

Members Guide to Understanding Proposed Changes to **LARC BY-LAW #1**

Dear Members,

The Board is proposing a number of changes to By-law #1 which provides the Board with the operational rules upon which it is entrusted by the Membership: *“relating to the transaction of the affairs of the London Amateur Radio Club Incorporated.”*

For the last two and a half years the Board has worked to minimize the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic upon LARC and its individual members. In doing so, the Board asked the Membership to approve certain changes to the By-law that enabled the Board to continue to run meetings of the Club via Zoom, and to hold the Election of the Board of Directors via an on-line application know as “Election Runner”. The Board is happy to report that during that period the Club’s membership actually grew to over 140, and that record numbers of the Membership participated in the election of the Board of Directors.

At the time that those By-law changes were adopted it was widely understood that at some point the Covid-19 virus would disappear and everything would return to the way it was before, but unfortunately, it is now apparent that new variants of Covid are likely to come and go: e.g. as the Omicron variant wanes, new BA-1 and BA-2 variants are currently on the horizon.

We are also seeing that government’s strategy for dealing with Covid is now being adjusted and this virus, and its variants, are now being accepted as endemic. This is the so called “Living with Covid” strategy. Unfortunately it is not only leading to much confusion and some concern but is also generating optimism that life as we knew it prior to the Covid-19 pandemic can return.

Your Board’s first concern has always been the safety of our Membership and it continues to be so. The Board also recognizes that many members would like to return to “in-person” meetings and activities as quickly as is possible, while others, who may be at higher risk of poor medical outcomes due to age and/or existing medical conditions, may be more cautious.

At a recent meeting of the Board there was support for a hybrid approach to club meetings, by which, meetings “in person” would also be broadcast via Zoom. This would allow members the choice of whether they wish to attend “in person” or not. Aside for the Covid issue, it would also allow those who may have a long distance to travel, or who would rather not drive in winter weather, to take part in an “in person” meeting via Zoom as they have been able to do during the Pandemic. The Board is currently researching whether the existing Internet connection at the 427 Wing is capable of supporting Zoom meetings.

The suggested By-Law changes can be classified into three groups:

1. **Changes to Section 2 which deals with Membership Meetings.**
These changes enable hybrid meetings to be held regardless of the existence of emergent circumstances. Emergent Circumstances and/or legal requirement were required in the previously approved changes however, now that the “Living with Covid” strategy is emerging the Board requires the flexibility to make final decisions based upon all the factors that may be in play at any particular time.

2. **Changes to Section 3 which deals with the Election of the Board of Directors.**
These changes would make the Election process almost entirely electronic. The rationale for the move away from “in-person” elections is being driven by the fact that there has been considerably more participation by the Membership electronically as compared to participation when the process has been at “in person” at the Annual Meeting.

The “Election Runner” software enables the posting of candidate biographies which includes a photograph of the candidate and allows for an extended period of voting. The Nominations Committee will also facilitate conventional voting for the very few members who are without Internet access. The process also still maintains the ability for nominations to be made by any member (from the floor). The results will still be announced at the Annual Meeting.

3. **Changes to Section 5 which deal with the composition and operation of Committees** and is mainly housekeeping in nature. The main change there is the splitting of the Repeater/Club Station Committee into two separate committees, the Repeater Committee and the Club Station Committee. This was suggested as there is little overlap in duties while both have a fairly heavy potential workload. It also prescribes that the President shall be an “Ex Officio” member of each Committee while limiting all Committees to having 5 members (excluding the President). The Club License Trustee has been removed from a particular committee and the person appointed no longer has to be a committee member.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these proposed By-Law changes.

The Board of Directors

For enquiries or clarification regarding these proposals please contact;

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