



THE WECAGRAM

Newsletter of the
Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

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Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and Serving Amateurs since 1972

Volume 25, Issue 7

February, 2001

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Voting Slated For Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Changes to the WECA Bylaws have been proposed in three areas, as summarized below:

- **NAMES:** The Westchester County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services is renamed the "Westchester County Office of Emergency Management" (WCOEM).
- **COMPOSITION OF DIRECTORS:**
 1. The County Liaison is redefined as an employee or volunteer in WCOEM, since the County no longer has a Communications Officer.
 2. A new WECA Director, "Emergency Services Director," is proposed. He or she will be responsible for liaison with ARES, RACES and other emergency-services-related issues. This does *not* replace the Public Service Director, whose position remains unchanged.
- **ELECTION PROCEDURE:** A "Statement of Qualifications" is proposed to be distributed with ballots, as well as being included in the WECAGRAM.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** A new membership category, Life Membership, is added. The membership dues for a Life Member is 20 times the annual dues (which is the same as the ARRL).

The complete text of the Bylaws runs 29 pages, and the proposed changes are reflected throughout the document. The complete text—with changes highlighted—is available from Andy Farber, WECA Treasurer, in PDF format via e-mail at n4oox@weca.org or printed and mailed by calling him at (914) 378-2531.

IMPORTANT: The proposed Bylaws amendments will be discussed at the general meeting on February 5 and will be voted upon at the March 12 general meeting.

SOS: Your Blood is Urgently Needed

In light of the worst blood shortage across the U.S. in 20 years, the Westchester County Office of Emergency Services is sponsoring a much-needed blood drive:

DATE: Friday, February 16th, 8 am to 8 pm

**PLACE: WCDES Fire Training Center,
4 Dana Road (Rt. 9A), Valhalla, NY**

*Please donate if you possibly can and help save lives.
Call Joyce to reserve a donation time at (914) 593-5910.*

Mal Ochs, N2MEF Becomes Silent Key on January 4

Mal Ochs, N2MEF, a devoted WECA member, passed away from cancer on January 4, six days shy of his 68th birthday. Mal, a long-time worker in the advertising and magazine industry, was most recently employed as a research director/consultant for Time, Inc. and several advertising agencies. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Libby, his four children and seven grandchildren.

In addition to his ham radio activities, Mal was an avid boater, a national officer of the US Power Squadron and an active member of the Polaris Yacht Club. It was due to his desire for better communications while boating that he became a ham. He convinced a group of boating friends to join him in taking an amateur radio course, conducted by Gordon West. They all passed their FCC exams and are currently licensed hams up and down the East Coast. Mal became involved with WECA and has been active in his support of its public service program. He participated in the Mamaroneck Turkey Trot, Philharmonic concerts, Field Day, etc. He also helped the club behind the scenes with publications and as a member of the nominating committee in recent years.

As was Mal's style, he fought this illness to the bitter end. His devotion to the club was exceptional. He even took a variety of projects to the hospital with him, so he would not disappoint people by not completing them in a timely manner. As recently as a few days before his death, Mal was in close communication with WECA members on ham-radio-related matters.

For those who want to make a donation in Mal's name, please send them to:

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Sundeck "Awning" Fund,
c/o Tracy Rueckert, Development Office,
Memorial Sloan Kettering, 1275 York Avenue,
New York, NY 10021. This fund is being established to honor Dr. Mark Kris and the 14th floor staff at the hospital who provided excellent care for Mal.

As a Silent Key, Mal will be missed and remembered as a good friend to WECA members and to amateur radio.

THE WECAGRAM

Editor: Mike Arrow, K2NR

The WECAGRAM is the official newsletter of the Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc., a Special Service Club affiliated with the ARRL, ARES, the Westchester County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services, RACES, and the American Red Cross, and is a member of the Westchester County Emergency Medical Services Council.

Any questions, comments, items for Swap and Shop, commercial advertising, suggestions, contributions and letters for inclusion should be sent to the editor at wecagram@weca.org or via postal mail at 2 Edna Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804-2516.

Submissions via e-mail to wecagram@weca.org would be greatly appreciated. Submissions may be edited for style and space.

The deadline for inclusion in the newsletter is the second Monday of the preceding month. Timely publication relies on prompt submissions.

All submissions are expressly the opinion of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of WECA, its officers, directors or the editor.

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WECA wishes to exchange newsletters with other clubs. All clubs wishing to receive the WECAGRAM in exchange for copies of their publications should contact the editor.

