

OCRA Club Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2022

- **Check-ins (21) – Dave Snyder**

KU4GC, KA5ETS, KO4DHJ, KO4GJO, KI4RAN, N8BR, KM4MBG, KI4MXP, N1LN, KN4JYP, W4ORD, KF4PAB, KX4P, KR4UB, NA4VY, N2XZF, KD4YJZ, N1YXU, W4FK, KN4VXB, and W4SAR

- **Election Results and Introduction of New Board – Dave Snyder, W4SAR**

- As of noon today, the balloting for the OCRA 2022 election closed. From the 93 eligible members in good standing, 46 responses were received. The voting was a unanimous support of the slate presented by the nominating committee. The 2022 OCRA Board is shown below.
 - President – Bruce Meier, N1LN
 - Vice President – Bill Bischoff, N8BR
 - Secretary – Laurie Meier, N1YXU
 - Treasurer – Dan Eddleman, KR4UB
 - Board Members at Large (Will be serving the first year of two-year terms)
 - John Green, KX4P
 - Aurora Toennisson, KN4VXB
 - Lad Carrington, W4ORD
 - Board Members at Large (will be serving the last year of two-year terms)
 - Wilson Lamb, W4BOH
 - Karen Snyder, KD4YJZ
 - Dee Ramm, KU4GC
- Dave expressed his thanks to the membership for their confidence in him presiding as president for the last several years. He also stated that it is time to end the dynasty and get new leadership for the club. Dave turned the meeting over to Bruce, N1LN, as the new club president.

- **New President – Bruce Meier, N1LN**

- Bruce thanked Dave for all he has done as OCRA president and made sure that Dave knows emails and requests won't stop coming Dave's way! Also, Bruce thanked the other members of the outgoing board for all their efforts and support of the club.
- Reflecting on the number of people that are in the club, it's clear that OCRA is made up of the members and not the officers. Bruce is looking forward to working with the new officers, board members, and the membership. It is great to have new people with new ideas for the club. He is looking forward to working with everyone and truly encourages comments, both positive and negative. Constructive criticism and suggestions are welcome.
- Topics for tonight's meeting –
 - Comments from the new president about focuses for 2022
 - Reports from the club officers
 - Repeater update
 - Comments from the board members at large
 - General discussion from the membership
- Goals for 2022 –

- Prior to being elected, some of the nominees have had conversations on various topics. There will be no surprises to the membership. Over the next months and weeks, we will move forward as a group to implement the club's plans. And, we will strive to have fun while we're doing it!
- One of the first activities that will take place is setting up regular, recurring board meetings.
- Recently, the club has seen a renewed focus on activities and membership engagement. Some examples of this include fox hunts and ham pi. [Many thanks to Aurora for her initiative in getting these activities started and continuing.] More ideas will be discussed at the next club meeting. There are a lot of very intelligent, talented folks who are OCRA members. We need to tap into their expertise, expand on current activities, and get more membership engagement in ham radio related activities.
- Ensuring documentation and policies are updated will be an area that officers and board members will focus on. For example, we need to ensure our insurance policies are up-to-date and that 501c documentation is completed and submitted. As work in these areas is completed, updates will be reported back to the membership.
- Training is definitely an area that will receive quite a lot of focus.

- **Vice-President's Report – Bill Bischoff, N8BR**

- Bill is looking forward to serving as Vice President and appreciates the vote of confidence from the membership.
- He thanked Dave for being the OCRA President in a very difficult time over the last few years as we have all navigated through the impacts of the pandemic. Bill also recognized the good job that Lad did as Vice President. It will be good to have Lad continue to serve on the board to talk with regarding his prior responsibilities.
- Bill is looking forward to working with the entire membership. One of his primary focuses will be to work closely with Bruce to ensure that the club's goals are achieved and to step-in as president, if needed, in Bruce's absence.
- Earlier in the day, Bill had the opportunity to talk with John Green (KX4P). One of the things they discussed was getting regular programs back on track for the membership meetings. John didn't only agree with the priority of getting regular programs, he also volunteered to present a program at an upcoming meeting and work to get additional programs planned. Now, that's a great example of the enthusiasm of club members coming together and working toward a common goal!
- The framework of how we do programs and have speakers will ensure that all members will be able to get the program information. We may have programs in person, virtually (e.g. on Zoom), and/or on the repeater.

