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Subject: Code of Conduct and January 19, 2018 Board Proposals

To ARRL Directors and Officers -

The University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1909 and an ARRL Affiliated Club since 1930, is very concerned about the current state of ARRL governance. The Code of Conduct and proposals before the Board for the January 19 meeting are inconsistent with the historic character of openness and democratic process that has characterized ARRL for over a century.

The University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club is especially concerned about this quote that is attributed to the current ARRL CEO, Tom Gallagher, and an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania:

"...the members should never have seen the proposals prior to board consideration and action. At all times in the past, such proposals have been treated as board-confidential, transmitted only to board members for their consideration before any public discussion. Apparently, a recipient of that material has seen fit to distribute these draft documents publicly, before his colleagues have had a chance to review them..."

The level of confidentiality (mislabelled loyalty) now imposed on Directors transcends the reasonable level one would expect from a membership organization such as ARRL, and is inconsistent with ARRL's historical openness. In balancing transparency and an appropriate need to maintain confidentiality associated with some policy decisions, the proposals now before the Board are simply inconsistent with the interests of the ARRL membership, as are certain Code of Conduct provisions as they have been applied.

This is reminiscent of proceedings where a secret set of values are imposed and a verdict announced without further disclosure. It is a gag order. Too much said and the board member is subject to removal. What kind of good governance requires this Draconian approach?

Even worse, there is a proposal to eject an ARRL member for "cause" - without specifics. Will the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club, as an ARRL-affiliated club, risk expulsion or disqualification for submitting this letter? There is a valid concern on the part of the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club that this proposal and Code of Conduct could possibly lead.

The University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club is also concerned about the proposal to allow the President and certain Vice Presidents to vote as though they were Directors. This would reduce elected Directors' voting power. Combined with appointed directors, and the power of incumbency, the representative membership democracy ARRL has enjoyed for over a century will be destroyed. Is there a compelling justification for this proposal?

All ARRL Directors and Officers need to realize that those within ARRL who are advocating the above mentioned proposals and others of a similar nature are not acting in the best interest of ARRL or Amateur Radio in the United States of America.

Thank you.

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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