recommendation depending on the content of the contribution and what action is being requested. The committees generally operate on a consensus basis if at all possible. In other words, they try to come up with a consensus that all parties can support. That doesn’t always happen and there may be some societies that will eventually vote against the proposed action or recommendation of the committee.

In the evenings, there are usually receptions that are sponsored by the host member society or the IARU and in some cases, by a large society. For example, during the R3 conference JARL generally sponsors a reception.

The secretary for the region is responsible for making sure all of the output from the committees is in good order for the Final Plenary on the final day of the conference so that all the recommendations of the various committees can be put to a vote. It takes some time to do that and the secretary generally uses Thursday to get all the paperwork in order for a smooth Final Plenary. This provides the opportunity for a little fun and socializing on Thursday for everyone except the secretary. While the secretary is hard at work, all the attendees have time to enjoy a day off from the conference and socialize during an excursion to some interesting place or places nearby the conference site. The host society usually arranges a bus trip to some historic or tourist area or attraction. It’s an opportunity to see a bit of the country or culture in the host country.

Friday is usually the last day of the conference and the Final Plenary is held. All of the recommendations or proposals dealt with by the committees are presented for a vote by the member societies. During the Final Plenary there is generally no discussion involved. The societies either vote for or against the committee recommendations. Most of the proposals move along pretty quickly.

Region 2 has a little different procedure for those seeking an officer position or a spot on the executive committee. On the Wednesday afternoon plenary session, each candidate is given a few minutes to give a statement why they should be elected to the position they are seeking.

And, in Region 3, the conference does not elect a President or Chairman for the region. When all the votes are cast and it is determined who the members of the incoming executive committee are then the new EC retires to conduct a discussion and vote as to who will be the Chairman of the region. In other words, the executive committee determines who will lead the region. Both R1 and R2 have a President. R3 has a Chairman.

The other item that is voted on during the Final Plenary is the election of Officers and Executive Committee members. Most of the politicking has taken place during the week of the conference and now it’s time for the vote. The venue for the next conference is also determined during the Final Plenary.

At each regional conference, the member societies vote on where to hold the next triennial conference. Sometimes these are hotly contested issues. The member societies who wish to host the conference usually prepare information packets and during the conference lobby the member societies votes for their proposal to hold the conference 3 years hence.

This is, in a nutshell, how the conferences are handled. There are slight variations on some of the things that happen during the conference among the regions but they each do basically the same function.

I hope this has been helpful in understanding the regional conference process.

As always, if you have any questions please let me know and I will do my best to give you a satisfactory answer.