

## **Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Board Members and Directors**

As Board Members and Directors of the American Radio Relay League, you are faced with a unique and challenging responsibility. You have been chosen from the membership to play a key role in representing them in the ARRL. The decisions that you make or help to make may have a great influence on the fate of Amateur Radio not only in the US but throughout the world. As high-ranking representatives of ARRL, you lose whatever anonymity you might previously have enjoyed. Your every action will be on public display. Every statement that you make, every cause that you support, will be subject to widespread public scrutiny.

It is the purpose of these guidelines to assist you in maintaining an ethical standard of conduct that will bring credit to yourself and the ARRL.

What is ethics? According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, it is the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation. Perhaps Dr. Albert Schweitzer's definition would appropriately amplify Webster's definition: "In a general sense, ethics is the name we give our concern for good behavior. We feel an obligation to consider not only our own personal well-being, but also that of others and of human society as a whole."

In your service as a Board Member, your sense of ethics must guide you in a pattern of behavior that will be beyond reproach.

As an elected official of the ARRL, your decisions must be for the good of ARRL and its members and there should be no opportunity for criticism that your decisions have benefited you or any small circle of your friends.

You will be reimbursed for the expenses necessary to carry out your ARRL duties. This money comes from the members who have chosen to support our association, and there must be no suspicion that even one cent has been used to your advantage, or that you have paid the expenses of those who are not entitled to such reimbursement.

Furthermore, as a custodian of membership money, you have the obligation to spend that money wisely and without excess.

Similarly, when you travel in an official capacity to a hamfest or convention, your expenses are reimbursed with money that comes from the membership. It is not proper, therefore, to permit your name to be entered in any prize drawing or lottery.

In your appearances at hamfests and conventions, your on-the-air activity, and in your social media presence, you will be measured by everything you do - not as an individual amateur, but as a representative of the ARRL. You must ensure that your conduct cannot be faulted.

As specific examples, on-the-air campaigning for elected office, criticism of fellow Board Members, and/or promoting personal ideas, may not be appropriate and are not sanctioned by ARRL.

It is not our intent, however, to outline every conceivable situation or every facet of ethical behavior. We have listed some of the general areas of consideration. An even more general consideration is that ethical behavior is simply common sense. If you understand that as an Officer or Board Member, you have been placed upon a pedestal in Amateur Radio, then you will realize that you must be circumspect in your behavior, and beyond reproach in every aspect of your conduct. You will serve the ARRL with honor.