ARRL Participating in SBA Loan Program

As is the case with tens of thousands of small companies across the country, the ARRL finances have been adversely affected by the pandemic we are currently facing. Reduced revenues and a decline in asset values are the main financial impacts of the COVID-19 situation on the League. In addition, the ARRL was required to comply with the Governor of Connecticut’s order to reduce on-site staff by 100% for non-essential businesses and non-profit organizations as of March 24th. This created the potential for furloughs of some staff whose functions couldn’t be performed remotely.

However, just like tens of thousands of other small companies, ARRL recognized a way to help mitigate some of the financial impact and keep the staff working and fully paid through the Small Business Association’s (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The program was created and funded by Congress to allow the SBA to expeditiously provide financial relief to America’s small businesses in this critical time.

The program was initially funded with $349 billion and was replenished with an additional $310 billion soon thereafter. As of this writing, over 2.2 million small business loans have been issued.

“We have already begun to see the financial effects of the pandemic” said ARRL Interim CEO Barry Shelley, N1VXY. “We recognized quickly that the ARRL was exactly the kind of company that this program was designed to help. Anything that helps the ARRL weather this storm, helps the membership as well” Shelley said. “We are particularly gratified that this program will help ensure that we do not need to furlough any employees.” The Administration and Finance Committee of the ARRL Board agreed and so the staff was tasked to apply for the program. The application was eventually approved and was recently funded.

It is expected that the ARRL will meet all the provisions of the program and the majority of the loan balance will be forgiven. Under the program’s formula, the ARRL borrowed approximately $1 million which will be primarily used to offset payroll costs over an 8-week period.