

## 1/26/26 HCRA BOD Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

### - Robert's rule of order format for board meeting Meeting Called to Order @ 7:04pm

#### Roll Call: Present:

President: W1AEZ – EZ M. - Present

Vice President: KP4JLD – Josue D. – Present

Treasurer: N1FJ – Frandy J. - Present

Secretary: **Vacant** (\*Minutes taken by Brother Al)

Tech Director – K1YO – Bob M.- Present

Program Director: AA1UE – Gary T.- Present

Membership Director: KB1VNH - Brother Al - Present

Newsletter Director: AB1XW – Alan D.- Absent

At Large: N1CB - Johnathen B. – Present

#### Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees:

**President:** - Ez, W1AEZ Ez Read the role of the President, “shall preside at all board and general meetings of the Corporation and all other corporate functions. Responsibility: Monitor the Corporation Finance records and back up to the Treasurer. Inventory of HCRA administrative, property (equipment, intellectual, & merchandise), and resources. Monitor ARRL special club status and renew application (2026). Answer HCRA emails. Conducting Community Engagements, such as YOTA and Fox Hunt activities, etc...”

- Asked the Officers to please complete the list of duties: “How to do your responsibilities.” Word document and save in HCRA Google Share drive.
- Yearly to do: Renew HCRA's Special Service Club status with ARRL (SSC every 2 years) ([www.arrl.org/ssc-application](http://www.arrl.org/ssc-application)), next Due Date: 1 Nov 2026 was submitted to ARRL W.Mass Section Ray LaJoie for review. Committed to fulfilling our vision of cultivating a “Welcoming Club” focused on having fun and camaraderie in all activities. This year, ARRL is supporting the “Year of the Club”.
- HCRA Facebook Page Ownership. Attempted to regain ownership, verses starting a new “Official FB Page” was initially successful. At the last club meeting, “Jurgen Malner, NV1Q requested to speak to members at the last meeting about materials being posted on Facebook not being relevant, complained about no longer being a Moderator, and made a statement about the Club President being sneaky for removing him from the page as an Administrator. Juergen became argumentative and did not want to hear that the board had previously decided that HCRA Facebook is the intellectual property of the club and contents governed by the board. Members at the meeting requested that the discussion be sidebar and the scheduled meeting continue.
- Steve Zemanek, Original Owner and Admin, recently removed HCRA Board members from the HCRA FB page. EZ then read the following message he sent via FB messenger chat:

“Steve, I am reaching out to you again as a representative and president of the HCRA club. The HCRA board has voted that this page become the intellectual property of the club and that the board members will be the Administrators and Moderators. We

would like to have the ownership transfer to the President@hcra.org where future presidents and board members will be able to moderate the contents of this page. I hope that you understand and respect the HCRA wishes. I know previous board members are not happy and have reached out to you. Please reach out to me and let's have a discussion. Respectfully, Ez Current President, W1AEZ... sent at 12:25 pm 1/20/2026.”

- Resigning/Quitting verses Firing: EZ stated that Paul’s resignation was honorably accepted. President does not have responsibility to fire anyone and it was a discussion had in person. Gary T stated that it should have come before the board. There was some further board discussion and then the matter was closed.
- Requesting Board members continue to be proactive with reports and with club actions and after-action reports.
- Budget or Equipment to perform duties? Discuss club sponsorships, ownership & update of the equipment & Inventory

**Vice President:** - Josue D., KP4JLD

- Josue spoke about the development of a Equipment Lending Program and creating a tracking program. Alan D and John B made statements that there should be limits upon equipment, based on licensure and other criteria. Josue stated that further development of the framework is the first step.

**Secretary:** - **OPEN (Bother Al took notes of the meeting)**

- EZ stated that the board should look for volunteers and/or solicit recommendations of volunteers.
- Yearly to do: Liability insurance (ARRL)-February, expires in March. Secretary will get an email; File IRS Form 990-N [Secretary has links and instructions] -September; Mass non-profit filing (501-C3) [Secretary has links and instructions] -September; Update HCRA's club information with ARRL ([www.arrl.org/groups](http://www.arrl.org/groups)) (delete) -October; Update HCRA's Affiliated Club information ([www.arrl.org/club-update](http://www.arrl.org/club-update)); and Equipment Insurance (ARRL)-November, expires in December.
- **Next Due:** Paul forwarded an insurance renewal notice, asking Ez to update contact information to the new Secretary before the March 1, 2026, renewal. Paul advised Ez to contact Cheryl Ludewig at Risk Strategies to set up the new Secretary's account. The new Secretary must use a personal credit card for renewal and seek reimbursement from Frandy, who was CC'd.

