

January 15, 2018

Houston, Texas

To: ARRL Board of Directors

From: Texas DX Society

Gentlemen,

Recent actions by the ARRL Board of Directors are taking the League in an unhealthy direction. These moves, which may seem to promise short-term value are likely poisonous for the long term.

The Texas DX Society, an affiliated club, and its members who are also members of the ARRL believe that the ARRL is their organization. ARRL members expect to have the opportunity to discuss and provide input to the Board's actions affecting our organization's vision and policies and transparency in its operations prior to decisions being taken. We strongly oppose the proposed changes up for consideration at the January 19-20, 2018 Board Meeting. We strongly recommend that you consider the following input in developing a new path forward.

1. Revise the Code of Conduct. In its current form this document appears to be a "gag order". A less-restrictive, guidance-only version of such a document seems to be appropriate as a part of a corporate protection "employment agreement" but not at the level of Articles of Association, and By Laws.
2. Pro-active advanced notice to the Membership of any proposals or actions affecting changes in governance Including but not limited to:
  - Voting eligibility, participation level, quorum
  - Governing documents, guidelines, NDA, compliance, policies and procedures, that may affect Membership representation, to allow Members to be heard by their Section and Division representatives.
3. Transparency and Accountability at-large:
  - Candidates awareness - publish a listing of all candidates presented for Director and Vice-Director positions 15-30 days in advance;
  - Elections & Ethics Committee handling - timely consideration and published determination of candidate status by the Ethics and Elections Committee 15-days prior to elections;
  - Governance changes - publish all proposals regarding governance 15-30 days in advance of their formal consideration/vote;
  - Voting by elected representatives only – no rights for those NOT elected by the Membership;
  - Provide appropriately detailed Meeting Minutes including active and withdrawn motions and voting results with per-Director tally of votes;
  - Provide real-time, live audio and video streaming of Board and Committee meetings;
  - Allow Board Members, Directors/Vice-Directors to freely, respectfully communicate within their Districts, support and/or concerns relative to all Board motions, ARRL representation and interactions without outside entities (FCC, FEMA, DHS, NGOs, HOAs, etc.)
4. Rescind the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA as there appears that Mr. Norton did nothing as claimed or suggested to warrant this censure.

Members of the Texas DX Society are committed to the future of Amateur Radio and the ARRL and feel these changes are necessary to secure it. The Board may be hearing from only a few hams and clubs, but should recognize that the communication of the few is likely to represent the thinking of a majority of involved and active hams. Responses to date to member letters have been disheartening in their condescension. Please take a serious pause on the path being taken by the Board and other top leaders of ARRL. Your credibility, already much damaged, is at stake.

Respectfully,

Robie Elms - AJ4F

President, Texas DX Society