

## **ARRL Program and Services Committee (PSC) Report to the Board - July 2016**

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**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 Committee members:** Tom Abernethy W3TOM, Dwayne Allen WY7FD, Kent Olson KA0LDG, Doug Rehman K4AC, Art Zygielbaum KOAIZ, ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manager Dave Patton NN1N (Staff Liaison), Jim Boehner N2ZZ (Chairman)

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The Programs and Service Committee (PSC) is pleased to provide this report to highlight activities and accomplishments over the last six months.

The committee gathered formally at ARRL headquarters last January, via teleconference in May, and again in June to conduct business and address a variety of topics. Directors Boehner and Rehman met with Contest Advisory Committee members in February at the Orlando Hamcation for an informal discussion regarding Youth in Contesting. ARRL Assistant Secretary Dan Henderson N1ND provided much appreciated assistance as recording secretary to the committee.

**DX Advisory Committee (DXAC):** PSC tasked DXAC with researching the feasibility of a Mobile DXCC award. Their recommendations were received in December 2015 in favor of such an award. Staff has been tasked with determining needed resources, budget and schedule to roll out this award. Additional comments from interested parties were received by Patton and Boehner at the Dayton Hamvention. It is anticipated that a formal motion will be brought before the board at this meeting. Dwayne Allen WY7FD serves as the DXAC board liaison.

**Contest Advisory Committee (CAC):** in January 2016, PSC requested the CAC to undertake a study of youth and radio contesting. This was to be carried out as a two part effort, to first conduct research and report findings, followed by analyzing the findings and making specific recommendations. A Youth in Radiosport Survey was begun in mid-April and will complete on August 31<sup>st</sup>. In May of 2016, PSC requested that the CAC undertake a project to consolidate “The General Rules of all ARRL Contests”, the

“General Rules for all ARRL contests Below 30 MHz” and individual contest rules into a single rule set for each of the ARRL HF Contests. Additionally, changes to the CAC’s internal functioning to improve overall efficiency and effectiveness are being carried out, as approved by the PSC in 2015. A revision of the ARRL CAC handbook is in progress by Directors Rehman and Norris, as this document involves ARRL policy issues. Doug Rehman K4AC serves as the CAC board liaison.

**VHF and Above Contest Revitalization working group:** Composed of Kermit Carlson W9XA (Chairman), Dave Patton NN1N, Marty Woll N6VI, Doug Rehman K4AC, Rod Blocksome KODAS, and Matt Holden K0BBC, PSC’s VHF and Above Contest Revitalization working group continues its thorough review of ARRL’s VHF and above contesting program and development of key recommendations to increase the level and breadth of participation in these contests. Kermit reports the VCR will present a complete recommendation for the ARRL UHF contest rules at the July 14th PSC meeting.

**DXCC Card Checking Program Modernization working group.** Composed of Tom Abernethy W3TOM (Chairman), Dave Norris K5UZ, Dale Williams WA8EFK, and Dave Patton NN1N, PSC’s DXCC Card Checking Program Modernization working group is conducting a top-to-bottom review of the League’s card checking rules, procedures, etc. and is anticipated to make recommendations aimed at modernizing and improving this important program at the July 14<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting.

**Public Service Enhancement Working Group:** Composed of Dale Williams WA8EFK (Chairman) Jim Pace K7CEX, Jim Tiemstra K6JAT, Steve Ewald, WV1X, Ken Bailey K11U and Mike Corey, K1FUG, multiple issues are being evaluated. Areas of focus include: Statuses of our Memorandums of Understanding with our partner agencies (previously called served agencies), simplified common report collection system models for our field volunteers, ARES needs for a new model for message traffic, volunteer training with inclusion of ICS courses, EC’s being the primary focus of ARES, and possible discontinuation of the Official Emergency Station (OES) appointment.

**ARRL Award Recommendations:** Several award nominees have been sent for consideration by the committee from Steve Ewald WV1X. These include the Technical Service, the Hiram Percy Maxim, and the Joe Knight Distinguished Service Awards. Information on the nominees has been sent to PSC members, and consideration for bestowing these awards will be addressed by the PSC on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Steve Ford has indicated that the winner of the Doug DeMaw W1FB Technical Excellence award for 2015 is Andrew J. Buckler, K2OP for his article “a Solid State 1.25 kW Linear Amplifier” published in the January 2015 QST. The Public Relations Committee has voted to recommend Tom Ritter, WY7KY as the 2016 Philip McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award recipient.

**National Traffic System™ (NTS™) issues:** The PSC has drafted and passed a motion that will be sent to the full board thanking and congratulating the NTS membership for their outstanding service, and assuring them of a continued role in the League’s public service communication plans. In regards to leadership, the PSC, after due consideration, recommended to the Executive Committee to declare the office of Section Manager of Eastern Pennsylvania vacant, and to cancel all Field Organization appointments held by Mr. Joe Ames W3JY. The PSC then reached out to Bud Hippisley W2RU to fill the NTS Eastern Area Chair vacancy, who accepted the position for a two year term. Bud has a distinguished

resume of nearly a half century of service to the ARRL, being active in NTS and ARES since 1955. He has served as a Section Communication Manager (now referred to as Section Manager) of the Western New York Section and as a Vice Director of the Atlantic Division. Bud has previously served as the Eastern Area Chair.

**Standing Orders:** In their top to bottom review of standing orders, the Executive Committee passed down three standing orders for the PSC to review, and recommend whether to retain, delete or modify those orders. After due consideration, recommendations were that standing order 93 be retained, standing order 93-2.17 be deleted, and standing order 03-2.27 be changed to replace the words “shall” with “should”, “will” with “should” and change “Field and Educational Services Department” to “Field Services and Radiosport Department”. For further details, please refer to the Executive Committee Report to the Board, Appendix A.

**Volunteer Instructor Database:** The Volunteer database requested by the Education Committee has been turned over to the Education Department and is in beta testing. Beta testing has resulted in a few improvements, and a final version is being completed at this time.

**Section Manager Training/Workshops:** Mr. Patton NN1N and Steve Ewald WV1X were directed to review the curriculum for annual Section Manager Workshops, and to report back to the PSC at their July meeting with suggestions for improving the workshops.

**DXCC Honor Roll Certificate:** By consensus, the Committee directed the FSR Department to prepare a plan to develop a DXCC Honor Roll certificate. Staff has been tasked with determining needed resources, budget and schedule to roll out this award, to be reported at the July PSC meeting.

As Chairman, I would like to thank all of the PSC members, the working groups, our League’s advisory committees, and ARRL’s staff for the dedication and energy they have poured in to our many deliberations, research of solutions and decision-making. I would especially like to thank my predecessor, Brian Milesosky N5ZGT for his advice and counsel during my transition to PSC chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Bohner N2ZZ  
Chairman, ARRL Programs and Services Committee  
ARRL Director, Roanoke Division