

# ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC)

## Report to the Board of Directors – July 2020

This report covers PSC teleconferences March through July, 2020. The PSC attempts to meet each month to keep tasks on track and assignment status reports frequent.

Current PSC members include:

- Director Baker
  - Director Blocksome
  - Director Holden (Chair)
  - Director Norris (CAC liaison)
  - Director Ritz (DXAC liaison)
  - Vice Director Hudgens
  - Second Vice President Vallio (Officer Liaison)
- Director Hippiusley is the chairman of the Public Service Enhancement Working Group, but, not a voting member of the PSC.

ARRL HQ support is provided by:

- Mr. Norm Fusaro (Staff Liaison)
- Mr. Dan Henderson (Secretary to the Committee)
- Mr. Bart Jahnke (Radiosport and Field Services Manager)
- Mr. Paul Bourque (Radiosport)

I was not in attendance at the January 2020 PSC meeting and have not included the proceedings in my report. I joined the committee and assumed chairmanship after the January 2020 Board of Directors meeting. A brief meeting was held March 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award and formulate a list of items to work on this year and set the next meeting's agenda.

The April teleconference was dominated by the discussion to modify the 2020 Field Day rules. The COVID-19 pandemic would make public gathering limited or impossible in many parts of the United States. Other regions, would be able to host a field day event with little to no change to their plans. The committee chose to make no changes and review the decision at the May meeting. Director Norris was appointed, by President Roderick, to replace Director Norton as the CAC liaison. Director Ritz was appointed, by President Roderick, to serve as DXAC liaison. Mr. Jahnke shared that the SS and DX portions of the rules unification project was completed and will be updated on the web. ARRL HQ proceeded to the work on the other ARRL contests. Modifications to VHF contests and the role FT8 plays in contesting were discussed.

The May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting was held to review the 2020 Field Day rules. As our nation's response to COVID-19 evolved, so, did our committee's response to possible restrictions that many radio operators may experience during this annual operating event. Two, one-time, rule wavers were introduced to allow class D stations to work other D stations, for credit. In addition, an aggregate club score will be collected

by individual entries indicating a specific club. (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions.)

The June 4<sup>th</sup> teleconference featured an update from Vice Director Cooper on the Emergency Communications Director search committee. Task opinions received from the DXAC and CAC were also discussed. Several award nominations were agreed upon and sent to the full board of directors for approval.

The July 15<sup>th</sup> teleconference featured several award nominations that were agreed upon and sent to the full board of directors for approval. Director Ritz completed work on a standing order change that has been delivered to the full board for approval. The DXAC and CAC committee reports were received and discussed. On going activities were discussed and listed below:

- Social media usage during contests policy
- VHF and up contests allowing mentorship similar to the “family rule.”
- DXCC rule changes.
- Refresh Public Service Honor Roll scoring structure.

The Public Service Enhancement Working Group is busy participating in the Emergency Communications Director hiring process and have several enhancements to the ARES program, to discuss, once the new director assumes their new position.

I ask my fellow directors to approve Motion PSC 1. The motion would add a standing order that would no longer require PSC decisions, on the contest rules changes, to be individually approved by the full board. Allowing the PSC to make contest rule decisions would allow the Board of Directors to focus on policy and governance of this organization instead of getting “into the weeds” on an individual contest rules.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matt Holden KØBBC  
Program and Services Committee Chair