

Dear Mr. Roderick:

Yesterday I received an email with a letter from you. In spite of the fact that you have never met me, you basically implied that I am some sort of idiot who is being led around by a bunch of evil people and I'm too stupid to know the truth. I resent your implications and believe almost none of the statements you make in your letter.

Since you don't know me, let me tell you something about myself. I've been licensed for 58 years, and hold an Extra Class license. I've been a League member since the mid 1960's. I'm a Diamond Club member at the Platinum level as well as a Maxim Society member at the Ambassador Level. I'm an ARRL registered Instructor and Volunteer Examiner. I'm the President of an 87 year old radio club which has been affiliated with the ARRL for the past 69 years.

Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis wrote, in 1913, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman." It is time that the Board of Directors of the ARRL realizes this. Already the Board hides behind the "Committee of the Whole" to discuss things that are not confidential, and while some of the items you discuss in your letter such as employee compensation may deserve this treatment, very few other items should be kept from the membership.

Without rehashing all of the matters that have been addressed in many of the other letters I have seen, three things stand out. It appears to many of us that the Board has been using the new Conduct of Board Members Policy to punish anyone who would consider disagreeing with the decisions of the Board. The actions of the Ethics and Elections Committee in the disqualification of candidates for elected office are opaque and give the candidates no option to even know why they have been disqualified and no right to appeal the same. It is unbelievable that a sitting Division Vice Director can suddenly be ruled ineligible to be a candidate for the position of Director.

The proposals I have seen, supposedly offered by my Division Director, would do nothing but create additional non-elected, yet voting positions, beholden to the Board which has appointed them. This serves no purpose.

In the past few months, the Board has managed to offend large sub-groups of its membership, starting with the NTS. Next, after Visalia you managed to offend the most active hams – the contesters and DXers. To give you some idea of the width of this destruction, look at the 2017 ARRL DX Phone results in QST. Just the letters that I am aware of, condemning your actions, account for 5 of the 10 clubs in the Unlimited Category, with combined 729 entries and 537 million points.

You hold the title of ARRL President, but I have yet to see one sentence written by you in any issue of QST since you took office. You tell me how open the ARRL is to debate, yet your own policies contradict that. The only thing I see is a bunch of old guys trying to maintain and increase their power in the organization, and stifle any and all dissenters. This is not the ARRL I remember, and is not the ARRL I will continue to support in the way I have in the past.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider these destructive policies and truly return the League to an organization that is: "Of, For and By the Radio Amateur".