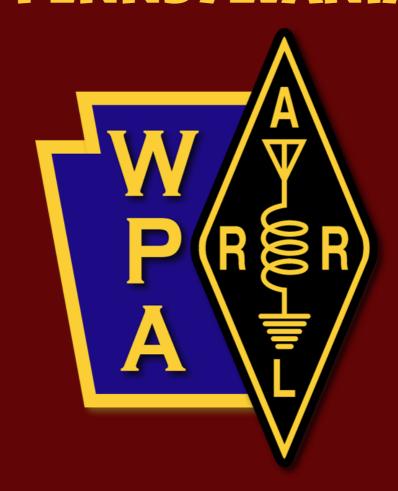
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION



SERVICE + INTEGRITY + EXCELLENCE

ARES Advances into the 21st Century A New Program, A New Mission

ARRL Public Service Enhancement Working Group Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Chairman

Why ARES is Changing

- The current, paper-based ARES program was last updated more than <u>40</u> years ago!
- 9-11 changed *everything!* (17 years ago...)
- Agencies we serve transitioned to the National Incident Management System 15-20 years ago and expect serving agencies (like us) to understand and operate using the principles of the Incident Command System to fit in
- Served Agencies expect "Voluntary Agencies" to be organized, trained, qualified and credentialed
- If we still come across as "the H.A.M. radios" there may no longer be a place for us in future public safety planning

Vision

The vision is for an ARES that is comprised of organized, trained, qualified, and credentialed Amateur Radio operators who can provide public service partners with radio communications expertise, capability, and capacity.

Goals

- Align the ARES organizational structure with:
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - Incident Command System (ICS)
- The Emergency Coordinator (EC) will continue to lead the ARES team locally during an incident
- District EC and Section Emergency Coordinator will continue to serve as resources and support for the EC
- ARES Connect is the new platform designed to support
 - Reporting and Membership
 - Database Portability [One Authoritative Source]
 - Record Keeping and Statistics

Membership Levels

- Level One participants would be able to fulfill most ARES duties with the target of attaining Level Two in one year
- Level Two would be considered the normal participant level, which would gain the participant access to most incident sites and EOCs
- Level Three would convey full access as granted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and qualification for ARES leadership

Training Levels

Training Levels correspond with new ARES Member levels:

- Level One would be comprised of all entering the program with no training, while progressing through the ARRL emergency communications training and the FEMA Independent Study courses 100, 200, 700, and 800
- Level Two would be attained upon successful completion of these courses, and would be considered the "Standard" level for ARES participants
- Level Three would be attained upon completion of the advanced FEMA courses IS 300 and 400, which would qualify candidates for the ARES leadership positions EC, DEC, SEC and Assistants

Mandatory Training

- It is envisioned that additional training will be mandated, including:
 - ARRL Emergency Communications courses
 - The now standard FEMA NIMS/ICS courses IS-100, 200, 700, 800
 - IS-300 and 400 for higher levels
- Other specialty courses will be required in certain cases such as:
 - SKYWARN
 - other agency-specific training

ARES ID

- It is proposed that ARRL will provide a basic ARES ID
 - would convey recognition of registration with ARES nationally
 - indicate level of training
 - No conveyance of site access is guaranteed
 - The AHJ would grant an additional ID/pass for site access, which would be "owned" by the AHJ [Authority Having Jurisdiction, e.g.: EMA]

What's Happening Now

- ARES Connect
 - Currently being field-tested and implemented
 - ARRL HQ staff undergoing training in administration
 - Group registrations being made and Group IDs being assigned
 - Beta testing with four large ARRL Sections underway.
- The plans are pending approval by the ARRL Board of Directors at the July Board Meeting
- ARES Strategic Plan for ARRL Field Organization being drafted
- Introductory Announcement being drafted
- Editing/updating ARRL ARES-related publications is underway
- Full article on ARES enhancements to appear in September QST

Where WPA Stands

- As of July 1, 2018
 - 15 Counties with ECs (71%) have registered and received ARES Group IDs
 - 12 Counties without ECs (36%) will be registered by DECs
- When all 33 counties are registered
 - Members will be permitted to register
 - ECs and others will be permitted to file monthly reports using ARES Connect
 - SM, SEC and DECs will be able to access data for entire Section to obtain statistics and reports

Summary

No need to panic!

- ARES Connect is working well, and soon you will be making your monthly reports online
 - No more confusing PDF forms to fill out and email!
- All data for your ARES group members will be readily available
 - You can see who is at what level
 - Keep track of member progress
 - Get ARRL Credentials for every member

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- Members aren't being forced to do anything
 - If a member doesn't want to study free ICS courses, they don't have to. They can enjoy meaningful participation at Level 1 forever
 - If a member wants to become an ARES leader, they now have a clearly defined path to follow
 - Those with initiative to serve at a higher level can immediately begin taking steps to become trained, qualified and credentialed

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- You now have a better organized asset to offer served agencies
 - We gain more credibility by following this path
 - Partner agencies will understand us better
 - We will understand partner agencies better
- Interoperability will be greatly enhanced
 - All ARES groups will be familiar with the standards and practices used in other groups
- "Fantasy Rescue Squads" will find fewer loopholes and stricter guidelines in the new ARES program

Questions & Answers

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