

## **Report of the Programs and Services Committee January 2008 ARRL Board Meeting**

The PSC had an in-person meeting December 8, 2007 and will have a second in-person meeting immediately before the January Board of Directors meeting. Other committee business has been conducted via the PSC reflector.

The Programs and Services Committee is charged with a broad range of responsibilities including recommending program priorities and, evaluating current and developing services within the Membership and Volunteer Program Department. The PSC is also responsible for overview of Education activities, W1AW, and advising the CEO on the Volunteer Examiner and Volunteer Professional programs.

In addition to its normal activities the Board, at the July 2007 Board Meeting directed the Programs and Services Committee to undertake a study of Section Governance.

### **A. Membership and Volunteer Programs**

#### **1. Membership Services**

The integration of Membership Services into the combined Membership and Volunteer Programs Department has been substantially completed. MVP staff continues to be cross-trained in a range of MVP activities so they may fill-in when needed. .

#### *DXCC*

After falling back to a 15 week turnaround on cards DXCC has begun to cut into the backlog and is now at a 13 week turnaround. As noted in the 2008 Plan some long awaited improvements in DXCC card processing and tracking will begin to be implemented in 2008. The existing DXCC criteria is working well as evidenced by the recent changes as a result of political restructuring in French DXCC entities in the Caribbean.

The Committee voted to eliminate DXCC Rule III, 5 regarding possible disqualification of contacts where all relevant contact information is available in a publicly published log. The Committee acknowledged the possibility of abuse in QSL confirmations arising from publication of complete, log information, however given current technology it is essentially impossible to enforce the rule. Moreover the Committee recognized that reliable QSL confirmations are and should be the responsibility of the confirming station and/or QSL manager. The committee therefore asked the MVP department to develop recommendations and policies to foster accuracy in QSLing for individuals and QSL managers

*New Awards*

The Committee recommended approval of a new 6 Meter Award, the Fred Fish, W5FF, Memorial Award, for any person with confirmed 6 Meter contacts with all 488 contiguous Continental US grid squares

*Contest*

Interest in Contesting continues to grow as do the number of suggestions for new categories, contests, rule changes and operating events. The committee works with staff and the Contest Advisory Committee to evaluate the suggestions as they arise

*Advisory Committees–*

VUAC

The rules for the EME contest were revised and have been implemented. With one exception the Rover rules proposed by VUAC have been approved by the Awards committee. The unresolved rule relates to use of APRS. The question will be presented to the PSC at its January meeting. The committee also requested VUAC to study and propose a definition to be used to describe “coherent emissions” via light in the 10 Ghz and up contest.

CAC

A referral to consider rules relating to remote operation in contests is being sent to CAC .

DXAC

A referral to consider rules relating to remote operation is being sent to DXAC.

## **2. Field Services**

The integration of Field Services into the combined Membership and Volunteer Programs Department has been substantially completed. MVP staff continues to be cross-trained in a range of Field Services activities so they may fill-in when needed. .

*ARES and EmComm*

Dennis Dura, K2DCD, our new Emergency Communications and Response Manager is now on-board and is addressing both new issues and the backlog resulting the lack of a person dedicated to managing the League’s emergency communication preparedness mission over the past year.

The ability of local ARES groups and ARRL EmComm volunteers to provide emergency communications service continues to be dependent upon the ability of volunteers to secure any necessary credentialing locally. Separate efforts are underway to investigate alternative ways to secure credentialing.

*Field Organization*

The monthly teleconferences with rotating groups of Section Managers begun by Field Services staff earlier this year continues to be well received.

*Web Page*

The ability of members and volunteers to fully utilize the resources of ARRL and the information available on the Web Page continues to be hampered by the current Web Page structure and ease of use. The expansion and possible revision of the MVP Web Page was pushed back to 2008 due to a lack of programming resources needed to facilitate these additions.

**B. Other PSC Activities**

*Field Code Proficiency Testing*

The field test pilot program to provide testing of Morse Code proficiency in the Great Lakes Division was completed. Director Weaver submitted a written Report on the project. The Report concluded at this time there is inadequate interest to warrant continuation or expansion of the program. The Committee accepted the report, agreed to discontinue the study and extended its thanks to Code Proficiency Teams in Brighton, MI, Toledo and Akron, OH and Lexington, KY, COO Kramer, Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, Maria Somma, AB1FM and Director Weaver for their efforts in this pilot project/study.

*NTS Policy Regarding Routine Volume Traffic*

The Committee authorized NTS Staff to develop appropriate policies for handling volume routine traffic.

*Feasibility Study US to US QSL's in the District QSL Bureaus .*

The committee undertook a study as to the possibility of including US to US QSL's in the District QSL Bureaus. At the conclusion of the study it was determined the nature of DX QSL Bureau use and projected Domestic QSL use are sufficiently different that use of the existing District QSL Bureau for exchange of Domestic QSL would not be efficient or economical. The committee thanks the District QSL Bureau Managers for their cooperation and participation in the study.

January 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Director Jay Bellows, KØQB, Chair

Director Jim Weaver, K8JE

Director Dick Norton, N6AA

Director Bruce Frahm, KØBJ, also as CAC Liaison

Director Frank Fallon, N2FF

Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

Ad Hoc Member Vice Director Cliff Ahrens, KØCA as DXAC Liaison

Dave Patton, NN1N, Manager, Membership and Volunteer Programs