

17-January-2018

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Via email: wa8efk@arrl.org

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Dear Sirs:

The members of the Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA), an ARRL affiliated club, are focused on furthering participation, proficiency and overall advancement of amateur radio. As you are well aware, there is a lot of current interest in the amateur radio community regarding proposed deliberations of the ARRL Board at this week's Board meeting.

The ARRL Board "seek[s] thoughtful, informed input on policy issues...from its members" (K5UR letter to members posted on www.arrl.org on 15-Jan-18). Since this is a rapidly evolving topic, the SWODXA is sharing principles we see as critical elements of the operation of the ARRL Board.

- The ARRL Board must remain a body that is elected by the membership in order to best reflect and serve the members' interests and needs.
 - Giving votes to non-member-elected personnel is not consistent with this principal. Only Board members elected by the membership should be able to vote.
 - Replacing elected representatives with appointed representatives should only occur in extreme situations as again, it dilutes the members' role in electing their representatives.
 - Votes taken by Directors and Vice Directors should be made public except in those rare cases where confidentiality is required. Voting records are how members assess whether their representatives are acting on their behalf. Directors and Vice Directors must be free to share their own voting records.
- As a member-based organization the actions and procedures of the Board must be fair, open and transparent to all ARRL members at all times. Trust in the ARRL Board is a requirement for the Board to effectively serve the members.
 - Division election processes must remain open. The ARRL members should have the final say on who represents them, not the Board, a committee of the Board or ARRL employees.
 - Due process must be available to all members when a change in their membership status is contemplated.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and actions consistent with these inputs at the ARRL Board meeting.

Respectfully,

/Thomas Inglin/

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