

Members of the Board of Directors
ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio
Newington, CT 06111

Dear Members of the Board:

Many of you probably recall the QST cartoons with the character, Jeeves. He was always experimenting, such as being up on a hazardous rooftop putting up an antenna on a tilted mast. That type of cartoon was emblematic of the character of amateur radio - open to ideas, concepts and trying them out, even to possible personal peril. Today, however, with the attitude of the A.R.R.L. leadership, Jeeves would be hidden inside the house, in a small room. He would only be let out of the room if his concepts and comments were in a self-styled format and then, only allowed outside if his actions followed vague rules of Ethics and Conduct that were interpreted in undisclosed ways by the "powers that be." Indeed, he would never be informed why he was being restricted and restrained. Jeeves, however, was not a mushroom and neither are the current members of the A.R.R.L.

Reading through various documents available on the A.R.R.L. web site illuminate some interesting, current conflicts. These include conflicts with A.R.R.L.'s values:

ARRL's core values underlie the work of fulfilling the association's mission, how we conduct ourselves, and how we interact with each other. These values are an important part of the legacy of ARRL's first 100 years of existence, and reflect the wisdom of our founders and the commitment of our current leaders.

The first concern is regarding the interaction with others, which is now under controlling documents passed by the Board to restrict our elected representatives sharing with their constituency. The recent Code of Conduct does not allow the most basic of our National freedoms - the freedom of speech - specifically, how can we vote for an incumbent if they are restricted to forced public support of all the Board's actions and not allowed to speak their mind? It is no longer an open forum, but controlled by the Board.

"Of, by, and for the radio amateur." We are committed to using our skills, experience, and resources for the benefit of our members and the worldwide Amateur Radio community and to ensure the relevance of Amateur Radio now and for future generations. Our passion for Amateur Radio is reflected in all that we do.

Secondly, "Of, by, and for the radio amateur" is suspect. The Board is acting in a manner that is familiar to organizations who create a secret leadership, agenda and efforts focusing on the leadership, not the memberships, as their doors are closed to all but the leadership; consequently, the A.R.R.L. is apparently rapidly becoming "of, by, and for the Board." This perception is due to the proposed ByLaw change empowering the officers to vote. Having been on the Board as a Director, officer and Chairman of several 501(c)(3) corporations, only one had this provision and it became an incestuous organization.

Members – ARRL values all members and recognizes their contributions: knowledge, volunteerism, leadership, and financial support.

Third is the closing statement concerning members. Valuing all members is false, unless the members are now in agreement with the Board. The Board might recognize contributions of members; however, the Board is in danger of becoming a closed Board, acting on its own behalf.

The outcome of your January, 2018 Board meeting will determine the immediate and future outcome of the A.R.R.L. It is hoped that those on the Board who appear to have more interest in their personal position, influence, legacy and, yes, power, will re-evaluate their ideas and bring them back to those of the membership and our 100+ year history. The membership is not sitting idly by and allowing their position as not only members, but also the funding behind the A.R.R.L. Although the Board can tout achievements, such as expanding the lower frequencies, what happened to the Parity Act? This was a great ship crossing the great seas of HOA regulations and was scuttled by the Board.

It is time to be open, not closed. It is time to maintain the membership representation and not dilute it with adding executive voting privileges. As I have explained to many others, you can only lose control of a

corporation once and the membership will become aware of these tactics by the Board. We can continue with the positive legacy of amateur radio and the A.R.R.L., or, we can lose it because of personal desires.

With best regards,

Thomas Schiller, N6BT

A.R.R.L. Life Member; Founder, Force 12, Inc. Antennas and Towers; Founder, Next Generation Antennas; Co-Founder, National Contest Journal; Author, Array of Light; QST article contributor