

National Capitol DX Association's

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



**January 18, 2012
Issue 12-01**

Dear NCDXA Members:

General

First of all, I want to wish each of you a wonderful New Year!

My wife, Rebecca and I had a great time with family over the holiday and were really excited about getting back to work and starting the New Year.

Our Association is right on track for a very successful year with many planned events. I just spoke to Mike Cizek (W3MC) who was scheduled this evening to spending time with some kids in the Boy Scouts interested in earning their Communications Merit Badge. This is exactly the type of positive press our Association needs to be successful. If you are involved with this type of activity, please post the information to our reflector email. I would love to hear about it.

We are getting a lot of attention with our upcoming DXCC-EAST Convention scheduled for Saturday, August 25, 2012. Please take the time to look at the details and the arrangements that have been planned for this event using our convention website (www.DXCCEAST.com). In order to handle the new interest in our club and make it possible to benefit with new membership, we need to first address our Constitution and By-Laws.

Association Business

One does not have to look very hard to discover that our Constitution and By-Laws were last amended in 1995. Much of the document is not conducive for growing our club. As a matter of fact, the requirements to become a member are so strict they have not been fully enforced. We have lost more members in the last 10 years than people who have joined our ranks. **I'm afraid without a fresh look and re-write of the Constitution and By-Laws, the fact is the shelf life of our Association is about 10 to 15 years.**

After spending many nights tossing and turning and not getting much sleep, I realized we needed to do something soon to update our Constitution and By-Laws. After about 30 years of management experience and leading numerous companies with major organization changes, it's impossible to do it without ruffling some feathers. I've have

made the adjustments without ego and with good intent for our Association. I hope that each of you will review the changes with an open mind.

As a responsible leader of our club, I have proposed some changes to the Constitution and By-Laws dated 01/16/12 and have emailed the revised document for your review and comments. It is my plan to receive club member comments and make necessary adjustments prior to the February 25, 2012 meeting. This gives us over 30 days of review time prior to the meeting. **I would like to have our Association vote on the revised document at the February 25, 2012 meeting.**

You may ask; "What and why are the changes necessary"? If we want to grow our club, we need to remove restrictions that limit growth. Our current Constitution states the following:

To be accepted for Regular membership, each applicant must meet all of the following requirements:

- 1. A minimum of 100 countries confirmed (Associate members 50 countries confirmed), any combination of modes being acceptable, with the establishment of a membership committee to verify QSL cards. The ARRL Countries list shall be used for this purpose.**
- 2. Each applicant must be nominated by two Regular members.**
- 3. Each applicant must attend three out of five consecutive meetings.**
- 4. Each applicant must be approved by two-thirds of those members voting. A quorum, as defined in the By-laws (Article III), must be present. All voting shall be by secret ballot.**
- 5. Each applicant shall be a member of ARRL and shall maintain that membership while a member of the Association.**

First, in order to accomplish the above, the member must have a ham radio license. Why limit this to people with licenses (Short Wave Listeners collect DX cards, and beginners may not have a license yet, what about a member's wife who can be a valuable participant in the club, etc.)?

Second, if you must attend 3 of 5 consecutive meetings, this means you can't become a member until the sixth month. If you miss a meeting, now you're at 8 months. People have many other options these days to invest their limited time and money.

Third, if you're on a limited budget, perhaps you can't afford both a NCDXA and ARRL membership. I changed the wording to say "It is Preferred that you have an ARRL membership, but not required".

Fourth, it's implied that the voting takes place at a meeting, why not via electronic voting?

The revisions I have made to our Constitution and By-Laws are not meant to open the barn door without controls, but to make the process of becoming a member

possible in a timely manner. In order to support some meaningful projects as stated by our mission statement, we need more income and people who want support and achieve an interesting project.

Currently, we collect about \$925.00 in dues each year (37 (47-10) paying members x \$25 each) and spend about \$740.00 of the budget for food to supplement house style meetings (\$185 x 4 meetings) leaving us with about \$185.00 if we have no other expenses. Using this formula, we'll never have the means to accomplish much as an Association.

There are additional changes also included in the revised Constitution and By-Laws to clarify officer responsibilities, remove the 2 meter nets no longer used and add club reflector and DX-cluster usage, and other minor clarifications.

In advance, I appreciate your time and willingness to consider meaningful change in our Association.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the February 25, 2012 meeting.

Sincerely,

David Collingham
NCDXA President
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