

**Aurora 2023
NLRS Business Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2023**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by club president, Jon, W0ZQ.

Silent Key Report:

None

Reading of the 2022 Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes from the 2022 meeting were posted on the club's website for review by the membership prior to today's meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Donn, WA2VOI, and seconded by Bruce, W9FZ. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's income and expense reports were presented by the club's treasurer, Janice, KA9VVQ.

For the 4/2022-4/2023 fiscal year, the balance on hand 4/3/2023 was \$6784.60, which compared to \$8442.00 4/4/2022 (decrease of \$1657.40). Income: The club received \$27.50 in interest from a \$5000 CD held at Stearns Bank, which expired in June of 2022 and was not renewed. The CD's monies were rolled back into the club's checking account. Member donations to the NLRS were \$20.00. Membership dues collected between April 2022 and December 2022 were \$215.00. No further dues were collected after December 2022 as the club voted at the last (2022) Aurora business meeting to discontinue membership dues for 2023 onward. Income from Aurora 2022 attendee registrations was \$152.00. QTH.net (email reflector) donations collected from NLRS members was \$132.81. Thus, total income for the fiscal year was \$547.31. Expenses: The club sent \$1800.00 to the ARRL to renew the club's sponsorship of 3 plaques for the June VHF contest for years 2023-2030. The club also sent \$70.00 to the WWROF to sponsor the 2022 CQWW VHF USA Rover plaque. Details regarding these plaque sponsorships are provided in the Old Business discussion below. NLRS website expenses included \$17.50 for domain name registration renewal and \$59.40 for QTH.com website hosting. The QTH.net (email reflector) donations collected from NLRS members at the 2022 Aurora and sent to QTH.net was \$132.81. The West Medicine Lake Community Club hall rental fee for the 2022 Aurora was \$125.00. Thus total expenditures were \$2204.71.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Donn, WA2VOI, and seconded by Bruce, W9FZ. The report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

NLRS Net, Reflector, and Website: Jon, W0ZQ reminded the membership that the club's website is now at www.nlrs.club. He also reminded the membership that Matt, KA0PQW hosts a 2m net on 144.260 MHz, 9 pm each Sunday. The club also hosts an email reflector (via QTH.net), which is managed by Bruce, W9FZ. To sign up, go to the NLRS website.

Silent Key Estate Assistance: Jon, W0ZQ, mentioned that the NLRS does provide assistance to the spouse/family of NLRS silent keys with the disposition of the SK's ham radio equipment. This service is provided gratis. Members are encouraged to periodically revisit their stashes of ham radio equipment and clean out that which is no longer of use or interest so that the disposal of their ham radio estate upon their death will not be a burden to their family.

Old Business:

Use of Funds from Expired CD: At last year's Aurora22 business meeting, the NLRS board sought the members' input on potential uses of the club's excess funds that were then being held in a \$5000 CD at Stearns Bank that was due to expire in June 2022. At that time, several ideas were offered, including sending funds to the ARRL foundation, which administers programs to support the Amateur Radio community; funding further contest award plaques; investing in alternative investments (stocks/bonds/etc.); spending some on new loaner equipment, etc.; and/or continuing with CDs (current rate then in June 2022 0.55%). No decision was made at that time, but it was recommended by the members present then that the NLRS board should use the intervening year to research the possible alternatives raised at the meeting and report back to the membership at next year's Aurora. In the meantime, the funds of the expiring CD (\$5000) were rolled into the club's checking account.

During the intervening year, the club president, Jon, W0ZQ, reviewed his notes from ~10 years ago as to where the original sources of funding for the \$5000 CD had come from. Part of this \$5000 (\$1800) was a remanent from John McDonald's (KB9TLV) (SK) estate that he left to the NLRS, while the remainder, \$3200, was general club funds.

KB9TLV's estate gift to the NLRS was originally \$7670.90. KB9TLV's desire for his donation to the NLRS stated, "I request but do not require that my gift to the NLRS be used for items such as certificates, plaques or other awards to be used to recognize winners and participants in the ARRL sponsored contests conducted by said NLRS."

Thus at that time (~10 years ago), the club:

1. decided to hold ~ 25% in reserve, or \$1,918. Additionally, the club decided that "if this reserve is not needed by the club in five years it shall be considered a part of the total pool and spent."

