

W5DNT
Dan White
8803 Bellechase Road
Granbury, Texas 76049

January 2, 2018

Dear ARRL Directors, Vice Directors, Officers and CEO:

By way of introduction to those of you who do not know me personally, I am a licensed Extra Class with 47 years of activity in amateur radio. Over the decades, I have believed strongly in the importance of the ARRL for our wonderful hobby. I am a member of the Diamond Club, Maxim Society, Legacy Circle and Second Century campaign, in addition to being a Life Member. Hopefully my actions demonstrate that I am not a "league basher", moreover an amateur that is serious about the need for a "functional" ARRL.

In recent years I have strongly disagreed with some of the ARRL's actions, such as RM-11708 which directly threatens narrowband modes with wideband digital signals and the Parity Act antenna bill, which in my opinion was misrepresented to the membership and is a gift to HOAs and builder groups, as I understand some of our "great" negotiators actual allowed the HOAs to craft the language. In 2016, I expressed my concerns to the ARRL President, in person, and was told in the presence of others that I was a "heal biter". It has been quite obvious to me that the current leadership does not want any input from the membership, including donors like myself. Perhaps the term "hand biters" should apply to those that bite the hands of upper tier donors. Be that as it may, in spite of these major disagreements and actual public insults from the leadership, I have continued with my financial contributions. As a matter of fact, my Diamond Club membership is paid up through 2018. The next time you are at HQ, you will find my name on the Second Century monument, many bricks and a bench bearing my callsign in the courtyard. My past commitment to the league is proven and has been maintained through major disagreements.

Recent events have exceeded my wildest expectations as to how far the governance of an organization can get off the railroad tracks. Since you have received very eloquent letters from so many accomplished amateurs, I will not attempt to argue the points you are already so glaringly aware of, but will simply touch on each issue.

First, the "Code of Conduct", which is nothing more than a gag order, and please don't bother to try and convince me otherwise as has been done with others. I am not buying that tall tale. In checking, I find no statutory requirement for such a policy under Connecticut law. It is merely a childish policy tool to be used selectively against anyone on the board that doesn't "go along to get along", as seems to be a common modus operandi. In an era when transparency is front and center, ARRL has gone

backwards in a very big way. We members vote for the Directors and Vice Directors and have every right to know where they stand on issues and how our organization is governed. I fully realize there are those that would like nothing more than to eliminate Vice Directors, eliminate opposing Directors and transition to an appointed board that would simply be a rubber stamp. The last two years has seen your efforts focused on this type of petty politics as opposed to taking care of the real issues in amateur radio. How sad and unnecessary.

Second, the censure of Director Norton was most uncalled for and unwarranted. Typically I attend Visalia, but due to family health issues, I missed this past meeting. I have however talked to a number of highly credible and trusted individuals that have confirmed to me Mr. Norton did not do what he was accused of doing. Some of these individuals provided written statements to that effect, which were summarily discarded. If anyone has brought a poor light to ARRL, it was not Mr. Norton, but those that crafted the policy so viciously used against him to begin with. This censure should be immediately retracted and if Mr. Roderick, Mr. Lisenco, Mr. Bellows, Mr. Imlay, Mr. Gallagher or others have a personal vendetta against Mr. Norton, they need to take it elsewhere as opposed to actions that bring the entire organization down. Mr. Norton has attained folk hero status for the public flogging he has taken.

Thirdly, Bylaw and Articles of Incorporation changes being put forward by Mr. Lisenco and Mr. Norris are nothing short of appalling and insulting, as pointed out by so many that have written you recently. These proposals are a clear attempt at a hostile takeover of ARRL governance and if passed, will lead to implosion of the organization. These two proposals should be immediately withdrawn and if not, promptly defeated at the upcoming board meeting.

To keep this short and sweet, my continued financial support will require three things. Rescind the Code of Conduct, retract the N6AA censure and withdraw or defeat the Lisenco/Norris proposals. Gentlemen, your actions in past months are unbecoming of mature adults and an embarrassment to the ARRL and the hobby itself. I simply cannot continue to support this type of outright dysfunctional behavior out of the leadership. Trust me fellows, I want to see you and the organization succeed. Hopefully the responses you are receiving from folks like myself will serve as a wakeup call that things must change immediately.

73,

Dan White

W5DNT