

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters, Inc.



*March 2017
Newsletter*

www.wi-repeaters.org

From the Chairman

Members, stakeholders, and friends: The WAR board members sat down and met several times to create a proposal to update and revise our Policy and Bylaws documents.

Bylaws are a "big thing". They, along with our Policy document, determine how an organization is governed. It spells out how the organization is to operate. It's important enough that it requires a larger majority and two separate votes to make a change. Yes, it's that big. And it was time to change them.

The Bylaws were created many, many years ago and amended several times. Much of the language was convoluted and old. There were things that weren't very clear. We wanted to clean that up.

At the same time, we felt it was a good time to look at how our organization is structured. We looked at several similar organizations to see what they were doing. We took that information and compared it to what we were doing, and saw some problems.

First off, the "board" was just a few officers, elected every year. It was possible that the entire group of leaders would change every year, or that we'd get a nomination for one position, but not another. That makes it pretty hard to keep any kind of momentum or consistency going. We decided to fix that by moving to staggered two-year terms, meaning that only half the board changes every year. Second, there should be more and better representation on the board. To that end, we proposed not only expanding the number of board members but also adding representatives to the board from each geographical area. Let's face it, we're a big spread-out state. Naturally, the odds favor more people being able to get involved from the more populous parts of the state, which "stacks the deck" a bit. On the same token, if we "forced" the board to consist of members from certain regions, it could result in open positions if nobody was willing to volunteer from an area, or perhaps someone is elected who isn't an ideal candidate just to fill the position. Doing it this way allows for anyone who wants to participate to be able, and we'll have representation from around the state.

The second major change is how the officers are elected. Right now, the membership votes for the Chairman, Vice Chair, etc. We propose to have the membership vote for the Directors of the board, then let the board appoint the

officers (positions of President, Vice President, etc) from within the board members. This allows for the board to fill vacancies (if the President or Vice President step down for example) or allows for an officer to perhaps step down from an officer position but remain on the board. By operating this way, we feel that it offers quite a bit of flexibility.

Another proposed change is with voting. We want everyone who is entitled to vote to do so. We updated the language to allow for proxy voting via representative, postal mail, or even electronic means. We also opened the door for the possibility of holding meetings via the internet so that you won't need to travel to participate.

The goal here is to allow as many people to participate in as many ways as possible. I feel that this gets us much closer to that.

The changes will have to happen in two steps: First, the members need to approve the changes with a simple majority at the upcoming annual meeting. We have published the proposed changes to both the Bylaws and Policy documents, available for your review on the web site now. Secondly, we'll hold a meeting later in the year where 2/3rd's of the members present will need to approve the documents.

And please, plan on joining us for our Annual meeting Saturday, March 18th at 9:30AM at Ham Radio Outlet (the former AES) in Milwaukee to make your voice heard!

73, Chris Tarr W9JOL, Chairman

Annual Meeting Notice

Saturday - March 18th - 2017

9:30am = Registration
10:00am = Meeting

Ham Radio Outlet
5710 West Good Hope Road
Milwaukee, WI 53223

- Nomination of Officers
- Annual Election

- NEW Policy Revisions
- NEW Bylaw Revisions
- Annual Updates
- Regional Conference

Plan to attend! Visit the web site TODAY!

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters, Inc.

March 19, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Location: Amateur Electronic Supply
Milwaukee, WI 10:00 CDT

Attendance:

Secretary Braun N9CHA
Treasurer Sheetz K9OQO
Frequency Coordinator Karr KA9FUR
Newsletter Editor Bargholz N9UUR

Emil	N9FBF	Dave	WB9WNF	Bob	N9GMT
Dave	KA9WXN	Kevin	N9OIG	Corey	KB9BNA
Tom	N9BBG	Robin	WB9COW	Ralph	N9BDR
Chris	W9JOL	Pete	AB9PJ	Jim	KB9KBK
Bill	WQ9A	Dan	N9ASA	James	K9QLP
Bill	KX9M	Nels	WA9JOB	Richard	W9RIC
Len	N9QIP	Ron	KA9JCP	Judy	WJ9K

Call to Order: 10:00 CDT - Introductions

Introductory remarks by Secretary Braun N9CHA, thanking former board members Dave KA9WXN and Pete AB9PJ and former assistant coordinator Travis W9HDG for their service to the Association. Special thank you to AES Milwaukee for hosting the meeting and to Emil N9FBF for arranging the venue. Secretary Braun also apologized for the lateness of the newsletter delivery to the membership.

Secretary's Report

Greg N9CHA provided the members an overview of the operating conditions of the Association. Greg expressed his view of the strategic goals which will provide a challenge to a new leadership team: Educational outreach to Wisconsin hams wishing to participate in repeater building Association Policy revisions to more clearly define the role and process of frequency coordination. Extending the associations willingness to work with surrounding area coordinators on policy and governance issues affecting band allocations and raster alignments Development of educational materials (video, web) to reach the younger, modern ham. Create a better internal work-flow to maintain membership information including annual updates.

Treasurers Report

Jim K9OQO presented the report as published and handed out to the membership. Motion to accept James K9QLP, Jim KB9KBK second. Passed. No discussion.

