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**Status of Volunteer Monitor Program as of August 29, 2019**

About 250 ARRL members applied pursuant to an ARRL announcement in May. We conducted telephone interviews with 200. The final list of VM’s was sent to Headquarters Monday, August 12.

190 are in the active VM pool and the remaining ones, including late filers, are in the Reserve Pool. The Reserve Pool will be used as necessary for special projects and to back-fill the VM pool. The remaining applicants, including late filers, are being given the option of asking that we hold their application in our files for possible future use. By this procedure, no applicants got “rejected.”

**Specifically:**

1. We established a moderated e mail reflector just for VM’s and have welcomed them into the program. They have been notified that in a few days they will receive a link to the **Training Manual.**

2. We hope to have the training for the VMs, including the FCC presentation, completed by **September 15.**

3. I am meeting with Laura Smith on Friday, August 30. In a meeting on August 9, she promised that she and David Dombrowski (Region One Director and a licensee) would be ready by the end of the month to broadcast a welcome message and general guidance to the VMs. We are working on the video method for accomplishing that presentation. It will probably be a link made available to the VM’s on the ARRL web site.

4. We are continuing towork with Frank Howell, *SDRplay* and *Flex* on the use of a TDoA (Time Difference of Arrival) signal location system. This is being tested to locate the source of the interference in the “**Afternoon 68**” case, which is the first VM case referred by the FCC. We need to locate the interfering station known to be somewhere between West Plains and Potterville, MO, 500 miles from the Chicago FCC office. This is a priority and for that reason we started it in parallel with the VM training program.

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5. Between now and September 15, we plan to set up the system whereby **notices from VMs**, whether violation notices or good guy notices—with first emphasis on good guy notices—come **through** Headquarters for timely review **before** being issued **from** Headquarters, with VM’s retaining anonymity.

I think that we have gotten a very good pool of VMs. We have about 20 former OO’s, the lead software tech for SDRplay, a Physics professor at Cal Tech, a number of life members, lots of licensees active in club activities, emergency communications and teaching classes. We also have a small number of operators licensed within the past 3 years.

**( Brief VM program background)**

In a meeting with ARRL in 2017, the FCC suggested a revamping of the **OO** program, with more detailed review and training—a total “rebranding”. The FCC promised to make more direct use of ARRL evidence, including using it as a basis for first instance actions, taking advantage of the 1984 Communications Act amendment allowing FCC use of evidence collected by Amateur radio operators. They had never really taken advantage of that, but apparently feel compelled to do so now in view of FCC field office staff cutbacks over the past several years.

The FCC committed to maintaining the anonymity of Volunteer Monitors insofar as allowed by law. The FCC also asked for coverage in certain areas where their staff had no coverage or was drastically thinned out by previous Chairman Wheeler. They have given the ARRL those area for focus in the new program, which the ARRL rebranded as the **Volunteer Monitoring** program.

The FCC has promised to participate in the training and to provide more timely feedback to ARRL on case status.

A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted by ARRL, edited by FCC, reviewed by the FCC Chairman, and signed by the FCC Enforcement Bureau and the ARRL earlier this year.