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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

January, 2016

Since the July Board meeting, I’ve been aware of “this is the last time …” moments, as I close out the service as an elected official of the ARRL which began when I became Eastern PA Section Manager on October 1, 1986.

My next-to-last club meeting visit was to the Alford Memorial Radio Club in the Atlanta suburbs where I grew up. My father, now a Silent Key, was a member of that club, and a few old-timers remember Jim Cothran N4IQR.

My final club visit took me back to Eastern Pennsylvania Section, where it all began for me as a League official. I spoke to the Frankford Radio Club, of which I was an active member for a number of years.

As Section Manager, I attended all the Section’s dozen or so hamfests each year. When I was an Atlantic Division official, the Director and/or Vice Director attended nearly all of the 50 to 60 hamfests and conventions held in the Division every year, ranging from the (then) second-biggest convention in the country to a handful of hams with open car trunks in the unpaved VFW parking lot. For 10 years I spent nearly every weekend 10 months of the year traveling to and from those events, working the booth, handing out the beloved pink cards, selling memberships, drinking abominable coffee, eating perilous snack bar lunches, and wearing out several sets of road maps.

My final convention visit was to the Roanoke Division Convention in Shelby, NC, which is not far from Charlotte and about 3 hours from my house. Shelby is the biggest convention in the area where I live now, and I recommend it. I stayed until the buyers and most of the vendors were gone, took a final walk around and look around the emptying fairgrounds, and drove away. Doing my last convention at an event in my new home Division was a soft landing, but it was a landing all the same.

Having come in as an Assistant SM writing a paper newsletter for appointees and clubs in Eastern PA, I’m going out in the era of social media. I will be closing out the Twitter feed I’ve used for the last year and a half to promote interest and activity in our legislative advocacy. I have over 350 followers now, including some of our Section Managers. Although some of you are not familiar or comfortable with using social media, I encourage you to get involved and learn the ropes. It costs nothing but a few minutes of your time to do this outreach to present and prospective members. Those of you who do use social media, please show your colleagues evidence of how you use it to promote Amateur Radio and the ARRL.

With new Officers and soon a new CEO, 2016 will be life in interesting times. The Board culture has changed a lot, mostly for the better, since I took the seat as Atlantic Division Vice Director in January, 1990. What hasn’t changed is the importance of collegiality in our parliamentary governance environment. We have always served the members best when we respect our colleagues and trust the process.

Whatever I have accomplished as an ARRL official would have been impossible without the enthusiastic support, encouragement, and sense of humor of my husband and daughter.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Craigie N3KN

President