

# **Report to the American Radio Relay League, Inc. Board of Directors' Meeting July 2024 from the Legal Defense Committee <sup>1</sup>**

The Legal Defense Committee is charged with undertaking the responsibilities generally provided in the guidelines which are attached to these minutes for reference by this Board. The Committee held its first meeting for 2024 at the Dayton Hamvention with an organizational gathering of members that were attending the Hamvention. A board room was graciously provided by the Dayton Hamvention Committee. The meeting was noticed to the below members and was held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 10:15 AM to about 1:00 PM.

The minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for reference. The members of the Committee held an open discussion to review the longstanding guidelines for Committee activities, suggestions on how the Committee could be more effective for the members, and how to reinvigorate the volunteer counsel program. Those minutes are attached for the Board's consideration.

Though there are no pending legal cases involving amateur radio which have been brought to the attention of the Committee this year for possible partial funding, the Committee intends to hold Zoom conferences on at least a bi-monthly basis in order to advance the ideas considered during the meeting as referenced in the attached minutes of the meeting.

The Committee also invited all volunteer counsel on the email group list to "meet and greet" members of the Committee if they were interested and if they were attending the Hamvention. A schedule was published to them indicating that the Committee Chair and possibly others would be available to meet with them on the Friday afternoon of the Hamvention at the ARRL booth area. A number of volunteer counsel did introduce themselves and informal discussions were held to elicit ideas from our volunteer counsel attendees as to how they believe the program could be more effective and what they would like to see in terms of assistance and support from our League.

One idea that was popular even among non-attending counsel is to provide continuing legal education credits in antenna zoning for radio amateurs to our volunteers which would likely be a relatively minor expense since qualified instructors might be obtained without paying fees for presentations. There are fees necessary for having any program accredited in various states as this is frequently accomplished by national organizations such as the Federal Bar Association. Such continuing legal education credits are accepted in almost every state if properly documented.

---

<sup>1</sup> *a/k/a Amateur Radio Legal Defense and Assistance Committee*

The Committee earnestly solicits input, suggestions and criticisms from the Board with respect to the discussion of items in the Minutes attached and as to how the guidelines attached should be adjusted, changed or completely revamped.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robert B. Famiglio*, K3RF  
ARRL Atlantic Division Director,  
Chairman, Legal Defense Committee

**Members of the 2024 Legal Defense Committee:**

- Director Robert B. Famiglio, K3RF (Chair)
- Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS
- International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD
- ARRL FCC Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ
- Fred Hopengarten, K1VR
- Michael Lazaroff, K3AIR

**Attachments:**

Minutes of meeting of committee of May 17, 2024  
Latest guidelines for committee undertakings. (No date)