**A Meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. held at Armstrong’s Restaurant and via Zoom.**

The May meeting of the Membership of the Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. was called to order at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 4, 2021, by Norman Dallura, KN4YFI, President. Twenty-four members attended in person, ten members attended via Zoom. There were two applicants for membership present and four other visitors.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer reported that at the beginning of April, there was a balance in the treasurer of $4,855.70. In April, dues in the amount of $71.30 were received. There were no expenses in April, so the ending balance for the month was $4927.00. The Treasurer’s report was approved as presented. The treasurer presented the first reading of the names of three applicants for membership. They were, Mark Purington, KO4OLJ, Terry Keilbasa, Jr., KG4MWI, and Sean Jackson, KB1TEV.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report was previously submitted to the membership via email. The Secretary reported he had received only one comment concerning the proper spelling of YouTube. He had corrected the spelling. The report, as amended, was approved.

**ARES Report**

David Tanks, AD4TJ, commented that Hurricane season would begin in 3 ½ weeks. Then he announced that the May ARES net would be held on May 13 at 8 p.m. Which repeater would be used would depend on who volunteered to be net control. No one had volunteered to be net control before the end of the meeting. David also announced that he had applications for ARES membership if any of the association members not yet members of ARES wanted to join. He also recommended that members who used mobile radios in their vehicles have a copy of the new law concerning handheld communication devices in their vehicles. The law has an exemption for amateur radio.

**Old Business**

 **1. Field Day**. The President announced that there would be no gathering at Stokesville Campground this year. Erika Kancler, K4NOV, has posted the recommendations of the VARA/MARA Field Day Committee for participation in Field Day on the VARA website.

**2. Other Activities**. A discussion was held on other activities supported by the Association. The Shenandoah 100 will be held again, this year. It is a profit-making event. As such, VARA cannot directly support it. But the coordinator stated that he would be looking for 17 to 19 individuals to volunteer to support this race. The Valley Veterans Race will also be conducted this year. It is scheduled for September 11. Tentatively, the Grindstone Race will be held on September 17 through 19 this year. The Fall Foliage bicycle event will also be conducted this year. The Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride has been eliminated by the farm’s new owner. A list of all public service events supported by the Association has been posted on the Association website.

**New Business**

John Lasher, N3GLZ, suggested that the Association consider purchasing a suitcase repeater to better serve the public service events supported by VARA. Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV, stated that he had a repeater and equipment that he could make available to the Association during the supported events. The Board of Directors will consider the matter at its next meeting and will make a recommendation to the Association at its June meeting.

The President made a presentation on the new FCC RF exposure rules and the need to perform evaluation on our stations. If no changes are made to an existing station, the evaluation does not have to be completed until May 2023. But any new station or if any change is made to an existing, such as a new transceiver, antenna, or feed line, the evaluation must be performed immediately. The President showed the association the steps he took to evaluate his station using an RF Exposure Calculator written by Vernon Mauery, N7OH. The program may be accessed through a link found at the VARA website.

After the presentation, the President again asked for members to consider volunteering to make presentations to the Association.

The 50/50 drawing was held and three prizes were awarded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Morgan

Secretary