

Doc# 33

ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory
Committee

To The ARRL Board of Directors

July 2013

Respectfully submitted by:
Jim Cross, WI3N
ECAC Committee Chairman

Report of the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee

July, 2013

Based on a motion at the January, 2013, Board of Directors meeting, the ECAC will sunset as a committee in January, 2014.

We welcome Chuck Verdon, W5KAV, as the replacement appointee from the Northwestern Division. As of January, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, Southeastern Division Director has returned as our Board Liaison.

Since the first of the year ECAC has designed and sent out a survey to Emergency Managers and received results from 528 respondents. Originally we thought we could send it via Mike Corey through his connection with the International Association of Emergency Managers, but that didn't work out. So we sent it out to SECs and asked them and their ECs to send it to their local Emergency Managers. Estimating a ballpark of 3000 Emergency Managers, our response rate was about 15%.

The next survey we designed and sent out was to NTS participants. Through Steve Ewald we notified SMs and SECs about the survey to keep them in the loop (and take it if they are NTS participants), and had him send it to STMs, NMs, ORS and NTS staff to push out to all NTS participants. IT had put a link on the NTS portion of the ARRL website to the Survey Monkey site and NTS participants were directed there for the link to the survey. Shortly after sending out the information about the survey, Steve received an email from a Digital Coordinator who didn't have any nice things to say about it, so Steve immediately removed the link from the NTS website. At that point 60 people had already taken it.

ECAC reached out to the Area Chairs and Digital Coordinators and invited their comments. We worked most of their suggestions into the survey and sent it back for further comment. While not overly enthusiastic, they thought it was adequate. Our survey was designed with specific questions for information we wanted. They looked at the questions from a different point of view, thinking we should be asking questions that dealt with issues in which they had an interest. The survey finally went out and we had 509 respondents take the survey. We are in the process of analyzing the results.

We'd like to give a big THANK YOU to Jackie Ferreira, KB1PWB, who has been a huge help as we've worked through all the changes, trial runs, interim checking results, etc. of our surveys.

Finally, there were two areas about NTS that we were curious about the perception of the Directors, Steve Ewald and the three Area Chairs. We sent it out as a simple Word document for those potential respondents to type in their thoughts and send back to me. Three Directors, Steve Ewald and two of the Area Chairs responded.

We continue to meet once per week in an effort to complete our task of recommendations on ARES® and NTS by the January, 2014, meeting of the Board of Directors. To date we have collected a fair amount of information about badges as we were tasked with coming up with a recommendation. It was heartening to read in the January, 2013, P&SC report "*Agenda*

items for 2013 include acting on the previously tasked Advisory Committee recommendations” of the intent of the P&SC to take up recommendations by various committees. However, regarding the badge issue, since none of the recommendations that we’ve made over the years have been acted upon, we think it is a better use of the very limited time we have left to deal with the larger issues before we adjourn sine die.

One suggestion that I would urge the P&SC and other standing committees to undertake is to absolutely clarify, in the rules under which advisory and other committees operate, precisely what is expected of committee members with regard to sharing committee information with others outside of the committee. That question came up within our committee and I noticed that in the July, 2011, Board Minutes there is a reference to it regarding another advisory committee. Absolute clarity would be appreciated.

While trying to look through the Board minutes and P&SC reports to extract references relative to us and our task, I found that standing committee reports and advisory committee reports are not located in the years 2013 – 2010 on the ARRL website. If you go to year 2009 you will find all of those committee reports. Steve Ewald knows about it and hopefully IT will fix it soon.

What I was looking for in the minutes and reports is discussion of why the ARRL PSCM, App. B, MPG, Chapter 6 has not been adopted and posted on the ARRL website. What I found in the July, 2011, Board minutes was that the motion to adopt it was made and failed. Unfortunately, as with most Board minutes, there was nothing in there about what was said for or against it nor even what the vote total was. So to get a historical perspective on why and how actions were taken, the minutes are useless and we now have to interview board members to try to reconstruct two years later what happened. For committees and ARRL members who are trying to understand the thinking of the Board on a given topic, I hope that in the future the Board will consider at a minimum having some bullet points in the minutes regarding the discussion on motions and, if not who voted for and against a motion, at least the total vote for and against.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Emergency Communications Advisory Committee

July 2013

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