



## ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC)

### Report to the Board of Directors – July 2022

The Programs and Services Committee is pleased to present this report to the ARRL Board of Directors covering PSC activities for the first six months of calendar year 2022. The PSC met live in Windsor, CT on January 20, 2022, then via Zoom video conference on April 20, 2022.

#### ARRL By-law 39:

The Programs and Services Committee shall:

- Create and modify services and programs, and advise the Chief Executive Officer re same, that address and support DX awards, contests, radio sport, W1AW, W1AW services, Logbook of The World and the incoming and outgoing QSL bureau services;
- Create and modify services and programs, and advise the Chief Executive Officer re same, that address and support, volunteer examiners, Volunteer Counsel, Volunteer Consulting Engineers, and educational initiatives;
- Evaluate and recommend awards recipients to the Board for outstanding volunteer service or outstanding achievement;
- Recommend the creation or modification of Board policy that relates to or affects matters for which the Programs and Services Committee has responsibility.

(Not contained within the By-Law, but a PSC practice): Other than ARRL contests and operating events, the PSC brings newly created or modified services and programs to the full Board for a vote, as recommended by the President.

**Voting PSC members for 2022:**

Director Lippert, AC0W (also Board CAC Liaison)  
Director Luetzelschwab, K9LA (also Board DXAC Liaison)  
Director McIntyre K6WX  
Director Ritz, W7VO, (Committee Chair)  
Director Zygielbaum, K0AIZ  
Vice Director Grady, N2SRK (PSC Secretary, effective April 2022)  
Vice Director Propper, K2DP  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Vallio, W6RGG, (PSC Officer Liaison)

**Non-Voting PSC members for 2022:**

Mr. Jahnke, W9JJ, Radiosport Manager  
Mr. Naumann, W5OV, (Staff Liaison, and Secretary (January 2022 to April 2022))

**The following are highlights from the first six months of 2022:****Awards:**

Most ARRL awards are vetted and approved in the July PSC and full Board meeting, so only one major award was conferred in the first six months of 2022. The single award vetted and approved by the PSC was the *Doug DeMaw, W1FB Technical Excellence Award*, and it went to Richard Kiefer, KODK. The award was subsequently approved by the full Board at its January 2022 meeting.

**CAC/Contesting:**

The PSC continues to be working hand-in-hand with the Contest Advisory Committee, (CAC). This is due in part to the fact that it continues to be under the steady direction of Craig Thompson, K9CT, with Director Lippert, AC0W capably serving as the ARRL Board Liaison. I am personally very happy with how the CAC is currently functioning, and the CAC e-mail reflector remains very active as they discuss the issues among themselves.

In the January PSC meeting it was voted to formally adopt the new "*ARRL International Digital Contest*", utilizing rules established with the CAC working in collaboration with ARRL HQ Radiosport personnel. The new contest was designed to offset the removal of FT-x digital modes from the January "*RTTY Roundup Contest*", after it was deemed that RTTY and the FT-x digital modes were not really compatible contained within the single contest. The new contest is "*any digital mode except RTTY*", and the RTTY Contest is now just RTTY. (As the name implied all along...)

The first iteration of the new digital contest was held the first weekend of June, and was considered a huge success. The CAC is currently evaluating the results, and will likely recommend some minor tweaks going forward.

It is recommended for further information on CAC current activities, please reference July Board meeting Document #22, "*Contest Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Report*"

**Field Day:**

Following Field Day 2021 the PSC asked ARRL Radiosport staff to conduct a survey of prior Field Day participants and get an idea about what they (the members) thought Field Day 2022 should look like, rule-wise. ARRL Radiosport staff then established a Survey Monkey survey link, and set it to some

12,000+ prior Field Day entrants, posted the link in the ARRL Newsletter, and listed it on ARRL social media sites. Some 3,000+ prior entrants and members responded.

In its January meeting the PSC reviewed the survey results, and after discussion elected to keep the same Field Day rule waivers as were implemented in 2021, with one exception: Limit ALL entrants to 100 watts of power. At the same time, a suggestion sent to PSC through Vice Director Morine, W2COP, to alter requirements for awarding Media Publicity bonus points. This suggestion was also approved and incorporated into the rules.

