PSC Subcommittee on Education Report

July 6, 2017

The PSC Subcommittee on Education has been very busy with the follow up review of the Volunteer Instructor program and its new database as well as three new tasks that were assigned to the subcommittee in January 2017.

The three new tasks are:

Review of the Teacher’s Institute

Review of the ARRL’s relationship with the ARISS/AMSAT program

Creation of new Volunteer Instructor power point programs for Technician and General Class

licenses.

The Subcommittee meet several times using conference calls, E-Mail and Webinar’s. Due to the complexity of the new tasks, the Subcommittee was divided into working groups each of which were assigned one task to complete.

The Working Group leader for the Teacher’s Institute is Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, Vice Director Northwestern Division. Her report follows.

Teachers Institute Report

Some evaluation was completed regarding the Teacher’s Institute but more planning is needed. There are current three Institutes a year – two introductory and one with a more advanced focused topic. There are no records regarding whether they influenced individuals to obtain ham radio licenses or whether materials were developed to use to incorporate the learning into school curriculum. In many school systems, the teachers are required to “teach to the tests” and may not have the opportunity to add materials into the curriculum. In the application materials for the teacher’s institute attendance, there is no indication about whether the teachers attending will be able to incorporate the information into the curriculum. In addition, the attendees have not been provided with curriculum materials to utilize. It has been up to them to develop their own. That has been remedied by Tom Gallagher.

Tom Gallagher recently completed a further evaluation of the Teacher’s Institute and indicates that the number of applications received are not sufficient to have selective attendance. He provided some good recommendations in that report.

More planning is needed on how to move forward with the Teacher’s Institutes. Some recommendations to consider, some from Tom Gallagher’s report, are:

Reduce the number of sessions annually to two, instead of three while more evaluation of completed.

In the application materials, identify whether the applicants will be permitted to incorporate wireless

technology materials into the curriculum.

Identify ways to better target possible applicants, perhaps from private or charter schools who may

have more flexibility for curriculum updates.

Develop a consistent survey of attendees that can identify quantitative data that can evaluate the

success of the program.

The Working Group leader for the ARISS/AMSAT task is Kermit Carlson, W9XA Director Central Division. His report follows.

AMSAT/ARISS Group:

A conference call was held on March 2nd with Frank Bauer, AMSAT VP for and the ARISS International Chair. In attendance on the teleconference from the ARRL was Director Kermit Carlson, Director David Woolweaver, Education Committee Member Dr. David Cockrum, and ARRL Education Department Head Debra Johnson.

A discussion was held regarding the ARRL-ARISS relationship and a description of the coordination between the various ARISS Groups and the ARRL HQ Staff was explained. It was also related that the ARRL is presently represented on the ARISS International Board by Rosalie White, K1STO (Bloomington, IN). Prior to her retirement from the ARRL HQ Staff, Ms. White had been responsible for the AMSAT/ARISS liaison with League Headquarters. A large portion of Debra Johnson’s time was related to be involved with the ARISS-STEM programs and with the scheduling of ARISS School Contacts.

Subsequent changes to the ARRL HQ Staff have currently left the Education/ARISS Department without

staffing, although one measure has been suggested to have the ARISS liaison position remain with Rosalie White. Mr. Gallagher will have more information in his report to the Board. But in general consensus of the members of the ARISS Study Group of the Education Committee and that of Mr. Gallagher that the liaison to AMSAT/ARISS should make reports available to the ARRL Board for each Board meeting. Whether the liaison position requires an appointment by the Board or by the CEO has not been determined. It is obvious that the appointment for this liaison position was unknown to most Board members and that it had been conducted as an internal staff function. Given that it is a liaison to the Board of another independent but closely allied amateur association which has been a long-time partner in Amateur Radio STEM education and owing to the rich history of mutual cooperation and respect, the disposition of the mechanism for appointing the ARISS/AMSAT Liaison should be studied further.

The Working Group leader for the VI Power Point program creation is Kevin O’Dell, N0IRW, Section Manager of the Oklahoma Section West Gulf Division. A brief demonstration of his Working Group’s effort to date may occur after dinner Thursday night.

Respectively submitted by the PSC Subcommittee on Education,

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