

**Report to the ARRL Board of Directors  
International Affairs Vice President  
January 2017**

Thank you for the privilege of serving as ARRL IAVP. It is my pleasure to report to the ARRL Board and detail my activities on behalf of ARRL since the July 2016 Board meeting.

**Summary of Meetings and Conventions Attended**

**IARU Region 2 General Assembly** – Vina del Mar, Chile - October 10-14  
**ARRL Executive Committee Meeting** — Chicago, IL - October 22  
**ARRL A&F Committee Meeting** — Teleconference Report - November 19

**IARU Region 2**

**General Assembly**

The IARU Region 2 Member Societies held their triennial General Assembly from October 10 through October 14 this year in Vina del Mar, a twin city of Valpariso, Chile. The General Assembly is an opportunity for representatives of IARU Member Societies to meet to address current issues and other matters that may affect amateur radio between assemblies. Additionally, the General Assembly is a forum to prepare for the next round of ITU and regional telecommunications meetings and prepare common Amateur Radio proposals for those meetings. Finally the Member Societies elect the Region 2 officers and executive committee that will be responsible for administration of Region 2 affairs between General Assemblies.

The General Assembly meets in Plenary Sessions for final action and voting but the bulk of the work is done in committees. The following is a summary of the committee and General Assembly work.

Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session focused on the selection of committee chairs and secretaries. President Roderick was appointed secretary of the Election Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Milesosky appointed Chair of Committee A/B HF/VHF Band. Plan Committee and I was a member of the Committee D Finance.

The IARU hosted a dinner Monday evening. Rod Stafford, W6ROD, retiring IARU Secretary, former ARRL President and former President of IARU Region 2, was awarded IARU Michael Owens award for his long and valuable service to IARU.

That evening I spoke with Carlos Bevigilia, LU1BCE, President, Radio Club Argentina and Jorge Sierra, LU1AS, EMCOR Region 2. Carlos expressed his appreciation for the help Fred Laun, K3ZO in assisting RCA with restructuring its QSL Bureau.

Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> was devoted to committee working sessions.

Sometimes it is difficult to convey the less visible ways in which IARU and Member Societies outside the U.S., work with governments and Telecommunications Authorities who represent the interests of Amateur Radio. A good example occurred on Wednesday morning of the Assembly. While the committees continued their work, members of the Region 2 Executive Committee and a few others were given a private tour of the Chilean Senate and House of Delegates in Valpariso by Chilean Senador Baldo Prokurica, CE1JIU. The key event was a meeting with Senador Ricardo Lago Weber, President of the Chilean Senate. Thanks to the work of Senador Prokurica, Senador Weber was well aware of the work of Chilean Radio Amateurs in emergency communications. His sincere interest in the work of Radio Amateurs was evidenced by scope of his questions. Our meeting with Senador Weber lasted nearly 45 minutes. At the end Senador Weber offered his assistance in working with IARU on telecommunications issues, particularly after he moves from his present position of Senate President to Head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2017.

A press account (in Spanish) of the meeting is attached as Document 5A. .

The Second Plenary was held that afternoon where Committees reported on progress and candidates for Officer or Area Representative (Executive Committee) each candidate provided e a brief oral presentation to the delegates.

On Thursday those participants whose Committee work was essentially finished joined a tour of the Casablanca Valley, a prime agricultural area that is becoming the center of the Chilean wine industry.

All committee reports were uploaded to the Conference Document page prior to the final Plenary Session on Friday. The final Plenary involved review of the committee reports and an opportunity for questions and final changes, At the conclusion each report was accepted.

The full list of Recommendations and actions can be found on the Region 2 Web Page. The Recommendations and actions of most interest to United States amateurs are:

#### **Working Group A Administration**

The Mexican Authority has determined that Amateur Radio is a concession not a internationally permitted activity. As a result they have established a set of rules and regulations that constrain amateur licensing and activity, particularly activity by foreign operators.

#### **Recomendation EC-A-01**

That R2 EC submit to CITELE request for uniform Technical Treatment under ITU Rules specifically pointing out the problems in Mexico. (Note the Authority is attempting to correct some of the problems but this change was a legislative change.

