

# *NORTH JERSEY DX ASSOCIATION*



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Letter to ARRL |

Operating the W2 QSL Bureau Since 1957

January 13, 2018

To The Directors, Vice-Directors and Officers of the ARRL:

The North Jersey DX Association was formed in 1957 to assume the responsibility of the ARRL incoming QSL Bureau for the U.S. second call area. We were the first club to serve in that role, and as such we have enjoyed a very close relationship with ARRL, including Board members and staff, for the entire ensuing 60 years. Our own rules, and the nature of our ARRL-related function require that all of our members also be ARRL members, and they are.

Recent actions, and proposed actions, by the Board of Directors concern and trouble us greatly. We do, and always will, support the ARRL in its mission to represent the interests of its members, and even U.S. amateurs who are not members, before the FCC, other U.S. Government agencies, and other institutions around the world.

The following constitutes an incomplete summary of the things that worry and concern us, and to which we respectfully object:

1. The “ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors”, adopted approximately one year ago, seems to us unnecessarily restrictive. We do not dispute the need for such a policy, which is commonly being referred to elsewhere as the “Code of Conduct”, but such policies that are in force for other non-profit corporations vary widely in breadth and tone, and it seems to us that many aspects of the ARRL policy are inappropriate for a membership-driven organization. The League has been telling its members for decades that “The League is you”. This philosophy is inconsistent with a “Code of Conduct” that appears

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to be written to control the behavior of people who either have, or are expected to, commit terrible crimes.

2. Southwestern Division Director Richard Norton, N6AA, was recently censured by the Board for remarks supposedly made in violation of the above Code. Although the censure motion does not specifically mention Visalia, the general belief seems to be that is where the alleged violations took place. Despite letters (which are in the public domain) issued by K3LR and K6FG, well-known amateurs of unimpeachable and stellar reputation in the amateur radio community, both of whom were present at the event in question in Visalia and which disputed the allegations in no uncertain terms, the Board chose to go forward with the censure. Recently, Hudson Division Director Lisenco told at least one of our members “well, we heard otherwise”. But we (nor any other ARRL members that we know of) have no idea what that contrary evidence is, nor from whom it came. We’ve also heard that “there are other things, but it’s a personnel matter we can’t discuss”. So we regard Director Norton as having been convicted on secret evidence, and we dispute the characterization as a “personnel matter”, which is a term better suited for things concerning staff, as opposed to elected officials. This is a political matter, not a personnel matter.

3. On several recent occasions, prospective Directors and Vice-Directors have been disqualified by the Elections and Ethics Committee for having “conflicts of interest.” Most recently, K3RF, the Atlantic Division Vice-Director at the time, was disqualified from running for Director, and his repeated requests for any explanation of the supposed conflict of interest have gone unanswered. In many organizations, the cure for a conflict of interest on a specific matter is recusal.

4. Amendments to the ARRL Articles of Association and By-Laws have been proposed for consideration at next week’s Board meeting by two Directors without any prior consultation with the membership that we know of. Although not currently required, we believe that public discussion and debate among the membership over at least a period of several months should precede Board consideration of such Amendments. We particularly object at this time to giving voting power at the Board, beyond the current 15 elected Directors, to four officers who are not elected by the membership and are answerable only to the Directors. This proposal, if adopted, would not only increase the number of voting individuals at Board meetings by over 26%, but would make it possible for actions to be taken by the Board over the objections of a majority of the 15 elected Directors.

As we said at the beginning, we continue to be enthusiastic supporters of ARRL and its mission, including our part in the incoming QSL bureau system. But as long time members and leaders of a major and long-standing affiliated club, we believe it to be our right and our duty to speak out when we see the organization heading off in multiple wrong directions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of the North Jersey DX Association.

Peter Dougherty W2IRT (President)

Dave De Coons WO2X ( Vice President)

A.J. Tobia, AJ2I (Secretary)

Eugene Ingraham III, N2BIM (Treasurer)

Douglas Rue, W2EN (Bureau Manager)

Urb LeJeune, W1UL (Past President)

Martin Grozinski, W2CG (Past President)

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