

FROM THE DESK OF

B. WILSON HINES, JR., AA5AZ

January 12, 2018

To:

Dr. James Boehner, N2ZZ

Bill Morine, N2COP

CC: The Board of Directors of the ARRL, Dr. Karl Bowman, W4CHX.

Dear Friends and ARRL Officers, Directors, and Vice Directors

This is not a template letter.

My name is Wilson Hines, AA5AZ and I live in Mount Olive, NC. I have been licensed since 2011 and I hold an Amateur Extra class license. Since day one of having my license, I have been committed to the ARRL. When my call came in, I didn't wait or delay, I went to the ARRL website and applied for membership. I have given to the Spectrum Defense fund and the Education & Technology Fund when asked. A couple years ago, without even knowing about the "Legacy Gift" program from the ARRL, I personally set aside a sizable sum from my Will for the purpose of a gift to the ARRL. From my point of view, It was simply the least I could do.

I had been on the board for our local club, the Wayne County ARA, for four years and after a break for a couple years, it was decided by a group of gentlemen and ladies that we should develop a new "club," or as we like to call it, an Association. The Neuse River Basin ARA was born and we are 31 very serious minded amateur operators. We have applied for association with the ARRL and are waiting on such information to come back.

The Board of our Association, as well as several members individually, have expressed deep concern over the recent proposed changes with the ARRL Board. The ARRL, and its direction, for the last couple of years starting with the, in my opinion, misguided Rule Making in RM-11708, and the Ham Radio Bill (Parity Act). The most recent actions by the present ARRL President and his friends on the Board, the unwarranted/unexplained censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, and finally the misguided statements by both Jim Pace, K7CEX and Kermit Carlson, W9XA have given me reason to be alarmed and to take action.

You know the arguments. You know where the upswell of discontent is coming from and you also know what the expedient, right, ethical, and moral solutions are to quell such discontent. Moving

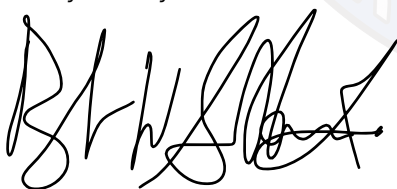
forward with your plans as set forth at this time will be disastrous for Amateur Radio and for your membership.

Many very well respected people have voiced their opinions on the issues and the solutions and I agree with these voices. If you feel as though you can just do what you want and we will turn a blind eye, you're wrong. You may find that the wallets will turn.

It is my promise to you, that unless this board changes their direction, I will personally not participate in any ARRL Fund giving, I will have my lawyer take the ARRL out of my will, and I will suggest that all of our membership in the NRBARA keep their membership up, but do the same. While most of them are talking about not renewing, I will keep my membership current. Our club was born out of discontent with transparency and ethical considerations of the aforementioned old club in the county. We know how cronyism and corruption look; we have experienced it personally at a local level.

Last of all, while you may feel the following to be humorous, I would recommend paying attention. While I have reached out to my Section in the past begging to get my foot in the door and asking to serve my Section, Division, and my League, I have found out in those efforts I just wasn't in the right circle of friends. One thing has become evident to me is that there needs to be change at the ARRL: If these aforementioned issues prevail, that change needs to be at the Board level. I will commit to running for the ARRL Board of Directors and a real serious campaign effort in the near future. If I do run, the people of our Section and Division will know I am running. Others ARRL members in other Divisions are contemplating the same. With Social Media platforms, *anything* is possible.

Thank you for your service and time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Wilson Hines, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

B. Wilson Hines, Jr., aa5az

President

Neuse River Basin ARA

neuseriverbasin.com

facebook.com/neuseriverhamradio

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