

## **Report of the Programs and Services Committee January 2006 ARRL Board Meeting**

The P&SC has met four (4) times by telephone conference, once in person immediately before the July Board of Directors meeting and has scheduled a second in person meeting immediately prior to the January 2006 Board meeting.

As successor to the previous Membership Services Committee and the Volunteer Resources Committee, P&SC continues to monitor the tasks and activities of the Membership Services Department and Field & Educational Services. The primary tasks and activities we are working on are:

### A. Membership Services

1. Oversight of the addition of Award verification using LOTW. WAS verification is scheduled for implementation early in 2006. Once the key element for WAS are in place other awards may be added, such as the Triple-Play Award, (WAS on CW, Phone & Digital) and even non-ARRL awards, subject to successful discussions with the Award sponsors.
2. Working with staff regarding the expansion and promotion of League operating awards and member services in QST and on the ARRL Website. Changes presently planned include highlighting contest listings with color; providing additional material in the ARRL Newsletter on contest activities; featuring ARRL contests in the Contest Rate Sheet.
3. Highlighting and promoting the A-1 Operator Award. N7NG will have a proposal for an A-1 Operator Award pin design for presentation at the January Board Meeting. The committee is also discussing whether the criteria for A-1 Operator nomination should place less emphasis on traffic handling and more on general good operating skills.
4. The committee continues to work with and encourage staff to expand promotion of League operating awards and member services in QST and on the ARRL Website. Changes presently planned include emphasizing contest listings with color; providing additional material in the ARRL Newsletter and featuring ARRL contests in the Contest Rate Sheet.
5. The committee continues to discuss proposed changes in the Field Day GOTA Rules to encourage expanded GOTA operations and pairing of experience

operators with new and inexperienced Amateurs to improve operating and contesting skills.

6. Monitoring the population, start-up and initial assignments of the VUAC.
7. Reviewing proposals regarding Contest issues preliminary to determining whether to recommend referral of the issues to CAC, such as Club Contest Scoring; Restrictions on US licensees operating in DX entities in Contests and Penalties for logging errors.
8. The Committee is reviewing a proposal to sanction Morse Proficiency tests and awards.

B. Field & Educational Services

1. Continued oversight and assistance when requested regarding Field Services management of the ARES Digital Network Management Team.
2. Review with staff the ARRL/ARES response in the Katrina and Rita disasters to assess strengths of the existing model and areas for improvement with regard to communications, organization and utilization of volunteers and communications and interaction with served agencies.
3. Continue to work with staff to expand and promote the awareness among Club officers and members of the resources and materials available from ARRL for use in club programs and activities, with emphasis on Mentoring, maintaining current Club information with ARRL, expanding the Multimedia Library and encouraging new submissions from individuals and clubs, and monitoring the progress of Section speaker's bureau Implementation.
4. Work with staff to integrate additional special interest group material and information on the ARRL web site
5. Monitoring headquarters staff implementation of VRC Field Organization recommendations and discussion of additional field organization changes.
6. Ongoing discussion of feasibility and cost of establishing Databases of non-ARRL Amateur Radio Websites and Internet Services; Silent Keys; and Callsign history.

C. The committee continues the review and on-going monitoring of the Proposed Goals for the 2006 Plan relating to Membership Services and Field & Educational Services.

The Committee thanks staff and particularly, N7NG, K1STO and NN1N for their dedication, participation and assistance in the work of the Program & Services Committee throughout 2005.

December 29, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Director Jay Bellows, KØQB, Chair

Director Dennis Bodson W4PWF

Director Dick Norton, N6AA

Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Director Jim Weaver, K8JE

Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD

Ad Hoc Vice Director Ned Stearns, AA7A as CAC Liaison

Wayne Mills, N7NG, Manager, Membership Services Department

Dave Patton, NN1N, Manager, Field and Educational Services