

Western Tidewater Radio Association, Inc.

Smithfield, VA

Constitution

Preamble

The members of this association, wishing to secure for our selves the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, constitute ourselves the Western Tidewater Radio Association, Inc., a non-profit Virginia corporation, and enact this constitution as our governing law. It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, to support ARES/RACES, and to so conduct association programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community.

Membership: Article I

All persons holding a valid amateur radio license shall be eligible for full membership. Membership shall be by application and election upon such terms as the association shall provide in its by-laws.

Officers: Article II

- Section 1.** The officers of this association shall be: President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2.** The officers of this association shall be elected for a term of one calendar year beginning January 31 by ballot of the voting members present, provided there be a quorum, at the annual meeting.
- Section 3.** Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special elections at the first business meeting following the withdrawal or resignation.
- Section 4.** Officers may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the voting membership.
- Section 5.** Officers must hold full membership for their entire term.
- Section 6.** Officers must make a reasonable effort to attend all regularly scheduled meetings. If attendance is not possible, he/she must notify the President or Vice-President 24 hours prior to any meeting.

Duties of Officers: Article III

- Section 1.** The President shall preside at all business meetings of the association, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and by-laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents adopted by the association.
- Section 2.** The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the president in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall organize association activities, plan and recommend contests for operating benefits, and advance association interest and activity as approved by the association. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the District or Section Emergency Coordinator to further association participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.
- Section 3.** The Second Vice-President shall process and maintain all records related to incorporation of the association.
- Section 4.** The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all business meetings, keep a roll of members, publish an accurate membership roster each February, submit membership applications, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, mail written meeting notices to each member not having any other means of receiving meeting notices, and file activity reports to the ARRL with the assistance of the public relations committee. At the expiration of his/her term he/she shall turn over all items belonging to the association to his/her successor.
- Section 5.** The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all moneys paid to the association; keep an accurate account of all moneys received and expended; pay no bills without proper authorization (by the association or its officers when they constitute a business committee). At each regularly scheduled business meeting he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts available. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the association to his/her successor.

Meetings: Article IV

The by-laws shall provide for business and other meetings. At business meetings, a minimum of 10 members of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Dues: Article V

Dues of the association may be changed by a vote of the membership at the last quarterly business meeting of the year, providing a quorum is present. Non-payment of such dues or assessments shall be cause to revoke association membership within the discretion of the membership.

Membership Assistance: Article VI

The association, through designated Interference, Public Relations, and operating committees will provide technical advice to members concerning equipment design and operation to assist in frequency observance, clean signals, uniform practice, and absence of spurious radiation's from association member-stations.

Amendments: Article VII

This constitution or the by-laws may be amended by a quorum vote of the voting membership. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a business meeting and shall be voted on at the next following business meeting. Robert's

Rules shall govern business proceedings.

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By-Laws

- 1. Secretary.** It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the constitution and By-Laws of the association and have the same with him/her at every business meeting. He/she shall note all amendments, changes and additions on the constitution and shall permit it to be consulted by members upon request.

- 2. Membership.** Full membership is open to any person holding a valid amateur radio license.
 - a.** Full Membership requires payment of dues and includes all association privileges as well as rights to vote for association officers. Full Membership also includes the right to hold an association office provided the member is at least 18 years of age at the time they are installed into office.
 - b.** Immediate family members that hold a valid amateur radio license and live in the same household of a full dues paying member in good standing may be listed as full members with voting privileges and the right to serve as an association officer.
 - c.** Family members that do not hold a valid amateur radio license will be considered associate members and not have voting rights or be able to hold a position as an association officer.
 - d.** Immediate family members of a full member in good standing that achieves their amateur radio license during the membership year will be awarded full membership for the remainder of the year.
 - e.** Applications for membership shall be submitted at business meetings.

- 3. Meetings.** A minimum of one business meeting will be held each quarter on the second Monday of the second month of the quarter or other day as deemed necessary by the voting membership.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on the second Monday of January or other day in January as designated by the voting

membership at the last business meeting of the previous year for the purpose of electing Officers.

Additional business meetings may be held as designated by the By Laws, the President, or on written request of a quorum of voting members. Notices shall be sent to members concerning additional business meetings and the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted. Such notices shall be sent so that they arrive by US Mail or be available by any one common electronic means not less than 48 hours before the business meeting. Common electronic means is defined as:

- a. Association affiliated packet BBS/mailbox.
- b. Association affiliated repeater voice announcement.
- c. Individual e-mail via the Internet.
- d. Association affiliated web page.

Other meetings may be held monthly for purposes other than association business. The purpose of these meetings is to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct association programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community.

All persons with an interest in Amateur Radio are welcome to attend association meetings and events.

4. Dues.

An annual assessment for membership is hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Constitution for the purpose of providing funds for association expenses. Dues to the association shall be:

- a. Full membership (Licensed Hams) \$25.00.
- b. Additional licensed immediate family member(s) living in the same household no charge.

All dues are payable in full no later than the last day of the year and are delinquent as of February 28. New members joining between July 1 and the end of the year will be charged prorated dues in the amount of \$12.50.