- **Treasurer's Report – Dan Eddleman, KR4UB**

- Dan thanked Dave Snyder for his leadership as OCRA president. As the Treasurer, he also thanked all the members for keeping their dues current, which supports the club's solvency.
- Every month before the membership meeting, a message is sent that includes information with dues notice. There are a record number of members who are paying their dues. In fact, many are paid through 2023!
- OCRA has a current membership of 103. As of this month, 92 members have dues that are current. There are 5 members who need to renew, and there are 6 people who have expiring memberships.
- Dues are the sole source of income that supports OCRA expenses. It is interesting to understand some of the expenses and the number of paid members needed to fund these expenses.
- Fixed expenses for the club include items such as insurance and safety deposit box costs. To cover the fixed expenses, it takes about 85 dues paying members.
- There are additional operating expenses that we have on a regular basis. One of these expenses is support of our website. Due to the challenges we've had over the last few years dealing with the pandemic, we have had

to come up with new ideas to ensure the ability to reach members. For example, we pay for a Zoom license that allow us to have virtual meetings. These type of operating expenses (website and Zoom license) are funded through the dues from about 22 members.

- Thank you to all the OCRA members who are diligent in keeping their dues current. Your support is truly appreciated.

- **Secretary's Report – Laurie Meier, N1YXU**

- Laurie is looking forward to serving on the board and appreciates the confidence from the membership to serve as secretary.
- Board meetings will be held via Zoom for the near future (as we continue to deal with the impacts of COVID). Prior to the board meetings, an agenda will be sent to all OCRA members with an invitation to join the meeting. As stated previously in tonight's meeting, the success of the club is dependent on everyone's input and support.
- Minutes from the monthly membership meetings and board meetings will be distributed to OCRA members via email and will also be published on the OCRA website. A link to the meeting minutes will be sent to all OCRA members to ensure everyone is up-to-date on activities and discussions.

- **Repeater Report – Nick Szydlek (KA1HPM) and Dan Eddleman (KR4UB)**

- Nick is out of town and not able to attend the meeting. Dan provided the repeater update.
- Dan stressed that a written OCRA repeater vision and plan will be key as we go forward.
- For example, in the past, the club has had several formal relationships with many groups (e.g. neighboring counties, Emergency Management agencies). These relationships will need to be revisited, written documents updated, and ongoing communications be re-established.
- Our multi-county frequency agreement will also need to be revisited and refreshed. Back in 2010, each county had identified the primary and secondary repeater frequencies. Simplex frequencies for emergency communications and training nets had also been defined. Members of the various county clubs were encouraged to be familiar with the frequency plan, have their radios programmed, and be able to quickly move to various frequencies based on our emergency communications plan.
- Both Dan and Bruce commented that we need to have more net training, trained net control operators, and the ability to quickly test our emergency communications plan.
- We have had challenges filling open Emergency Coordinator positions. The Orange County EC position is currently unfilled.

- **Board Member Comments –**

- Wilson Lamb (W4BOH) would like to see more focus on technical activity and learning as a group. Our members have a broad scope of knowledge which can be tapped into for teaching and demonstrations. This doesn't mean that we all need to be experts; however, we can all be more educated to know more about the fundamentals of amateur radio. Wilson would also welcome resuming social gatherings even in smaller groups and also resuming Field Day as an in-person event.
- Dee Ramm (KU4GC) thanked the outgoing board members for their work and welcomed the new officers and board members. He is looking forward to working with everyone and believes that 2022 will be a great year.
- Aurora Toennisson (KN4VXB) is happy to be part of the board. She will continue to run the ham pi meetings and to organize the fox hunts, as long as there is continued interest. Aurora would also like to focus on helping new hams get started and find out what areas they would like to learn more about. If members have additional interests, perhaps satellite communications, please let Aurora know.

- John Green (KX4P) mentioned that this is not the first time he has served as a board member, and he is happy to serve again. John commented on how much he enjoys the club since the membership has such diverse interests. He is looking forward to putting programs together and hopes to get many suggestions and also volunteers for the programs.
- Lad Carrington (W4ORD) thanked everyone who contributed to and attended the recent Christmas party. He is looking forward to continuing to serve on the board and is happy to hand-off the Christmas party responsibilities to Bill. Lad volunteered to be led a program that will focus on go-kits and preparation for deployments.
- Karen Snyder (KD4YJZ) is looking forward to working with everyone on the board.
- Dave Snyder (W4SAR) thanked everyone for the comments made about his leadership as president. He will continue to be a very active member of the club and will be the liaison with the Efland Baha'i Center for meetings when we are able to meet in-person in the future.

- **General Discussion- Bruce, N1LN**
 - Bill (KI4RAN) gave special thanks to all the outgoing and incoming board members for all their work. He also agreed with the need for a communications plan that all members would have readily available to move to pre-programmed frequencies when needed.
 - Bob (W4FK) thanked everyone in the club for welcoming him even before he moved from Florida. Bob had been participating in OCRA meetings via Zoom. He has volunteered to be net control this coming Saturday, January 15. [Bob – Welcome to the area! And, thank you for jumping in and being net control!]
 - Doug (KA5ETS) is familiar with a program that a solar scientist has given with a prediction that this solar cycle may be one of the largest. Doug will follow-up to see if the program might be able to be presented at an upcoming OCRA meeting.

- **Meeting Closed and Check-outs - Bruce, N1LN**

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Meier, N1LN, Secretary