

**Report of the Executive Committee  
ARRL Board of Directors  
January 2024**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Following are noteworthy actions of the Executive Committee (EC) since the July Board Meeting.

The EC continues to work closely with Counsel Siddall on pending FCC matters and filings before the Commission. These efforts are given top priority.

FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), RM-11785, ET Docket 23-120 and 23-121, on April 18, 2023, to initiate proceedings to implement provisions of WRC-2015 and WRC-2019 treaties, which includes the Amateur allocation for 5 MHz, the 60-meter band. (ODV:34760) In 2017, you will recall that the ARRL petitioned the FCC to keep the existing use of the band and adding a new allocation adopted internationally, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit. The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. A call to action for ARRL members to comment on the 60 meters NPRM went out in late October and over 3450 comments were filed, most supporting ARRL's position. (ODV:35288) The EC worked with Counsel Siddall on ARRL's comments which were filed on November 28, 2023. (ODV:35370)

An ad hoc group called Shortwave Modernization Coalition (SMC) petitioned the FCC to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF range with up to 20 KW, including in bands immediately adjacent to spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. It appears this effort will be for high-speed stock trading interests. (ODV:34803) The FCC assigned it RM-11953. The ARRL Laboratory studied the petition concerning potential interference to Amateur Radio communications. The Lab and the EC worked closely with Counsel Siddall to prepare an analysis and response. Opposition comments were filed with the FCC on August 2. (ODV:35043) Additionally, Reply Comments were also filed with the FCC on August 17, 2023 to emphasize the basis for the FCC to dismiss or deny the SMC petition without going to rulemaking. (ODV:35131)

After many years, the FCC finally issued a Report and Order on our petition to replace the outdated symbol rate with an equivalent bandwidth limit. (ODV:35293, 35330) While favorable, the FCC sought additional comments to address other rules in which a symbol rate exists, specifically in the LF/VHF/UHF bands. (ODV:35393) The EC directed Counsel Siddall to seek comments from participants in those communities and a group zoom meeting was held on December 27, 2023, to seek input. The group

suggested that symbol rate and bandwidth limits both should be deleted on the subject bands. The EC subsequently worked with Counsel Siddall on comments which were filed on January 8, 2024. (ODV:35539)

Counsel Siddall has provided periodic updates since last March on the National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) following release by the White House. The focus of NSS is to identify spectrum for commercial use which makes it imperative that Radio Amateurs be able to show high value in the Amateur Radio Service. The EC continues to monitor the directive and is working with Counsel Siddall on comments to be filed this month.

Since the July Board meeting, the EC held one virtual meeting on December 14, 2023. See Minutes in ODV:35540.

I want to thank the members of the EC for their hard work and dedication to Amateur Radio and the League.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Roderick – K5UR  
Chair, Executive Committee

Members:

Director Jim Boehner – N2ZZ  
Director Fred Kemmerer – AB1OC  
Director Kristen McIntyre – K6WX  
Director Dale Williams – WA8EFK  
Director Art Zygielbaum – K0AIZ  
First Vice President Mike Raisbeck – K1TWF  
Chief Executive Officer David Minster – NA2AA  
President Rick Roderick – K5UR