

ARRL Ethics and Election Committee
January 26, 2021
8:30 PM ET via Zoom

Attendees: Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, Jeff Ryan, K0RM, Mickey Baker N4MB (Chair)

Agenda:

1. *Discuss issues and potential reply to request regarding potential conflict of interest from Director Jairam via email. Email is attached as Attachment 1.*

The meeting was called to order at 8:31pm.

All members of the committee had read Director Jairam's request and a roundtable discussion focused on the notification. The committee appreciates Dir. Jairam's prompt request in order to avoid a *potential* conflict of interest in the event she were to accept the position with ARDC as she described.

After discussion, the committee determined by voice vote that Dir. Jairam took the correct course of action as required ARRL By-Law 45c (3), which requires voluntary and timely disclosure of "potential or actual" conflict of interest. Since this was a query, no actual or potential conflict exists currently.

In order to answer Dir. Jairam's query, the committee does find (by voice vote), that in the hypothetical case where Dir. Jairam were to accept a position on the ARDC advisory committee, a conflict of interest would arise as envisioned in By-Law 45(b)(2), which states, within the definitions of conflicts of interest:

"an interest in or other arrangement with any entity whose business or operation (i) competes with the business or programs of ARRL, or (ii) may be materially affected (positively or negatively) by a decision or action of the Board or by any program, policy, strategy or activity of the League."

In that event, we would expect that Dir. Jairam would disclose this status to the Committee, which would then refer this matter to the full Board of Directors, as required. Because of the significant financial relationships that exist with the ARRL and the ARRL Foundation with ARDC and mutual third parties, we find that this potential conflict, the subject of the query, would not be *de minimus* and potential recusal would be referred to the full Board of Directors as described in ARRL By-Laws 45(c)(4) and (45)(d)

Attachment 1

E-Mail from Dir. Jairam to the committee members

Determination request re ARDC

rjairam@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 5:47 PM

To: Mickey Baker , "Ryan, Jeff, K0RM (Dir, RM)" , "Abernethy, Tom, W3TOM (Dir, AT)"

Greetings,

I was approached by the Directors of ARDC (Amateur Radio Digital Communications) with regard to a position on their grants advisory committee. They felt that it was a good fit for me due to my expertise and connections in the amateur radio and technology community.

You can see more information about this committee here:

<https://www.ampr.org/giving/>

Their mission involves evaluating projects and determining suitability for grants toward projects that seek to enhance amateur radio's educational and technology initiatives.

I am interested in accepting this important opportunity. Having analyzed relevant issues, I do not believe any conflict exists. However, I request an advisory opinion from the E&E committee confirming my conclusions that no real or apparent conflict of interest exists between my service to the ARRL and advancing Amateur Radio's future through serving on an advisory committee which assists ARDC, itself being dedicated to advancing the future of Amateur Radio.

I deeply cherish both Amateur Radio in general and the welfare of the ARRL. I believe that this opportunity would allow both myself and the ARRL to make a significant positive impact on the future of Amateur Radio. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

73

Ria, N2RJ