Coordinators Report

Dave KA9FUR reviewed the challenges of coordination during the past year. Illinois had a waiting list of which some entries went back 10 years, most were in the 2-5 year range. Dave spent ~20 hours over a weekend to find solutions for all of them after Aaron (IL Coordinator) had objected to a handful of requests Dave had made in SE WI that he felt compromised his ability to address his waiting list entries. Dave reported he had made a series of proposals on the heels of Aaron cleaning up their (IL) records and de-coordinating a number of no longer used auxiliary stations and a few repeaters. As a result of this work, Dave will be reworking a few of the proposals he had made. Dave briefly discussed the topic of working on a forward looking plan to make better use of VHF spectrum when coordinating narrow bandwidth emitters. Dave stressed that it was being considered in the context of enabling and not mandating a change. Dave also mentioned that this was a co-operative discussion with IL and would also evolve to include other states coordinators. Dave reported as a matter of context, in 2003 WI then IL and later IN adopted a plan that coordinate repeaters below 442 MHz and at that time we (WI) said we were not looking to displace any existing aux stations, but would encourage voluntary relocation. Dave continued his observations, that 13 years later, we (WI) have reached a point where it may be impossible to find a channel for a new 70cm repeater while at the same time the remaining aux stations are generally the only auxiliary station occupant on one half of a pair for hundreds of miles and we are generally unable to re-use that channel for repeater operation due to having to protect the aux receiver from a new repeater's operation. Part of the 2003 plan did set aside spectrum for auxiliary operation above 440 MHz and in the future Dave will be looking

at assigning new channels to auxiliary stations which are not currently operating in that spectrum as well as asking these users to move to a channel below 440 MHz. Once IL completes their audit of their auxiliary coordination's, he expects this same effort to occur there. The end goal is to enable better re-use of this spectrum. Dave also discussed the topic of modeling. He explained how he uses modeling to find the most suitable channel for any given proposal which may not be the channel with the greatest amount of co-channel separation. He observed that MN did adopt the use of modeling as policy a couple years ago (no specific date) and while he hasn't received any models from them (MN), they have requested his model projections with some new proposals and seem to be relying more on them than performing their own estimates. IL has been much the same over the last 10 years or so in regards to modeling. While not formally policy, they have been willing to look at things on a case by case basis. Their former tech advisor, Bob Shepard KA9FLX, had performed his own modeling and we (WI) had worked together on many proposals both WI and IL alike, but since he resigned from that position, IL has relied on Dave for any of this type of work. Dave also mentioned that WAR, Inc. and subsequently all Coordinators role is to make recommendations which avoid interference and our recommendations and objections aside, if interference does ultimately occur, it is still the repeater/aux station operator that's responsible to correct it and of course WAR, Inc. would work to come up with a solution should that occur. To date, Dave didn't recall a situation where anyone has come back to WAR, Inc. and raised an interference complaint that was due to any of the recommendations WAR, Inc. has made. In regards to the role of the Assistant Coordinator, Dave reviewed the past several months of activity. Dave absorbed all of the coordination work since August 2015. He spent about 2-3 months auditing the WAR, Inc. database transactions that had occurred over the course of the prior two years, and then started work on the backlog that had accumulated throughout 2015. Dave thanked Milt for his years of effort then acknowledged that Milt had taken on so much of the workload for the organization that in hind sight it was unrealistic that we could expect anyone else to step into that role and then further complicate those efforts by trying to re-define the 'work flow'. In the near term, Dave felt that eliminating the assistant's role was the most efficient solution to addressing the day-to-day operational needs as well as re-distributing the non-coordination tasks that Milt was doing back to the Secretary and Treasurer as well as working to redefine how the coordination work could be distributed. Dave also made a few comments regarding the role of our Technical Advisor to WAR, Inc. Dave made the recommendation that a Technical Advisor to WAR is to champion some of the planning related tasks which Dave has been handling. (Selective Access Plan, VHF Rebanding, etc.)

Comments and Open Discussion

The membership discussed the issue of "shared knowledge" and how experienced repeater builders in the State might become a resource for the next generation of hams. Resources such as filter tuning, component selection, etc. A discussion regarding young hams forming clubs and putting repeaters on the air need to have the ability to keep the enthusiasm for these projects going. One way to do this is to perhaps promote shared, non-protected frequency pairs which can be used in temporary installations. School districts have been known to support ham radio clubs with funding for such projects. Perhaps WAR could outreach a bit better to help the younger generation of hams understand how and why coordination is a vital component of frequency utilization. A discussion of how to better let the members know that their annual update has been received. Dropbox or other ftp type file repositories was mentioned. A discussion on how to be sure your administrative data is updated, email addresses, mail addresses, phone numbers, etc. Email to the Association is acceptable, but be sure to include the system frequency and location so the email can be quickly associated to the affected group.

Election of Officers

Chairman – Chris W9JOL
Vice Chairman – Jim KB9KBK
Secretary – Greg N9CHA
Treasurer – Jim K9OQO

Set Date and Time for Next Meeting

TBD

Adjournment by Mutual Consent: 11:38 CDT

Respectfully submitted,
WAR, Inc. Secretary Braun N9CHA