- 5. Nominations and elections.** At the last business meeting of the year the nominating committee shall present the President a list of potential nominees for association officers to be voted upon at the Annual Business Meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting. No name may be presented without prior consent of the nominee.
- 6. Standing Committees.** The President shall appoint, as needed standing committees. Each committee must consist of at least two members. All committees and their assigned members will be listed as an addendum to the by-laws and will not require a vote of the membership. The committees and their duties may be:
- a. Audit committee.** Shall be responsible for auditing the Treasurer's books in January and report the findings in writing at the first quarter business meeting. The Treasurer, not a member, serves at the request of the committee.
 - b. Budget committee.** Shall present to the association members, in writing, a proposed budget for the coming year at the last quarter business meeting. The current Treasurer will be Chairperson along with two other members.
 - c. Nominating committee.** Shall be responsible for developing a slate of proposed officers and presenting the recommended slate at the last business meeting in the year. The slate of Officers for WTRA's coming year shall be chosen by the past three (3) presidents. The current president shall sit on the committee as a non-voting member.
 - d. Public Relations committee.** Shall be responsible for providing the local newspapers, radio, and TV stations with pertinent articles, announcements, and news releases concerning association activities such as Field Day, community activities, training classes, radio exams, etc. It shall also prepare such other public relations material and ARRL activity reports as may be needed. This committee will also be responsible for the association newsletter and Internet web site should there be one. The person responsible for this committee will be identified as the Public Relations Officer.
 - e. Interference committee.** Shall direct investigation, invite proper inquiries, establish technical facts and testimony and report its results to the association.

- f. Repeater committee.** Shall be responsible for all maintenance, control, and operation of any association owned or sponsored radio repeater equipment.
- g. The Fred Weaver, KG4BKI, Memorial Ham of the Year Award committee** shall consist of the past three (3) recipients of the Ham of the Year award. The current president shall sit on the committee as a non-voting member. This committee is responsible for having the appropriate plaque engraved and attached to the trophy, which shall be presented by the past year's recipient to the new recipient at the Annual Meeting.
- h. The Fred Weaver KG4BKI scholarship committee.** The Fred Weaver KG4BKI scholarship committee shall consist of Members W4RBH, Richard Harrell; WB4KZI, Randy Grigg; and WA4JUO, Stewart Tyler. In the event of one (1) of the members not being able to serve or letting their membership expire, the remaining members of the committee shall appoint the new member that is in good standing of the Western Tidewater Radio Association, Inc. The wife of KG4BKI will serve in an advisory member to the committee. The duties of this committee is to select members to receive a five hundred dollar (\$500) scholarship provided that they complete their secondary education (High School), are member in good standing of the Western Tidewater Radio Association, Inc., are currently a licensed amateur radio operator, and are enrolled in an accredited two or four year college, accredited trade school, or accredited graduate school. This scholarship shall be in the memory of Fred Weaver- KG4BKI. Each applicant shall complete an application form that will be provided by the scholarship committee. The committee shall make an annual solicitation for applicants and the award(s) will be made at the August meeting of the same year as the selection is made by the Western Tidewater Radio Association, Inc. Scholarship Committee. The funds are to be held in an account designated as the KG4BKI Scholarship Funds and held in the custody of the Treasurer of the Western Tidewater Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Upon authorization of the Scholarship Committee, the treasurer will authorize a bank draft made to the recipient (s) and the award will be made in person at the August meeting of the Western Tidewater Radio Association in the year of selection.

7. Proxy Voting. Any voting member knowingly unable to attend a business meeting due to circumstances beyond his/her control and wishing to vote on issues identified prior to the business meeting may vote on those issues by proxy. The proxy vote must be in writing, signed by the absent voting member, and be presented at the business meeting in a sealed envelope by a voting member present. The issue being voted on shall be identified on the outside of the envelope. A separate envelope is required for each issue being voted on by proxy.

Following the vote on an issue by the voting members present the secretary or other person designated by the Presiding Officer shall open all proxy votes identified to that issue and record the votes. The total of all votes, present and proxy shall determine the issue.

Adopted: 01/11/2005

Revised: 01/10/2011

Revised: 01/12/2015

Revised: 05 /11/2015

Revised: 01/15/2023

Revised: 02/12/2024

Revised: 08/12/2024

Addendum to the Bylaws

Committee Assignments

a. Audit committee.

Treasurer

Name

Name

b. Budget committee.

Treasurer

Name

Name

c. Nominating committee.

Chairperson: Current president

Past President

Past President

Past President

d. Public Relations committee.

Name

Name

e. Interference committee.

Name

Name

f. Repeater committee.

Name

Name

g. The Fred Weaver, KG4BKI, Memorial Ham of the Year Award committee

President

past Winner 1

Past winner 2

Past winner3

h. The Fred Weaver KG4BKI scholarship committee

W4BH, Richard Harrell;

WB4KZI, Randy Grigg; and

WA4JUO, Stewart Tyler.

The wife of KG4BKI will serve in an advisory member to the committee.