**ARRL Midwest Division Report - 2017**

2018 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - January 2018

Pursuant to ARRL By-Law 17, the following annual status report of the ARRL Midwest Division for the year 2017 is respectfully submitted to the ARRL Board of Directors.

Early in the year I joined a search expedition for Amelia Earhart’s Airplane in the remote Pacific Ocean and thus absent from the Midwest Division for three months. During this time Vice-Director Zygielbaum acted in my absence and performed the tasks I would normally do in addition to his own. This situation was a clear example of the role and value of ARRL Vice-Directors.

We have been working hard to encourage the larger ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs to host a Midwest Division Convention. This effort brought fourth two clubs willing to take on the project. The Cedar Valley ARC is going to host the Midwest Division Convention Aug. 4-5, 2018 at the Linn Co. Fair Grounds near Cedar Rapids, IA. The MO-KAN Regional Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (in the Kansas City area) is in the early planning stages for a Division Convention in a following year.

**Division Newsletter**

I normally edit the monthly division newsletter with contributions from Art, the four Section Managers, many Asst. Division Directors, and others. Art edited the March through May issues while I was on travel. It's published monthly on the Division Web Site http://www.arrlmidwest.org. Over 4,000 ARRL members in the Midwest Division receive email notification upon publication of each issue.

**Director Blocksome ARRL Board Committee Service:**

* Administration & Finance Committee thru Jan. 2017
* Programs & Services Committee, member after Jan. 2017, chair after Sep. 2017
* VHF/UHF Contest Revitalization Committee
* ARRL Trade Mark Committee
* ARRL Historical Committee - Chair

**Vice-Director Zygielbaum ARRL Board Committee Service:**

* Programs and Services Committee thru Jan. 2017
* RF Safety Committee starting in Feb. 2017

**ARRL Hamfests & Conventions:**

Art and I attend as many of the larger hamfests and conventions in the division as possible. We always have an ARRL booth, sell memberships, and conduct an ARRL Forum.

**Vice-Director Art Zygielbaum attended the following Hamfests & Conventions:**

Mar. 11, 2017 – Nebraska State Convention, Lincoln, NE

Aug. 6, 2017 - Cedar Valley ARC Hamfest, Cedar Rapids, IA

**Director Rod Blocksome attended the following Hamfests & Conventions:**

Jan. 28, 2017 - St. Louis, MO Hamfest (Winterfest)

May 19-22, 2017 - Dayton Hamvention & Donor Reception, Dayton, OH

Aug. 6, 2017 - Cedar Valley ARC Hamfest, Cedar Rapids, IA

Aug. 20, 2017 - Kansas State Convention, Salina, KS

Aug. 26, 2017 - 27th Annual Joplin Hamfest, Joplin, MO

Sep. 23, 2017 – Iowa State Convention, Sergeant Bluff, IA

Oct. 1, 2017 - Southeast Iowa Hamfest, West Liberty, IA

Nov. 4, 2017 – Hamfest Raytown, MO

Nov.5, 2017 - W0BXR Hamfest, Davenport, IA

**ARRL Forum Presentations were conducted by either Art or Rod:**

* Nebraska State Convention
* Kansas State Convention
* Iowa State Convention
* Joplin Missouri Hamfest
* Boeing Employees ARC Meeting, St. Louis, MO, Sep. 18, 2017
* Ararat Shrine Hamfest
* Cedar Valley ARC Hamfest

**Active ARRL Affiliated Clubs in the Midwest Division:**

The Midwest Division has a large number of active amateur radio clubs affiliated with ARRL and more are added each year. Currently we have a total of 156 clubs broken down by section as follows:

* Iowa = 44 (2 are Special Service Clubs)
* Kansas = 34
* Missouri = 57
* Nebraska = 21 (1 is a Special Service Club)

This is an increase of 9 active affiliated clubs in the division which includes three new Amateur Radio Clubs that became affiliated with ARRL in 2017:

* Buena Vista ARC in Iowa
* Grundy Area ARC in Iowa
* Lincoln Repeater Club in Nebraska

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**Membership Decreases in the Midwest Division:**

The year ended with 6,717 ARRL Members in the Midwest Division. This is a disappointing decrease of 3.5% for the year. The 2017 decrease follows a similar decrease of 3.4 % in the previous year. The membership dues increase that became effective Jan. 1, 2016 is largely the reason for the decrease. However, after two-years, this “economic decrease” should be finished and we need to place renewed emphasis and focus on attracting new members while retaining current members. By comparison, overall total ARRL membership decreased 3.2 %finishing the year with 159,251 members. (Figures are per end of November 2017)

Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ

ARRL Midwest Division Vice-Director

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

ARRL Midwest Division Director