



WELCOME TO THE

ARRL-ROANOKE DIVISION

North Carolina · South Carolina · Virginia · West Virginia

WINTER EDITION—JANUARY, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY, 2024 BOARD MEETING

- Help Hams With Antenna Restriction Strategies While Continuing To Pursue Federal Relief
- Free ARRL Membership For Fulltime Students Age 21 and Under
- ARRL Lifetime Member and 70+ Lifetime Memberships To Be Reintroduced
- Big Changes and Increases In ARES® Marketing
- Ethics & Elections Issues To Be Outsourced To Independent Third Party
- Blue Ribbon Panel Created To Review Ethics Guidelines And Standards
- Coding Competition For Youth 21 And Under With Awards Up To \$25,000.
- Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner N2ZZ Re-Elected To Executive Committee

ARRL STEPS UP FIGHTS AGAINST ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS IN CONGRESS AND STATE HOUSES

In the last quarter of 2023, ARRL worked hard to get more support in Congress for HR4006, *The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act*. The bill, which is designed to bring relief to Hams who live in neighborhoods with deeded antenna restrictions, has been referred to the Subcommittee on Communications & Technology of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. ARRL's Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) is trying to get an equivalent bill introduced in the Senate.

When it does, ARRL members who live in districts with Congressmen on the Energy & Commerce Committee will be encouraged to contact them for co-sponsorship and support of HR4006 and the to-be-introduced Senate version. Three Congressmen in the Roanoke Division sit on the House Energy & Commerce Committee—they are: Morgan Griffith of Virginia, Richard Hudson of North Carolina and Jeff Duncan of South Carolina. Members of ARRL's LAC are developing campaign strategies and material to help ARRL members reach out to their congressional representatives for support and co-sponsorship of the HR4006.

Meanwhile, efforts are underway at the state level in South Carolina and North Carolina. Bill H4549, the *Amateur Radio Antenna Protection Act*, has been introduced in the South Carolina House thanks to the efforts of South Carolina Section Manager John Gendron, NJ4Z, and ARRL member Bob Hill, KB3HNB. South Carolina ARRL leadership is working to get a hearing on this bill soon.

In the Tar Heel state, North Carolina Section Manager Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, and State Government Liaison (SGL) Chuck DeCourt, W3WZN, both testified on January 11 before a committee investigating private land restriction "Overreach". The *Charlotte Observer* covered Marv's and Chuck's appearance as part of a story on the hearing: <http://tinyurl.com/bde5y6a8> Following their testimony, several legislators spoke with Marv and Chuck saying they did not realize private antenna restrictions were preventing Hams from providing emergency communications in their neighborhoods. ARRL North Carolina leadership is working with North Carolina legislators to see if they are willing to introduce a bill similar to the one introduced in South Carolina.

MORE ACTION FROM THE JANUARY, 2024 ARRL BOARD MEETING....



ETHICS:

In advance of this board meeting there were many opinions on social media regarding past application of ethics reviews for prospective and sitting elected officials. Two members of the Ethics & Elections Committee proposed a revamp of procedures in what was called the Bylaw 46 revision. The majority of board members agreed that social media is not the place to judge ethics issues. Acknowledging that more work was needed, board members agreed Bylaw 46 motion should be withdrawn, and in its place two measures were adopted.

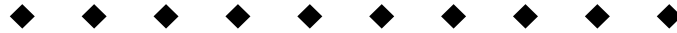
First, ARRL will seek qualified, independent outside organizations which specialize in reviewing non profit ethical issues to assist in providing objective advice and recommendations on such issues. Secondly, a blue ribbon panel was created to report to the July, 2024 board meeting with identification,

costs and recommended methods of engagement with

such independent outside ethics review organizations. Heading the panel is former ARRL President and retired California Superior Court Judge Rod Stafford, W6ROD. His team will consist of both Hams and non-Hams to arrive at the most equitable process of handling ethics issues without bias.

The majority of board members concurred that more defined ethical and conflict standards are needed, especially for a non profit organization of its size. ARRL increasingly will be applying for large grants, and the foundations to which it applies will expect the League to have higher and more rigorous ethical standards and processes in place for consideration to win awards.

YOUTH:



With the average age of ARRL members in their 70s, the board adopted two motions to encourage more youth to become active in Amateur Radio. Fulltime students age 21 and under can join ARRL for free. In addition, recognizing the future of Amateur Radio will consist largely of computer programs, a motion was adopted to design a coding contest for future applications. Winners will share up to \$25,000. in prizes .

ARES® MARKETING:



2023 was a banner year for ARES. ARRL entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Dept. of Homeland Security to integrate ARES into FEMA responses, and ARRL became a member of SAFECOM®, an industry group which sets interoperability standards. Together, these new alliances offer a gateway to expand ARES. The board voted to allocate more money and resources to recruit and train more ARES members. 2025 will mark the 90th anniversary of ARES.

DIRECTOR JIM BOEHNER RE-ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee sets ARRL policy between the semiannual board meetings. Its five members are elected annually by the full board of 15 Directors. Those elected are considered by their peers to represent the best interests of the League and its members. To serve on the Executive Committee is an honor.



More insights and discussions on the ARRL board meeting will come on the next Roanoke Division Town Hall on March 28 at 8:00 PM. Watch for upcoming announcements on email. Check in with the division anytime on its website at :

www.arrl-roanoke.com and on its Facebook page at ARRL Roanoke Division.

Jim Bohner, N2ZZ
Director

73,

Bill Morine, N2COP
Vice Director

