



CENTRAL ARIZONA DX ASSOCIATION

K7UGA

**P.O. Box 24616
Tempe, AZ 85285-4616**

January 15, 2018

To ARRL Officers and Directors:

I am directing this letter to you on behalf of the officers, directors, and members of the Central Arizona DX Association ("CADXA"), an ARRL-affiliated club. Our club was established in 1974. We are the largest DX club in Arizona with over 130 members, many of whom are on the ARRL's DXCC Honor Roll. Our club regularly supports the International DX Convention held every April in Visalia, California. Many of our members are Life Members of ARRL. Our members are active DXers who spend many hours on the airwaves and make regular use of the ARRL's services including LOTW, QSL Bureau, and DXCC Award Program.

The CADXA feels the necessity to express its overwhelming concern in the wake of actions and proposals by ARRL officers and directors that the club strongly believes are detrimental to Amateur Radio and thus to the interests of CADXA members. Specifically:

1. The Code of Conduct passed in 2017. This Code serves as a "Gag Order", preventing open communications between the Board and the membership after a motion has passed. It impedes the need for transparency in Board dealings. Members deserve to know how their representative has voted on motions considered by the Board.
2. The censure of Dick Norton, N6AA. The censure appears to be an over-reaction to whatever certain members of the Board believe Mr. Norton did. Due to the Code of Conduct, we do not know the exact basis for the censure, but based on accounts we have seen from trustworthy witnesses we believe those members of the Board ignored credible facts when implementing this punishment.
3. Candidates for Division Directors being disqualified for "Conflict of Interest". Despite the candidates' efforts, no one will specify what the conflict is.
4. The By-Law revisions proposed by Board member K5UZ. Appendix B, in particular, seems to be a drastic answer to an unclear problem.
5. The By-Law revisions proposed by Board member N2YBB. Giving the President and three Vice-Presidents the right to vote (on all matters except their own election) is a blatant attempt to "pack the board".

Each of these actions reduces the transparency of the Board, stifles communications between the Board and its members, and reduces the confidence that the membership has in the Board. Quoting from language with which we agree from the Frankford Radio Club's letter dated January 8, 2018:

We believe the ARRL is moving unacceptably far afield of a governing principle that has stood the test of time: **The ARRL is a *representative democracy* — its members control its policies through the power of the ballot.**

Most troubling to us are proposed changes to the Articles of Association and Bylaws that would do the following:

- Give the Board the authority to terminate an individual's membership
- Give the Board the authority to remove a Director or Vice Director from office by revoking their membership
- Give the Board the ability to remand and/or censure a Director or Vice Director without notice
- Dilute the ability of the members to recall a Director or Vice Director
- Extend voting privileges to Officers equal to those enjoyed by Directors

Our concerns are by no means limited to this list, but we wanted to be sure the more onerous proposed changes were highlighted. It remains unclear how these changes contribute anything toward accomplishing the advocacy objectives of the ARRL or make it possible for the League to better serve its membership. The reasoning behind these changes has not been explained by anyone. This communication void raises suspicion in regard to motive. We await clarification before these changes are moved forward for consideration and possible adoption.

To correct the situation, the CADXA urges the ARRL Board to do the following:

1. Rescind the 2017 Code of Conduct.
2. Rescind the censure of N6AA.
3. Provide any disqualified candidate, at their request, specific reasons for disqualification.
4. Vote down or withdraw the By-Law Revisions of K5UZ.
5. Vote down or withdraw the By-Law Revisions of N2YBB.

CADXA members who are also members of the ARRL and feel the ARRL Board is acting correctly in any or all of the matters outlined in this letter are encouraged to communicate their feelings to the CADXA Board, and to the ARRL directly.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Central Arizona DX Association, its officers, directors, and members.

Lee Finkel, KY7M, President
Fred Hoffert, III, NA2U, Vice President
Alton Chaney, W7ACX, Treasurer
Bill Poole, AA4Q, Secretary
Larry Loen, WO7R, Board Member-at-Large
Mickey LeBoeuf, K5ML, Board Member-at-Large
Tom Kramer, NQ7R, Past President