WECA Officers and Directors: July 2000-June 2001

OFFICERS:

President	Stanley Rothman, WA2NRV
Executive VP	Philip Petrus, W2RWR
VP/General Counsel	Michael J. Weitzner, N2EJI
Treasurer	Andrew R. Farber, N4OOX
Secretary	(vacant)
Trustee	Paul S. Vydareny, WB2VUK
President Emeritus	Joseph Brown, KB2NBN

DIRECTORS:

County Liaison	(vacant)
Digital Modes	Richard L. Benda, WB2QJA
Director at Large	Sanford H. Fried, N2SF
Education	Efrem Acosta, W2CZ
Engineering	Robert A. Wilson, N2DVQ
Membership	Angelina R. Morgante, KC2COR
Newsletter Editor	Michael M. Arrow, K2NR
Public Relations	David J. Weiss, N2OGK
Public Service	Robert Kantor, N2TSE
Repeater Operations	Dwight P. Smith, N2FMC
Social	Thomas R. Raffaelli, WB2NHC

WECA gladly accepts donations of equipment in new or used condition (e.g. from estates). Please contact WECA by e-mail, postal mail or telephone for further information.

WECA operates the following repeaters under call sign **WB2ZII/R**. All repeaters use PL 2A (114.8 Hz).

147.060(+), 224.400(-) and 447.475(-) MHz

The WECAGRAM is available on-line at:

<http://www.weca.org/wecagram>

Views from the Shack #7: Do the Write Thing

Every active member of WECA wonders how much of his or her valuable time should be devoted to the club. The demands of work, family and other interests must be balanced to ensure that we earn our bread, enjoy our loved ones and participate in private and community enjoyment.

We are fortunate to be engaged in an enjoyable hobby which (usually) does not require strenuous work that can tire us out or even be beyond the physical limitations of advancing years. In a word, ham radio is plain *fun*. WECA tries to seize on the fun aspects of the hobby in the form of social events and enhanced communication capability for its members, as well as to provide an outlet for the public-spirited nature of amateurs in times of emergency and civic distress. "Fun" and "service" are what WECA is all about.

Ken Gross, N2OBY, after a period of superior service as WECA's Secretary, found that the other aspects of his life required more of his time and attention than he could have given if he had remained in his WECA office. He was thus forced to resign the secretariat not only because of his own needs, but because he had such respect for his office that he felt he could no longer contribute to the extent a proper Secretary should. Ken has certainly earned the gratitude of everyone in WECA, myself included, for his excellent service. Nevertheless, we should all honor his commitment to WECA and his necessity to retire from office at this time.

I know what Ken is talking about. Serious readers of this column will remember that I took a twenty-odd-year hiatus from amateur radio, until my own circumstances provided the time to re-engage. I was lucky that WECA came along to provide me with a vehicle to express myself and to join a bunch of good, solid people bound in public and club spirit.

Hams, if nothing else, are well known for volubility, which is a fancy word for possessing the gift of gab. Our club now has a vacancy for secretary, which I hope some lucky member will find well-suited to his or her communications skills as well as his or her time schedule. While I find it to be fun to edit the WECAGRAM, there is also a serious purpose in its written communications. So, too, is there a serious and important role served by club Secretary. I know that there must be a member yearning to do the "write" thing and be an able successor to Ken.

WECA members may take pride in their public service to the community. However, it is impossible for WECA to provide service in an organized way if its members don't support its infrastructure. Think it over and see if a turn on the WECA Board meets your, as well as WECA's, needs. We'll be on the lookout for you.

73, Mike K2NR

From the President... By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

This is the month where we think of hearts, Valentines and our loved ones. Don't forget to give your spouse something special, even if it is a new rig or antenna.

Along with these thoughts, we should consider donating the lifeline of the heart: blood. There is an extreme shortage of the blood supply in our area this year. We, as emergency service communicators, know how important this supply is during disasters and accidents. I urge all WECA members who are eligible to donate a pint of this potentially life-saving material to the County Blood Bank. (see box on page one of this month's WECAGRAM.)

Phil W2RWR, our vice president, recently returned from a hospital visit. We're glad to have you home, Phil. Ken N2OBY has tendered his resignation as WECA Secretary. He has recently moved to Dutchess County, NY and his work hours have increased. To top all that off, Ken has returned to school with evening classes on Monday nights. This means that he will not be able to attend meetings. We will miss Ken as an officer of WECA and appreciate all he has contributed to enhance the operation of the club. Good luck with your classes, Ken.

Due to the "interesting" weather last month, some members were not able to make the January meeting. We have decided to allow members to purchase the PSK31 club project kits at the reduced price during the February meeting, while they last. They are now at a discounted price since the company has raised the cost over \$10. We currently have some at the old price of \$40. Contact Nick K2ZVI if you have interest in getting a kit.

