

A SHORT HISTORY OF QCWA

Greetings from QCWA! As one who is interested in vintage radio, you will be interested in a short history of QCWA. The Quarter Century Wireless Association began its existence during a 10-meter "round table QSO" on November 14, 1947 between six New York amateurs - John DiBlasi, W2FX; Uda Ross, W2UD; John Goe, W2FD; Ed Crane, W2EF; Ernest Cyriax, W2DI and Irving Groves, W2DX. They agreed that they should meet with other old-timers and form a club of amateurs who had been licensed 25 or more years. Word of this decision spread and at the first meeting on the evening of December 5, 1947, 34 amateurs from the Metropolitan New York area and one from Connecticut assembled. Later on the Charter Membership was expanded to include 21 additional members for a total of 54! QCWA's goals are to promote friendship and cooperation among amateur operators; operate exclusively for charitable, education and scientific purposes. QCWA is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for membership are as follows: You must have been licensed at least 25 years before applying and you must be licensed at the time of applying. It is necessary that proof of licensing be provided by one of the following: 1) a copy of your first license; 2) your first call listed in a published callbook; 3) a QSL card, with postmark sent to you confirming a contact; 4) a letter from someone who knew you and will write a note stating that they knew you as a licensed amateur in a given year. To help its prospective members QCWA has a library of callbooks from which your first year of licensing may be found if all other means fail.

HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

In order to keep membership on a personal basis, members join local Chapters, many within easy driving distance of many major population centers. Low-frequency nets, operated by the Chapters, and local Newsletters insure that members learn of meetings and activities. Currently, there are 128 chapters, holding meetings, brunches and dinners at which local interests may be discussed and personal contacts can be made and enjoyed. In addition, QCWA holds weekly HF nets on both phone and CW. Check the QCWA Web page for times and frequencies for all these nets.

A chapter known as the Quarter Century Wireless Women (QCWW) is available for licensed women QCWA members. At the National level, a Journal is published quarterly and sent to each member. The Journal contains reports of chapter activities, notices, membership correspondence, new members, as well as listing of Silent Keys.

NATIONAL QCWA MEETINGS

Our Constitution requires that an annual meeting be held with the membership. This takes place as part of an annual National Convention where members can meet their Officers and Directors and discuss QCWA issues. The Board of Directors meeting is held during the convention at which QCWA business matters are discussed and actions taken. The QCWW hold their meeting in conjunction with the annual convention.

QCWA GOVERNMENT

A Board of Directors governs QCWA. Officers and Directors are elected by membership every two years, serving two-year terms. Every effort is made to obtain representation from all parts of the country. The Board is charged with operation of QCWA in the best interests of its members and to see that QCWA is operated within the tenets of its Constitution and By-Laws. Nomination of the Officers and Directors is by an appointed nominating committee, or by petition from the membership.

QCWA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

QCWA has established and funded, through the generosity and support of its members, a program of scholarships awarded to young men and women in amateur radio who are working toward completion of their formal education. The program has been a success, bringing added prestige to QCWA and at the same time honoring QCWA Silent Key members, in whose name the Scholarships are awarded. The program is administered by the Foundation for Amateur Radio at no cost to QCWA.

PROJECTS AND AWARDS

QCWA has an extensive series of Honor Awards, as well as awards issued to members recognizing years of licensing. The Honor Awards were created to bestow formal recognition to those who have contributed significantly to the advancement of amateur radio through the years. Funds to make all this possible come mainly from membership dues.

The dues structure is modified from time to time as required. A current listing of the dues structure may be found on the reverse of this form. Life membership is available to those desiring to provide continuing support to QCWA. Annual Phone and CW QSO Parties are held in the spring and fall of each year and awards are given for those participating in the parties

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

QCWA has more than 7,000 active members. QCWA maintains in-house computer equipment to insure accurate records designed for easy maintenance. All records are maintained in triplicate, so that in the event of disaster, at least one current record will remain. All member records eliminate professional or military titles or rank designation. In addition, we list only one call for each member at only one address. These may be changed at will, by a written notice to Headquarters. Reinstatement of members whose dues may have lapsed can be accomplished by payment of dues in any of the terms listed on the reverse of this form, without penalty. Each membership number issued is unique and is not reissued. Family memberships are available for families having more than one eligible QCWA member, at a reduced cost. Membership directories are currently issued yearly on a CD.

AS TO THE FUTURE

QCWA, through its membership, is now recognized as a force in Amateur Radio. The Organization has taken an active interest in, and participates in filing comments with the FCC, which bear upon the Amateur Radio Service.

IN CLOSING

Should you need added information about QCWA, its purposes and what it might mean to you, write to Headquarters, at the address below. You'll hear from us quickly! May we welcome you as a member?

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