

Report of the 2022 Ethics and Elections Committee

January 2023

Executive Summary

The 2022 year was a busy one for the Ethics and Elections Committee (E&E). As chartered in the ARRL By-Laws, E&E has responsibilities that include vetting candidates for Board positions, making sure election rules and regulations are followed, determining whether conflicts of interests exist between Board member activities and the work of the ARRL, and investigating and making recommendation on ethical issues involving Board members.

This year, E&E worked with ARRL CFO Diane Middleton to put in place electronic voting for Division elections utilizing Election Services Company. In the Southeastern Division election, there were more voters than in the previous election and over 75% of votes were made using online balloting rather than paper. Several election-related complaints were handled through notification to the alleged offender. In three cases, the issues were referred to the Field Organization Manager to be resolved.

There were several serious ethical investigations. Two Board members were warned not to try to direct headquarters staff and not to chastise staff in public. One Board member was found to have a significant of conflict of interest through the publication of a book that competes with one or more ARRL publications. The Board agreed with E&E's recommendations resulting in the recusal of a Director from Board activities which included discussions on publications strategies, marketing, and budget.

Unfortunately due to the impact of the ethics cases, E&E was not able to proceed with two intended processes. One was to revise election procedures and generate a one-stop guide to elections. The second was to develop a guidebook for E&E itself. E&E was, however, authorized through a Board vote to be staffed by headquarters personnel so that a curated record of E&E deliberations and decisions could be developed and maintained.

Purpose of the Ethics and Elections Committee

The ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee (E&E) is chartered under ARRL By-Laws Article 42. The Committee is given responsibility and authority over the following:

- Apply Board guidelines concerning ethical conduct by ARRL Officials and to make recommendations to the Board in case an Official is in noncompliance with those guidelines,
- Determine eligibility of candidates for Director and Vice Director,
- Certify nominee's eligibility to fill a Vice Director vacancy,
- Supervise balloting for Director and Vice Director,
- Advise the Chief Executive Officer on and recommend Board standards for Section Manager elections,

- Receive and evaluate disclosures by Board Members and candidates for Board positions on actual or potential conflicts of interest,
- Make factual findings regarding the presence or absence of conflicts of interest and make recommendations to address conflicts,

Members of the 2022 Ethics and Elections Committee

As appointed by Board President Rick Roderick, K5UR, the 2022 members of the committee are:

- Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ, Midwest Division Director, Chair
- Bill Lippert, ACØW, Dakota Division Director
- David Norris, K5UZ, Delta Division Director