



## **MVARA Monthly Meeting Thursday**

**May 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm**

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to attend our meetings and join in on the fun.

GOP Headquarters meeting room. 8381 Market St., Boardman, OH (in Adamas Plaza)

### **Skype with Riley Hollingsworth**

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired Special Counsel of the FCC Enforcement Bureau Amateur Radio Service enforcement program. It is especially interesting to have Mr. Hollingsworth speak as we celebrate 100 years, since he was also the speaker for the MVARA 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mr. Hollingsworth had a distinguished career at the FCC, holding positions as Deputy Chief of Licensing, Assistant Bureau Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and legal advisor to the Compliance and Information Bureau (formerly the Field Operations Bureau).

He is a member of the Quarter Century Wireless and FISTS CW associations and has been an Amateur since 1960. He lives in Gettysburg, PA with his wife Pat, who actually thinks the radio tower in the backyard is really cool-- and in fact helped him build it!

In retirement Riley has taken on the responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation phases of ARRL's new Volunteer Monitors (VM) program, which will replace the Official Observers (OO) program. Hollingsworth stepped down as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors last July, the Volunteer Monitors will work in cooperation with the FCC. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL will monitor the amateur bands for possible instances of misconduct or to recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines. The program, which aims to re-energize Amateur Radio enforcement efforts, was proposed by the FCC following the closure of several FCC regional offices and reductions in field staff

He also managed the interference resolution programs in the Land Mobile and Public Safety services.

Hollingsworth managed the FCC 800 MHz Lottery Task Force in which new 800 MHz spectrum was assigned in 13 cities. He organized the FCC's program in which underutilized radio channels were recovered for reassignment in major cities.

He participated as a Member of the Delegation from the U.S. State Department to Bucharest, Romania to discuss radio licensing in the United States and opening foreign markets to American manufacturers. He also acted as Co-Chairman for the FCC PCS Broadband and Narrowband Licensing Task Force and for that received a Vice President Gore "Hammer Award" for efficiency in government.

Hollingsworth holds a Master's degree from the University of South Carolina, and a Law degree from Wake Forest University.

He is a member of the Quarter Century Wireless and FISTS CW associations and has been an Amateur since 1960. His call sign is K4ZDH and he lives in Gettysburg, PA with his wife Pat, who actually thinks the radio tower in the backyard is really cool-- and in fact helped him build it!

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will oversee the development and implementation phases of ARRL's new Volunteer Monitors (VM) program, which will replace the Official Observers (OO) program. Hollingsworth, who once handled Amateur Radio enforcement for the FCC, has stepped down as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. The development phase of the program is already under way.

"I am grateful for the Atlantic Division ARRL members supporting me, but I think I can better serve the Atlantic Division and all ARRL divisions by working in the Volunteer Monitors program," Hollingsworth said in his resignation letter. A new Atlantic Division Vice Director will be appointed.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said that Hollingsworth was the ideal person to lead ARRL's efforts in the development and implementation of this joint program with the FCC.

"I support Riley's decision to concentrate his efforts on this very valuable project on behalf of the ARRL," Roderick said.

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noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines. The program, which aims to re-energize Amateur Radio enforcement efforts, was proposed by the FCC following the closure of several FCC regional offices and reductions in field staff.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program -- development, solicitation and training, and implementation. The development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining ARRL's and the FCC's requirements and needs as part of the program, drafting a Volunteer Manager job description, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

The solicitation and training phase will involve identifying the geographical locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications, and screening applicants. Current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors (VMs). The ARRL Board has expressed its appreciation to the OOs for their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

Implementation will involve having the volunteers provide field reports, and ARRL staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information gathered meets FCC requirements. Continuing education will be provided to the volunteers as part of the program.

Hollingsworth has committed to ensure training adequacy for new VMs, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement action, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC.

ARRL officials estimate that it will take 9 - 12 months before the first Volunteer Monitors begin filing reports.