

ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC)

Report to the Board of Directors - January 2020

The Programs and Services Committee is pleased to present this report to the ARRL Board of Directors covering PSC activities for calendar year 2019. The PSC met in person in January and July at Newington and held teleconferences on February 17 and March 20, and December 11.

ARRL Bylaw 39. The Programs and Services Committee shall: Guide development of service delivery mechanisms, evaluate services, and recommend program priorities; Advise Chief Executive Officer on services provided to individual members other than publications, including but not limited to contests and awards, information services including Logbook of the World and W1AW, and incoming and outgoing QSL bureau services; Advise Chief Executive Officer on volunteer programs, including but not limited to the field organization, affiliated clubs, volunteer examiners, Volunteer Counsel/Consulting Engineers, and educational initiatives; and Evaluate and recommend awards recipients to the Board for outstanding volunteer service or outstanding achievement.

PSC members for 2019 include Ria Jairam N2RJ, Kristin McIntyre K6WX, David Norris K5UZ, Mike Ritz W7VO, Greg Sarratt W4OZK, 2nd Vice President Bob Vallio W6RGG, and Dale Williams WA8EFK Chairman. Regular meeting participants also included Director of Operations Norm Fusaro W3IZ, Assistant Secretary Dan Henderson N1ND and Bart Jahnke W9JJ.

Awards

Discussed the implementation of the "Order of the Centurion" which recognizes a 40 year ARRL Member who has reached the age of 100 years. The member is to receive a commemorative plaque a League publication of his/her choice and League membership for life at no added cost. The Membership Department will be responsible for administering the award and has issued several during the past year.

Contesting

In contesting, the PSC was to ask the Radiosport Department to solicit information from a random sample of participants to determine the impact of possible enhancements to Digital contesting, such as adding FT8 or FT4 to ARRL RTTY contests. The Committee also discussed revisions to the November Sweepstakes and the CAC is to report at the next PSC meeting. At the March PSC teleconference, all members were in attendance plus Director Kermit Carlson W9XA and Mr. Dennis Egan W1UE of the CAC. CAC continues to work on the Rules Unification Project. Directors Norris and Ritz, Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, plus Contest Manager Paul Bourque N1SFE were appointed to study the implementation of a "5-Band VUCC" award. Directors Norris, and Williams along with Mr. Henderson were tasked with evaluating the "Youth Operator" rules of Field Day.

DXCC

The PSC January meeting, conducted by the 2018 PSC members, considered the tasking report from the DXAC on Digital mode DXCC awards, and asked the DXAC for further solid recommendations. The DXAC was also asked to examine a list of DX related issues supplied by DXAC Chair John Yodis K2VV, to prioritize those items and provide a report about why each is considered important for further study. The PSC also referred a proposal from Bob Lochner W9KNI to the DXAC for review and reporting. In

discussion about DXCC rules as related to shipboard operations, the Committee voted to give no further consideration to the topic.

LoTW

Regarding the integration of LoTW and the DXCC database, Ms. Jairam's recommendations, the PSC agreed to forward them to the LoTW Committee for consideration.

Public Service

PSHR scoring was briefly discussed and Staff was going to look at increasing the points awarded to a Net Control Stations (NCS). At the time serving as a NCS was awarded the same point value as a traffic net check-in.

The Public Service Enhancement Working Group presented the plan to for some slight revisions to the ARES Strategic Plan training and reported that ARRL will be offering its own updated EC-001 training package to registered ARES members at no cost. It was voted to recommend the updates ARES plan be approved for implementation by the Board of Directors. Calendar Year 2020 will entail an evaluation of the National Traffic System and future planning for that service. Director Bud Hippiisley W2RJ assumed the PSEWG chair and Vice Director Mark Tharp KB7HDX replaced former Director Pace. Norm Fusaro W3IZ is serving to complete the vacancy created by the departure of Mike Corey.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Chairman