

1229 Ambonnay Lane
Sparks NV 89436
22 December 2017

Robert Vallio, W6RGG
ARRL Pacific Division Director
18655 Sheffield Road
Castro Valley CA 94546

Dear Bob,

The time has come to make this official – it is time for the Board to stop all of this nonsense with the Board of Directors Code of Conduct, the Bylaws, and the Articles of Association. I am very disappointed that you voted in favor of the “Code of Conduct” at the January 2017 Board meeting and I am more disappointed at your abstention rather than a “NO” vote on the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, in the special meeting [telephone conference] earlier this year. It was unconscionable when you did it, and it still is. I, and many others, expected better of you.

I have served on several Boards of Directors, both for-profit and non-profit, and all had statements regarding the conduct of Directors. They covered conflict of interest issues, confidentiality when dealing with personnel issues, ongoing litigation, and the like, and general public behavior reflecting on the corporation. They are normal, and they are one sign of an organization's attempts at good corporate governance. With the exception of Section 8, ARRL's new “Code,” while unnecessarily harshly worded in places, pretty much accomplishes these goals.

Section 8 however is another matter. It stands in direct contradiction to ARRL's stated objective of a democratically governed, transparent organization to represent member interests. It would be expected from a totalitarian regime, it is anything but democratic governance, and I expect you to lead the effort for it's rescission at the January Board meeting that is approaching.

I have been licensed for 64 years, an ARRL member for over 50 years, and have witnessed some serious mistakes in the past. The so-called “Incentive Licensing” in the 60's created a state of class warfare that still persists in some parts of the hobby, and which cost ARRL a significant fraction of its membership. What is happening now will do likewise, or worse.

I realize that holding a Director's seat on the Board involves interactions with others in a political arena. However, there occur times when political considerations must give way to harsh reality, when Directors must find their backbones and their courage, and stand up for what is right. This is one of those moments, Bob.

You surely must know that there is exactly zero support within the Division for the Board's [and your] actions in this matter. I expect your behavior and actions at the January meeting to reflect that lack of support, we elected you to represent us. The actions of the 2017 Board of Directors has brought more discredit to ARRL than the actions of N6AA or any other member ever did.

Bob, abstention is basically a cowardly action. You've had at least two shots [that we know of] at this nonsense and you have done very poorly at both. Your chance to redeem yourself comes up next month. We're all watching.

73,

Fred Jensen K6DGW