

January 18, 2018

Mr. Rick Roderick, K5UR
President
ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio
P.O. Box 1463
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear President Roderick:

It is my fervent hope that the ARRL Board of Directors, during its winter meeting that begins tomorrow morning, will take to heart the sentiments expressed by many of its members. You are aware of these concerns, yet you have characterized many of them as “misinformation” and largely dismissed them.

I was Vice Director of the New England Division from 1987 to 1988, under then- (and now) Director Tom Frenaye. I was deeply honored to be elected by my fellow Division members to serve in this role. If nothing else, I have the benefit of a “back table” view of the Board and its mechanisms.

Please allow me to share a story with you. During my 15th month on the Board, the students at my *alma mater* (and present, long-time employer), Gallaudet University, held a week-long protest. The university for deaf and hard of hearing students, chartered in 1864 by President Abraham Lincoln, had always had presidents who were hearing, and a Board of Trustees that consisted predominantly of hearing people with no connection to the Deaf community. We had just had a vacancy for the office of President. There were two deaf finalists and one hearing finalist. The Board selected the hearing finalist, with the Board chair being heard to say that deaf people were not ready to serve in the hearing world. Our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and a large segment of the U.S. and international deaf communities were outraged. The students shut down the university for one week. They had four non-negotiable demands: the resignation of the Board chair, a promise that the Board would become at least 50 percent deaf, the selection of a deaf person as president, and no reprisals against anyone involved in the protest. All four demands were granted. The hearing finalist, “getting it” quickly, stepped down before even setting foot on campus, our first deaf president served for 18 years, and every president since then has been deaf. Deaf President Now was a watershed moment in deaf history, and in civil rights history as well. It is thought to have provided impetus for the passage two years later of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

What does this have to do with ARRL? There is a Board that right now comes across as, yes, deaf to the concerns of the membership. There is you, as President, essentially saying that you and the Board know what is best for the members. There is a Board that is semi-self-perpetuating, and that has actually prevented at least two people from running for office. There are people on the Board who have shown through their words and actions a blatant disregard for the members they serve. There is in the sheaf of amendments before the Board the threat of

reprisals, in the form of membership revocation, for members and Board members who do not conform to certain expectations.

The membership, which includes some of the most prominent amateur radio operators in the world, has non-negotiable demands, which include the departure of the CEO, which happened today; the immediate resignations of you and Hudson Division Director Lisenco; the resignation or retirement of the general counsel; the shelving of all governance-related motions; the removal of the N6AA censure; and accounting for the disqualifications of two Board candidates.

I am not so bold as to draw exact parallels between DPN and the unrest that has beset us, but there are enough commonalities that I would urge you to respect the lessons of history. This cannot end well otherwise.

Please know that in saying all this, I do not pass judgment on individual Board members or officers and their historical bodies of work. I have no doubt that you and others have made significant contributions to our service. However, it is clear to me that the recent behavior of certain Board members, the lack of transparency in the Board's dealings with its membership, and the oppressive proposed amendments, have created a hostile environment that threatens our very existence.

I ask that you step down immediately and allow new leadership to give us a new beginning.

I thank you for taking the time to receive my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Weinstock, W3RQ
Takoma Park, Maryland
ARRL Life Member
ARRL Diamond Club Member
New England Division Vice Director, 1987-1988