

Summary Record
International Amateur Radio Union
Administrative Council Virtual Meeting
2 April 2024

1. The 60th meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) was held on Tuesday, 2 April 2024 virtually via Zoom. Members participating in the meeting were IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, in the Chair; Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR, President, and Mats Espling, SM6EAN, Secretary, IARU Region 1; George Gorsline, VE3YV, President, and Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Secretary, IARU Region 2; and IARU Region 3 Co-Chairman Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP. Also participating was Assistant Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. President Ellam called the meeting to order at 1200 UTC. Region 3 Co-Chairman Yudi Hasbi, YB1PRY, joined the meeting at 1300 UTC.

2. Mr. Harrison announced that sufficient affirmative votes have been received to adopt Proposals 264 and 265. There was a brief discussion of reports that the initial distribution of *Calendar* No. 204 was not received by some member-societies.

3. Mr. Harrison explained the need for formal authorization of an application for transfer of the trusteeship of club station license NU1AW from Mr. Sumner to Mr. Harrison. On his motion this was approved.

4. Mr. Ellam introduced the principal subject of the meeting: to review feedback received to date on the restructuring plan. He invited the regional representatives to comment.

Mr. Yamamoto reported that there were some concerns among Region 3 Directors about potential loss of a regional voice as well as the effect on subscription fees. Information about restructuring has not yet been shared widely with Region 3 member-societies.

Supplementing his written comments circulated earlier, Mr. Gorsline noted the concerns of some member-societies at opening the IARU “tent” to second societies if they could then claim to be “members” of IARU. He observed that lack of engagement is a significant problem from the local radio club level up to the Region 2 Executive Committee. He expressed the need for a convincing argument that restructuring is necessary.

Also supplementing his written comments, Mr. Azarian said he personally had no problem with the plan but was not satisfied with how it is being explained to member-societies. Currently there is no general understanding of why change is needed, and until there is the plan will go nowhere. Mr. Espling added that in his view there is no plan, only a high level description that does not provide enough of a basis to proceed.

Mr. Stafford agreed with Mr. Gorsline’s comments on behalf of Region 2 and added that he sees a disconnect even between the regional organization and some of its own EC members. He observed that Region 1 is much more active operationally and asked how the Region 1 representatives see the future. Mr. Azarian replied that there is a shortage of manpower that limits the possibility of future expansion. Mr. Garpestad observed that some Region 1 committees and working groups have been opened up to participation by the other regions with good results.

Mr. Gorsline commented that the immediate goal is to earn the votes to approve a plan.

Invited to comment by the Chair, Mr. Sumner said that gaining sufficient votes for adoption will be a challenge and that failure would be far more damaging than delaying until there is adequate support.

Mr. Ellam observed that everyone wants to know what it will cost to operate under the new structure, but we have no answer yet. After discussion it was agreed to set finances aside for now and to concentrate on the base governing document and supporting explanatory material. It was also agreed that 2025 is too soon for a formal proposal to be made to member-societies although Mr. Ellam hopes it can be done in the following year.

As convenor of the now-discharged Governance Working Group, Mr. Sumner offered to review the existing base document drafted by the Legal Working Group last year and to incorporate revisions reflecting the feedback received to date, providing the result to Mr. Ellam by 7 April. Another virtual meeting of the AC will be scheduled once the revised draft document and supporting material are available for consideration.

The next opportunity for in-person discussion with opinion leaders will be the informal international meeting in Friedrichshafen in late June, followed by the Region 3 Conference in Bangkok in November.

5. No other business was discussed.

Mr. Ellam thanked everyone for their constructive participation. The meeting was adjourned at 1305 UTC.

Joel Harrison, W5ZN
Secretary