NOTE: Despite what was published in the ARRL Newsletter numerous times, last year's rule waivers and changes are NOT "permanent", and PSC will again review Field Day rules for possible tweaks for 2023 and beyond in our January meeting. As COVID is winding down, possibilities include a new rule set that encourages actual field operating over staying at home, (a common member complaint), and provides incentives to operate modes other than FT8 digital. (Another common member complaint.)

#### **DXCC/DXAC:**

The 2022 DX Advisory Committee Chair is Chris Shalvoy, K2CS, and the Board DXAC Liaison is Director Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

The PSC sent the DXAC several issues for consideration in the first six months of the 2022, many which have been submitted previously and denied. (If at first you don't succeed, wait a few years and try again with a new DXAC and CAC!) After DXAC discussion there was nothing actionable by the PSC at this time.

It is recommended for further information on DXAC activities please reference Board Document #23, "*DX Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Report*"

#### **LoTW:**

There has been no PSC activity the preceding six months with LoTW, other than sending member recommendations to the LoTW committee through Director McIntyre, who serves on both committees.

LoTW is currently under the direction of the separate LoTW Committee under Chair Widin, K0GW, and ARRL Board Liaison Baker, N4MB. With the hiring of the new ARRL IT Director it is hoped there may be some movement in a positive direction in relation to future LoTW upgrades.

#### **The Working Group for Transmitter Cleanliness:**

The PSC Working Group for Transmitter Cleanliness essentially completed its task with the passing of Motion PSC #1 in the January Board meeting "*Motion to Adopt the Clean Signal Initiative*". It was decided to keep the working group intact until ARRL staff could begin work on incorporating the initiative, but is inactive at the moment. The CSI program is now in the hands of ARRL staff, and it is expected that Mr. Minster will provide an update in his CEO report.

#### **ARRL participation in the President's Volunteer Service Award program:**

Last year the PSC approved ARRL staff looking into whether or not it would be feasible for ARRL to become a certifying organization in the *President's Volunteer Service Award* program.

For the uninitiated, a program description from their website: <https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/>:

“In 2003, the *President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation* founded the *President’s Volunteer Service Award* to recognize the important role of volunteers in America’s strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too. The PVSA has continued under each administration, honoring the volunteers who are using their time and talents to solve some of the toughest challenges facing our nation.

Led by the AmeriCorps and managed in partnership with Points of Light, this program allows Certifying Organizations to recognize their most exceptional volunteers.”

It was determined by staff the program was both worthwhile and feasible, however without implementation of the Personify association management software by HQ it could not be accomplished successfully. ARRL involvement in the program is now awaiting the Personify bug list to be completed, and it is expected that Bob Naumann, W5OV will be providing an update on where we are as an agenda item in the July PSC meeting.

#### **New ARRL Operating Event:**

There has been much discussion in PSC regarding the ARRL conducting another major operating event, similar to the very popular W1AW Centennial event of 2014. This discussion was prompted by input from Director Stratton, and fortified by input from members. The idea was coincidentally also brought up in an A&F committee report provided by Director Kemmerer during the last Executive Committee meeting. Discussion on exactly what ARRL wants to do for a new operating event is ongoing. Staff is exploring possibilities, and will provide an update on possibilities in the July PSC meeting.

#### **Looking ahead to the second half of 2022:**

- Continue to vet staff recommended awards in preparation for the July Board meeting.
- Work on establishing fair and equitable Field Day rules for 2023 and beyond, while seeking ways to get hams “back in the field” following the use of COVID rule waivers.
- Continue to work closely with ARRL staff, and support the CAC and DXAC in their activities related to the PSC.
- Work with ARRL staff to develop a new major ARRL operating event to invigorate members, and get them more “radioactive” in supporting ARRL.
- Continue to push to get ARRL involved as a certifying organization to support the President’s Volunteer Service Award program.
- Sunset the Working Group for Transmitter Cleanliness once ARRL Staff has the CSI program off the ground.
- Continue to monitor progress on the Clean Signal Initiative as approved in the January 2022 Board meeting.

- Continue to monitor the pulse of ARRL members through various social media platforms

Respectfully submitted:

Mike Ritz, W7VO

PSC Chair, on behalf of the ARRL Programs and Services Committee