I wish to thank the family of Julian WD2ADT for the donation of his station equipment to our WECA loan closet. We now have solid-state radios available. Talk to Fran N2OLU regarding loans from the closet as well as the WECA Elmer program.

We will be looking for volunteers for the Nominating Committee at the February meeting. If you would like to be a member this year, contact me as soon as possible. Also, someone is needed to fill the remaining term as Secretary.

We will miss Mal N2MEF who passed away last month, losing his battle with cancer. Mal was an active member who did a great deal of club work in the background. Members of WECA attended the funeral service and it was a difficult time for us.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the February meeting, with heart in hand.

73, Stan WA2NRV



Southern District Net December 2000 Report By Sandro Sicilia, N2TWN Net Manager

Stations checked in (QNS)	478
Messages received (QTC)	82
Messages relayed (QSP)	81
Total net time duration (QTR)	495 minutes in
Total number of sessions	31

"A Rose by Any Other Name:" Your Guide to Getting a Vanity Call

Self-chosen call signs, commonly called "vanity calls," are available generally on a first-come, first-served basis to all FCC-licensed amateurs. They may be applied for on-line from the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) website: <http://wtbwww05.fcc.gov>, or by filing FCC Form 605 by mail. See last month's WECAGRAM for details how to connect to the website or to obtain the form. Please note that *both* the main form *and* Schedule D of Form 605 (or their electronic analogues) must be filed.

Unlike other amateur radio transactions, there is a charge made to obtain and renew vanity calls. At present, the fee is \$14 for a ten-year license term. Also unlike the case with ordinary calls, a *new* ten-year term begins when obtaining a new vanity call; thus, the \$14 fee is payable in full when applying for a new vanity call (even if your license is not due for renewal or you are exchanging a current vanity call for a new one).

Vanity calls are available according to license class: Group D (2X3) for Novices; Group C (1X3) or D for Techs, Tech Pluses and Generals; Group B (2X2 beginning with K or W), C or D for Advanceds; and Group A (2X2 beginning with A or 1X2 or 2X1), B, C or D for Extras. The call must not have been in use for *two years* prior to the date of application in order to be available. **EXCEPTION:** former holders of the call in question need not wait the two years if the call is not presently assigned and they want the old call back. In this case, however, the call is still considered a vanity call and the fee is payable.

The best place to obtain complete information regarding availability of calls is the website <http://www.carroll-usa.com/vanity/>. Presently available, and soon-to-be-available, calls, and whether these calls are included in the applications of others are shown on the site. Application tips and pitfalls are another valuable service of the site.

Specific questions may also be sent to the Editor at wecaram@weca.org. who will answer as time permits.



**Next Membership Meeting:
NOTE SPECIAL DATE**

**February 5 at 8:00 pm
County Center, White Plains
Speaker: N4OOX on Bylaws;
Also H.V. Blood Services**

**From the Membership Director...
By Angelina Morgante, KC2COR**

Welcome our newest member, Brian Foley, KC2GWH.

Congrats to Gary Gorski, KB2UKS, and Dana Hickey, KC2CLZ, for upgrading to General Class.

Congrats also to our Education Director, Efrem Acosta, who now is known as W2CZ. Efrem has graduated from non-ham to Extra Class ham in a few months, and used to be known as KC2FOR and AB2KJ.

A special thank you to these members who recently renewed their memberships: KB2UKS and KB2YHT.

*Remember: "Emergency Communications"
is WECA's middle name!*

Learn more and maintain readiness. Contact Alan N2YGK or Joe WB2VVS for more information.

**From the Public Service Director...
By Robert Kantor, N2TSE**

The following public-service activities are scheduled:

Sunday, April 29th: March of Dimes, Mt.Kisco.
Sunday, June 3rd: American Diabetes Tour-de- Cure bicycle ride, SUNY Purchase.
Saturday night, July 14th: NY Philharmonic at Westchester Community College, Valhalla.

Please ask your entertainment/event planner and/or your better half to put these events on your calendar so you can reserve it to come out and play "ham." And don't forget: PLEASE SIGN UP in good time to participate. Call me at (914) 949-4231, see me at the membership meeting or e-mail me at n2tse@weca.org for further information.

**Want to see your name on this page?
Upgrade your license!**

WECA sponsors VE exam sessions every other month. The next WECA VE exam session will be held on: **Thursday, February 8, 7:00 pm**, at the Westchester County Emergency Operations Center Sub-Basement, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains. Good luck from Sandy N2SF and the WECA VE team.



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**RUSH -- DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**