**Recommendation EC-A-03** The R2 EC ask CITELE and the countries that comprise it to look the adopting the CEPT standardized technical requirements to permit operation between R1 and R2 countries according to CEPT Regulation T/R 61. (T/R 61 is a basic set of technical and operating standards in licensing that are approximately equivalent to the US General Class license). The idea is that if a country accepts the standard, it

would permit operation by any CEPT country amateur meeting those standards and vice-versa.

**Recommendation EC-A-04**

1. Request IARU AC retain current regulation re QSL Bureau.
2. Encourage use of LOTW
3. Request Member Society provide a standardized annual Statistical Report of incoming and outgoing QSL's to enable a broad analysis of QSL Bureau use and operation.

**Committee B/C HF and VHF Band Planning was Chaired By 2nd Vice President Milesosky.** I will leave the discussion of the Committee's work to him, except to say that I was told by several participants, including individuals who have worked at the regional and ITU level, that his work as chairman was excellent.

**Finance Committee Recommendations to the General Assembly**

1. Reevaluate bad debts and set a more accurate reserve for doubtful debts
2. Budget amounts for representation at CITELE, ITU and CTU meetings based upon experience
3. Simplify the process for funding requests from the Promotion of Amateur Radio Fund (PARF). Improve the current application so that requests for additional information and unnecessary delays are minimized. Promote appropriate fund usage and establish a response goal of 90 days.
4. Recommend future General Assemblies operate on a three day schedule to reduce costs and encourage participation by more member societies. The four day, if any, should follow conclusion of the GA.

**Election of Region 2 Officers and Executive Committee**

The last item was election of the Region 2 officers and Area Representatives who will hold office until the 2019 General Assembly. With the exception of the Treasurer the current officers were re-elected. The current Treasurer decided not to stand for reelection and I was elected as Region 2 Treasurer for a three year term.

The IARU Region 2 Officers and Executive Committee are:

President - Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AM	Venezuela
Vice President - Ramon Santoyo V, XE1KK	Mexico
Secretary - Jose Arturo Molina, YS1MS	El Salvador
Treasurer - Jay Bellows, K0QB	USA

The Area Representatives (EC Members) are:

Area A, George Gorsline, VE3YV	Canada
Area B, Jay Bellows, K0QB,	USA
Area C, Ramon Santoyo V, XE1KK	Mexico
Area D, Jose Arturo Molina, YS1MS	El Salvador
Area E, Noel Donawa, 9Y4X	Trinidad & Tobago
Area F, Gustavo de Faria Franco, PT2ADM	Brazil
Area G, Ernesto Syrians, LU4AUE	Argentina

### **Executive Committee**

Between General Assemblies, the administration of Region 2 activities is the responsibility of the Executive Committee elected by the member societies. The EC meets in person once per year and maintains communications between meetings using email and virtual meetings using Skype.

### **Other ARRL Activities**

#### **ARRL EC**

I attended the EC meeting in Chicago, IL, at the request of President Roderick this past October to provide the EC with an update on upcoming international matters, the recent Region 2 General Assembly and Region 2 financial matters.

#### **A& F Committee**

At the request of Chairman Pace, I participated by telephone conference call in the A& F Committee meeting on November 19, 2015. I briefed the committee and answered their questions regarding international matters, the recent Region 2 General Assembly and particularly Region 2 financial matters.

### **Foreign Members**

During my tenure as IAVP, I have reminded the Board of the significant number of ARRL members who do not live in any of the 15 domestic ARRL Divisions. As of June 30, 2015 there are 9687 ARRL foreign members. This number has decreased by more than 5 percent in the past year about twice the rate of the decline in domestic membership. The most likely reasons are the increase in dues, the extremely strong dollar and drop in solar activity. Even with this decrease there are more foreign members than reside in 6 of our 15 Divisions. Our foreign members are a valuable part of ARRL and provide significant support to our operations and activities. We would be wise to listen to their views.

Please let me know if you have any questions about ARRL in Region 2 or my efforts on behalf of ARRL as IAVP.

Respectfully,

Jay Bellows, KØQB