



Second Century

The End of One Chapter, the Beginning of Another

“Calendar year 2018 is fast coming to a close. And, although I’m writing this in mid-September as the ARRL Chief Executive Officer, because of the realities of our magazine publishing schedule, by the time you read this column, and depending on when QST reaches your mailbox, I will likely no longer be the CEO of ARRL. Either way, this will be my last column.”

My tenure in the role of CEO has been relatively short — about 9 months to be exact — and because of that, I wouldn’t try to pretend that it has been some kind of important era in the life of the organization. Also due to that short tenure, I don’t intend to make this a long reminiscence. I feel that would be inappropriate and, quite honestly, it’s not like me to do such things.

However, I do think it appropriate to provide you with a couple of observations from my time as the CEO. These past few months have been some of the more fulfilling of my almost 29 years with the organization. The opportunity to serve and interact directly with the ARRL membership as your Chief Executive Officer has been an interesting, exhilarating, and, occasionally, frustrating experience. I want to thank you all for your support, and for the hundreds and hundreds of messages and phone calls I’ve received over my time in this office. It has been my privilege to serve you, including those of you who disagreed with something I, or the Board, may have done. I’ve always said that respectful disagreement is healthy, and I can attest that we certainly have more than our fair share of that in Amateur Radio!

But the time has come to open a new chapter for ARRL. At a recent special Board of Directors’ meeting held on August 22 for the purpose of selecting a new Chief Executive Officer, the Board elected Dr. Howard Michel, PhD, WB2ITX, to become the new CEO of ARRL and lead the HQ staff. As have all the past CEOs, Howard will report directly to the ARRL Board of Directors and be responsible for carrying out the policies and objectives established by that group. I will be around a while longer to help create a smooth transition, but will phase out my involvement over time.

Obviously, the current environment, which I summarized in my first-ever column in the April 2018 issue of *QST*, still exists. That being the case, Howard is taking the helm at a time of significant challenges for Amateur Radio and ARRL. Your support for him and the organization will help determine how successful we are in meeting those challenges, and will allow us to continue to pursue ARRL’s mission of “...*advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio...*”. While I’m sure we may disagree to some extent on how to accomplish this mission, I also believe there is little disagreement, if any, on the objective itself. In my opinion, it is critical for ARRL to continue to promote Amateur Radio and provide support, services, and information for all classes and abilities of ham radio operators. It is the only way that we can survive.

And before I sign off, I would like to remind those of you who are full members in the Central, Hudson, New England, Northwestern, and Roanoke Divisions that you will be receiving a ballot in the Division elections, if you haven’t already. I personally believe it is important for you to exercise the opportunity presented to you as a member and vote on who you want to be your Division representative on the ARRL Board of Directors. I urge you to do so.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve ARRL for all these years.

Barry J. Shelley, N1VXY