**Treasurer:** - Frandy, N1FJ

- Yearly to do: Post Office Box **562** Renewal-January (scheduled bank recurring transfer), expires in April; MTARA Hamfest Table- January; Domain Name Registration (?)-March; and Zoom Workplace Pro, Renewals June 6, 2026, and Club Donations to Holyoke Medical Center and Agawam Parks & Recreation.
- Holiday Party Cost was \$4009.52 minus reimbursements, which are still being sorted out. Brother Al will be giving Gary the breakout on HCRA-MTARA joint memberships vs MTARA-only memberships of those who attended.
- EZ PayPal issues should be sorted out now.

Frandy stated that Larry wants the last few months of financials for the club and he is going to meet with him.

Easy and Gary both asked what Larry wants to see them for what is his motive behind asking to see the books?

Alan stated that Larry wants to make sure the books are in order.

**Program:** - Gary, AA1UE

- Working on After Action Report for the HCRA-MTARA Party. Will get together with Brother Al for MTARA Membership vs joint MTARA-HCRA Membership costs.
- Gary and Alan were talking about the March-June planning timeframe for events.
- Share the Knowledge Program: Gary mentioned the core median age of Ham operators being over 65 and that prior club sponsored classes, 6-7 passed out of 13 and none got involved, so a better program needs to be organized, if we try to do it again and it requires a strategic membership plan.

Alan stated that he had 3 points to note: Share the Knowledge has long been a good resource for our club, Demographic issues are not unique to our club and its affecting most organizations, and our club needs to invite people from the license classes.

Bob M. stated that our membership average age vs ARRL's is likely slightly younger, but not by much. We need to find people who will utilize HCRA can and will utilize HCRA as a vehicle to grow their knowledge. Have our membership look at the continuing education forms in Zero Beat and fill them out to find out what our membership interests are. We need 9-10 high level instructors.

Gary stated that we tried that several years ago and no one from the class got involved, so how do we retain them. They don't know what they don't know, so how do we build the community when folks are new and few people talk to them? We need more members to sit down with new members and talk with them at meetings to get them feeling like they are welcome.

Frandy stated that we need to continue the membership classes with practical things, but at club meetings, we need to have more stimulating subjects.

Bob M. How do you draw them in and try to build the community, when they join and then leave them alone. We need to work on having a good on-boarding program, advertising of the club and its events, and get them active with a mix of practical, technical, test equipment, tech classes, & RFI stuff... but we have to find out what makes them interested first, then build to suit those interests.

Al wants to send out a membership survey via email and advertise the workshops on the club Facebook page.

Gary stated that many wanted to do antenna builds activities. People seem to really enjoy that and activities bring people together it creates community. It also helps pull other hams and clubs in this region together to help us work together which creates a lot of fun.

EZ stated it's a good way to get people in but building the knowledge and troubleshooting and stem projects or what we need for entry level people including kids it starts the process. Fox hunts possibly going to happen in late January with Josue and Jerry Sambrook.

**Membership:** – Al, KB1VNH

He'd like to create a membership packet to give to all new members.

EZ stated he wants to write welcome letters and has been sending them out through Jim's emails to prospects when they join.

Allen stated there is reference stuff in the box that he gave E Z.

Gary stated He almost threw away an ARRL pin that he received in the mail. It would be nice if we could get press kits together that included the who's what's for prospective members to get involved.

Brother al stated that he would like to get a membership committee program Together. The membership committee would serve our club better with everyone's input. That way the H C R a Can't give new members a proper hello.

Alan stated that the club has QSL cards and we could include info, links, and other outreach information. You can update the system the website with information once Everything is completed and and worked through.

EZ stated the committee can get new members opinions.

Gary stated that the membership and club table can we set up near al at the ham fest.

Bob stated that he developed handouts need to tie our ideas together and work on an onboarding system Bob is 80% done on the handouts and program.

Gary stated we should state at meetings what can you help a new ham with? During intros. 15 minute segments on topics like I used to do in finances and set up workshops with Bob.

**At Large:** - Johnathen- K1CB

- Nothing to report but we'll be looking for money for field day.

**Josue took over the meeting**

**Given the situation Frandy made a motion to adjourn seconded by Alan meeting closed**

**Motion to adjourn Frandy**

**Second: Alan**

**Meeting Closed at 8:52pm**