2. made a donation to the ARRL of \$2,000 in memory of John. \$500 went to their Education and Technology fund while \$1,500 went to the Spectrum Defense fund.
3. sent \$2,250 to the ARRL for 10 years of June Contest plaques for Dakota SOLP, Nation SO3B and a rotating division SOLP winner as determined by the Contest Manager.
4. sent annually over 10 years, ~\$650 to CQ for the CQWW VHF Top US Rover plaque (probably a bit more as the cost for plaques rose over the years).
5. spent \$982 spent on two HP 8640B signal generators for use on the antenna range.

After these expenditures, the club was left with ~ \$1,788 of estate monies in reserve. The club had money above and beyond this of its own that it added to this ~ \$1,788 to arrive at the (then) minimum required amount of \$5,000 for the CD that we had for multiple years.

Knowing that ~\$1800 of the club's recently expired \$5000 CD was an unspent remanent of KB9TLV's estate, the club officer's decided to act in accordance of KB9TLV's wishes by sending check to the ARRL for sponsorship of (3) ARRL June VHF contest plaques: Overall Single Operator, 3-band (SO3B) and Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power (SOLP) and a divisional SOLP plaque rotated to a new division each year as chosen by the ARRL contest manager. The ARRL informed us that the \$1800 would give the NLRS sponsorship of these plaques from 2023 to 2030 (inclusive).

CQ WW VHF USA Rover Plaque Sponsorship for 2022: In February, 2023, Janice, KA9VVQ, the NLRS treasurer was contacted by John Kalenowsky, K9JK, the CQ WW VHF contest manager, about whether the NLRS would be interested in continuing its annual support of the CQ WW VHF US Rover plaque for last year's contest (2022) and this year's contest (2023). In the past, the NLRS had agreed to sponsor the CQ WW VHF US rover plaque for a 10-year period (from KB9TLV estate monies, see above discussion), and this sponsorship ended in 2021. Continuation of this sponsorship for 2022 and beyond unfortunately did not make it on to the club's Aurora'22 business meeting agenda due to an already packed agenda from 2 years of no meetings due to Covid. The 2022 sponsorship was discussed among the club's board members since payment would be needed before the club's next business meeting at Aurora23. The board felt that it would be in the best interest of the NLRS to go ahead and send CQ/WWROF the \$70 for the 2022 plaque. K9JK was informed of this decision and that the decision regarding sponsorship for 2023 and beyond would have to await a vote by the NLRS membership at the next business meeting at Aurora'23.

Continued annual sponsorship of the CQ WW VHF contest USA Rover plaque was then discussed. The plaque sponsorship for 2023 is \$70. Plaque prices tend increase over time due to inflation. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the club would sponsor the 2023 plaque, but would reconsider it's sponsorship on a year-to-year basis. A motion to approve the expenditure for the 2023 plaque was made by Charlie, N0AKC,

and seconded by Bill, AE0EE. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review of NLRS current and future financial needs in light of change to no membership dues: Finally, club president Jon, W0ZQ, reviewed the club's current and future financial needs in light of the fact that the club is no longer collecting membership dues. As noted from the financial report presented today (based on April 2023 bank statement), the club has \$6784.60 on hand in its checking account and nothing in a CD. The club's expenditures are minimal, consisting of website maintenance (~\$75/yr) and the CQ WW VHF plaque sponsorship (yearly decision, ~\$75). The Aurora Conference is, by design, made to break even each year. So with essentially no income and only about \$150 in expenses each year, the club remains in a good financial position to continue without membership dues. By recommendation of the board, the treasurer was instructed to retain \$2500 in working funds in the club's checking account with the remainder to be used to start a 1 year CD (currently 5% yield at the club's bank, Stearns Bank).

New Business:

MN QSO Party: John, W0ZQ, noted that the NLRS won the Minnesota QSO Party Club Competition for a second year in a row!

2023 CSVHFS Conference: Bruce, W9FZ, discussed the upcoming CSVHFS conference, which will be held July 27-30, 2023 in North Little Rock, AR. Bruce encouraged NLRS members to attend...many good talks and activities are planned that will be of interest to VHF+ enthusiasts.

ARRL MN State (Section) Convention: Bill, AE0EE, the ARRL MN Section Manager, and Bill, AC0W, the ARRL Dakota Division Director, let the club know that there will be an ARRL MN Section Convention this year Saturday, October 14, 2023. Although much of the planning is still ongoing, it will be held at a facility in the Twin Cities. For further details, contact AE0EE or visit the ARRL website.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made Donn, WA2VOI, and seconded by Dave, N0KP. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:
Janice Hoettels, KA9VVQ
NLRS Secretary
