

Report of the Programs and Services Committee July 2006 ARRL Board Meeting

The PSC has had three (3) telephone conference meetings and one in person immediately before the July Board of Directors meeting. An additional in person meeting is scheduled for this Fall.

As successor to the Membership Services Committee and the Volunteer Resources Committee, the Programs and Services Committee is charged with guiding the development of service delivery mechanisms, evaluate services, and recommend program priorities.

Membership Services responsibilities involve advising the CEO on services provided to individual members including, but not limited to:

- Contests and Awards
- Information services including LoTW
- QSL bureau services

Program Services responsibilities involve advising the CEO on volunteer programs, including but not limited to:

- Field Organization
- Affiliated Clubs
- Educational Initiatives
- Volunteer Examiners
- Volunteer Counsel/Consulting Engineers

Other Responsibilities include evaluating and making recommendations to the Board for outstanding volunteer service or outstanding achievement in Amateur Radio

The committee has been involved in the following activities thus far in 2006:

A. Membership Services

1. DXAC PSC forwarded a proposed change to the DXCC Point 1 Entity Criteria to DXAC asked them to review and vet the proposal. The specifics will be found in the DXAC Report. PSC referred the Report to the Awards Committee.
2. CAC PSC tasked CAC with two issues:
 - a. CAC was asked whether there was any substantial interest in changing the Club Contest Competition scoring at this time. They determined at present there wasn't substantial interest in changing the scoring scheme.

- b. CAC was asked to assess the current contest scoring penalty for incorrect logging was adequate. The CAC reported they found the current penalties adequate. The specifics will be found in the CAC Report.

CAC, has requested a referral from PSC to investigate other options to increase accuracy in contest logs and the extent to which whether additional information regarding log checking would be beneficial. PSC will vote on accepting the CAC Report and the requested referrals at the July 20 PSC meeting.

3. VUAC The VUAC members have been appointed and the committee is up and running. VUAC has been asked to consider the advisability of expanding the VHF contest rules that ban use of calling frequencies to include modes other than FM on 2 meters. The matter is currently under consideration.
4. Contest Award Sponsorship Guidelines PSC and staff continue to discuss contest award sponsorship guidelines.
5. A1 Op Club The A1 Op Club pins are now available. A1 Op board members are encouraged show their membership through wearing an A1 Op pin and to keep an eye and ear out for new A1 Op nominees.
6. Winter Operating Event A subcommittee of PSC continues to look into the ramifications of a suggestion for a winter operating event.

B. Field & Educational Services

1. Knight Distinguished Service Award PSC adopted Terms of Reference for the Knight Distinguished Service Award authorized by the Board. An announcement of the award and call for nominations appeared in a Web Page article and the committee has provided information to QST for a similar announcement and call for nominations.
2. ARES NERPC PSC is maintaining close communication with Vice President Craigie and the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) to continue to assure that ARES and the proposed National/Regional emergency communications plans complement one another.
3. Education The Committee has kept abreast of the work of the Education Task Group with staff in developing content for "The Ham Radio License Manual", the successor to "Now Your Talking." Now that the new book is in print and the related Web materials are being developed commercially the committee has returned its attention to the need for an on-line resource site to meet individual and club education needs. This potentially valuable resource

has been on hold pending funding. It is hoped the modest development costs can be included in the upcoming Budget/Plan.

4. Evaluation of F&ES Programs – Field Organization Position Review – Strategic Planning

The predecessor Volunteer Resources Committee undertook a study of the Field Organization in 2003; COO Kramer has developed a matrix for evaluation of programs and services; and the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board in 2003 is going to be updated at the July Board meeting. Recognizing the Field Organization personnel and structure and F&ES programs and services are a function of the current and future plans of ARRL, PSC is setting aside a portion of its July 20th meeting to discuss the needs and goals of ARRL Field Services over the next 5 years and the potential impact on structure and services.

- C. VEC In response to the inquiry from a committee member, the VEC and in particular VEC Manager, Maria Somma, AB1FM, were able to effect a change in FCC procedures that allows ARRL members to avoid the cumbersome FCC vanity call sign renewal process and easily renew vanity calls through the ARRL VEC at a nominal cost.

Respectfully submitted,

Director Jay Bellows, KØQB, Chair

Director Dennis Bodson W4PWF

Director Dick Norton, N6AA

Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, and as DXAC Liaison

Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q

Vice Director Bruce Frahm, KØBJ, and as CAC Liaison

Ad Hoc - Vice Director Ned Stearns, AA7A as VUAC Liaison

Wayne Mills, N7NG, Manager, Membership Services Department

Dave Patton, NN1N, Manager, Field and Educational Services