

Report of the *ad hoc* Legislative Action Committee January 2007 Board Meeting

Members of the Committee: Dir. Jim Weaver, K8JE, Chair
Dir. Bill Edgar, N3LLR
Dir. Frank Fallon, N2FF
Dir. Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF
V. Dir. David Woolweaver, K5RAV

Objectives of the Committee

The Legislative Action Committee was established by the Board of Directors to develop a functional program through which ARRL members are empowered to effect legislation that impacts Amateur Radio. The objective of work of the Committee during the second half of 2006 continued to be to facilitate implementation of the Legislative Action Program throughout all Divisions. The program operates within the constraints of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for CFR 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations

Committee Authorizations

The Legislative Action Committee was established to explore the feasibility of developing a legislative action program by approval of Weaver motion #1 at the 2004 Annual Meeting. The Board affirmed continuation of the Committee when it approved creating the Legislative Action Program positions of Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC), state Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) and Legislative Action Assistant (LAA) through Grassroots motion #1 at the 2004 Second Meeting. The Program was activated at the 2005 Annual Meeting by adoption of Grassroots committee report Doc. #20, rev. 1. The Committee was continued and its reporting relationship transferred to the EC by Grassroots motion #2 at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Committee work during the past six months has conformed to the outline of tasks and concepts of action for the Committee as approved by President Harrison.

Conclusions

Conclusion No. 1: A presentation should be given to the Board to introduce conducting a lobbying visit to a Congressman.

Conclusion No. 2: The *Grassroots* area in the Members Only ARRL web site should be expanded to offer additional materials and features to Program volunteers. These expansions would enhanced further the ease its use and maximize its value.

Conclusion No 3: New material and training aids are needed to recruit and train members into the Program.

Conclusion No. 4: The series of brief articles begun by CEO Sumner relative to advocacy should be resumed the press of items of greater immediate urgency permits. These articles educate members to the legitimacy of the grassroots advocacy.

Conclusion No. 5: A video should be produced and made available to Directors and other relevant people to create interest and training in the LAP.

Conclusion No. 6: A certificate designed for the LAP should be available to acknowledge volunteers for their participation in the program.

Conclusion No. 7: Financial support should be available to Divisions for the conduct of the LAP.

Conclusion No. 8: Volunteers in the LAP should be provided with certain materials to assist them during their personal meetings with Congressmen.

Conclusion No. 9: Publicity about the LAP should be prepared for the ARRL web site and QST.

Conclusion No. 10: The Grassroots web area should be demonstrated to the Board.

Actions

During the past six months, activities of the *ad hoc* Legislative Action Committee were focused toward facilitating final launch of the Legislative Action Program throughout all Divisions. The objective of the Program is to ensure as much as possible the success of ARRL legislative efforts by enlisting our members into a cohesive, coordinated and enlightened force to promote the League's legislative position. The Committee firmly believes that development of the ARRL Legislative Action Program in all Divisions will greatly increase the ability of the League to influence legislation that is in the best interest of Amateur Radio and the public that we serve.

A presentation depicting a typical lobbying visit by Legislative Action Assistants was made immediately prior to the July, 2006, Board meeting. This was prepared and performed by John Chwat of Chwatco and the Committee. The presentation was completed with a discussion and PowerPoint show prepared by the Committee.

A report on enhancements recommended for the *Grassroots* web page was submitted to Pres. Harrison with copy to CEO Sumner.

A series of brief articles (editorials) relative to the Legislative Action program was begun by CEO Sumner. This series was interrupted by recent, high-interest actions by the FCC. We anticipate the series of articles will be resumed after the current flurry of actions by the FCC has been digested. We thank CEO Sumner for his willingness to author the articles.

A Legislative Action Program FAQ was developed and distributed to ODV, and posted on the general and *Grassroots* areas of the ARRL web site. This FAQ should be useful in explaining the purpose of the program and recruiting members for it.

A summary of Qualifications needed by LAP volunteers was developed and distributed to ODV. It will be posted on the *Grassroots* web area.

The Operating Manual for LAAs was updated, distributed to ODV, and posted on the *Grassroots* area. It is suggested this manual be copied and distributed as needed to persons interested in the Legislative Action Program as well as those who join the Program.

A flow chart of the operation of the LAP was developed and distributed to ODV. It will be available on the Grassroots web area.

An expense item to support Legislative Action Program activities in each Division was submitted to the A&F Committee. This item includes provisions to provide ARRL business cards to be used by Program volunteers when calling on Congressmen, to provide copies of the video Amateur Radio Today to leave with Congressmen, and to support training in the Divisions. John Chwat of Chwatco strongly concurs in the need for volunteers to have business cards.

Name badges were designed that are unique to the Legislative Action Program. The colors of light blue (as currently authorized for ADs) for DLACs and rust (as currently authorized for advisory committee and QSL Bureau workers) for LACs and LAAs are recommended. These badge colors are already currently assignable by Directors. The badges will be worn to Amateur Radio activities, but not to meetings with Congressmen. DLACs, LACs and LAAs will be expected to purchase their badges.

A DVD video entitled *Advocating for Amateur Radio – An Introduction to the ARRL Legislative Action Program* was developed, produced and distributed to Officers and Directors. This professionally-produced video was made with the assistance of professional actor and ARRL member Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, Harold Kramer, Donna Pitts, Allen Pitts, Rick Lindquist and Sue Fagan. The script was written by John Chwat of Chwatco and the Committee. President Harrison and CEO Sumner assisted by reviewing our plans before the cameras rolled. Jon Bloom assisted by placing the video in compacted form on the Grassroots web area.

A LAP certificate was designed by Diane Szlachetka. It was placed on the ARRL web site and linked with a certificate generator by Jon Bloom. Only three pieces of information need to be provided before a finished certificate can be printed. This certificate will identify the recipient as a DLAC, LAC or LAA.

Publicity items on the LAP were published. A brief item was published on the web. A full-length article will appear in the February, 2007, issue of *QST*. It has been distributed to ODV as a preprint.

A Legislative Action Program Management Manual has been assembled and distributed. This is a collection of the several LAP documents that were distributed previously with an Introduction and Observations on the operation of the program added.

A demonstration of the Grassroots web area is planned for the January, 2007, Annual Meeting.

Signed: Jim Weaver, K8JE, Chairman
Bill Edgar, N3LLR
Frank Fallon, N2FF
Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF
David Woolweaver, K5RAV