

**Aurora 2025
NLRS Business Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2025**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by club president, Jon, W0ZQ.

Silent Key Report:

W6GMT Brock Thomsen

KC0P Mel Larson

Reading of the 2024 Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes from the 2024 meeting were posted on the club's website for review by the membership prior to today's meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dave, W0ZF, and seconded by Jeff, KF0JW. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was presented by the club's treasurer, Janice, KA9VVQ.

For the 4/2024-4/2025 fiscal year, the balance on hand (business checking acct. + CD) 4/1/2024 was \$6537.95; the balance on hand (business checking acct. + CD) 4/7/2025 was \$6595.55. This represents an increase of \$57.60 over the past year. **Income:** Income from Aurora 2024 attendee registrations was \$232.00. QTH.net (email reflector) donations collected from NLRS members was \$160.00. Again, 31 attendees participated in the attendee-pre-paid pizza lunches (@\$10/lunch) for \$310.00 lunch income. Donations to the NLRS were \$35.00. CD interest was \$196.39. Thus, total income for the fiscal year was \$933.39. **Expenses:** The club sent \$55.00 to the WWROF to sponsor the 2024 CQWW VHF USA Rover plaque. The club also sent \$100.00 to the MN Amateur Radio Consortium for a Gold sponsorship to help host the MN ARRL State Convention in October 2024. NLRS website expenses included \$20.49 for domain name registration renewal and \$59.40 for QTH.com website hosting. The QTH.net (email reflector) donations collected from NLRS members at the 2024 Aurora and sent to QTH.net was \$160.00. Pizza party lunches and supplies expenses were \$280.73. The West Medicine Lake Community Club hall rental fee for the 2024 Aurora was \$150.00. The club spent \$20.00 for a club table at the Midwinter Madness Hamfest, \$15.57 for AU24 nametag labels, and \$14.60 for office supplies. Thus total expenditures were \$875.79.

A motion to approve the report as presented was made by Donn, WA2VOI, and seconded by Bill, AE0EE. The report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

NLRS Net, Reflector, and Website: Jon, W0ZQ reminded the membership that the club's website is now at www.nlrs.club. The club also hosts an email reflector (via QTH.net), which is managed by Bruce, W9FZ. To sign up, go to the NLRS website. Janice, KA9VVQ, noted that the list of nets available on the club's website has become outdated and inaccurate. This list will be removed until more current info. is obtained.

Silent Key Estate Assistance: Jon, W0ZQ, mentioned that the NLRS does provide assistance to the spouse/family of NLRS silent keys with the disposition of the SK's ham radio equipment. This service is provided gratis. Jon encouraged members to periodically revisit their stashes of ham radio equipment and clean out that which is no longer of use or interest so that the disposal of their ham radio estate upon their death will not be a burden to their family.

Old Business:

Club Call: Jon, W0ZQ noted that the club's call, W0AUS, is available to use by club members during contests, special events, etc. If any member is interested in using it, contact Jon.

Plaque Sponsorship: Jon, W0ZQ, informed the club that changes have been made to the upcoming CQ WW VHF July contest. It has been split into 2 weekends, the first being SSB/CW/FM only, and the second digital only. So there are now 3 plaques per category to consider sponsoring: SSB/CW/FM high score, digital high score, and combined (analog + digital) high score. The WWROF, which runs the contest, earlier asked the club if we were willing to sponsor one or more of these plaques. After discussion among the officers, it was decided that this year the NLRS would sponsor, for \$55, the combined high score plaque for CW WW VHF USA Rover category.

Jon, W0ZQ, reminded the club that the club continues to sponsor three (3) ARRL June VHF contest plaques: Overall Single Operator, 3-band (SO3B), Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power (SOLP), and a divisional SOLP plaque rotated to a new division each year as chosen by the ARRL contest manager. The NLRS sponsorship of these plaques is from 2023 to 2030 (inclusive).

New Business:

Constitution & Bylaws: A few years ago, the club voted to change membership dues from \$5/yr to \$0/year and to modify the C&B to better define a "member in good standing". Since these changes were made, membership has grown significantly. While membership growth has been a good thing, it has made it difficult to achieve a quorum to conduct business at the annual Aurora business meeting. The club officers are

therefore proposing a change to the quorum definition to be as follows **(in red)**:

current definition:

“A quorum shall consist of one-third (1/3) of current members. Current members not present at a given meeting may convey written proxies to the Secretary regarding any votes to be taken at that meeting. Such proxies shall be considered as "current members present" for the purpose of a quorum.”

proposed new definition:

~~“A quorum shall consist of one-third (1/3) of current members.~~ **A quorum shall consist of at least 15 current members present.** Current members not present at a given meeting may convey written proxies to the Secretary regarding any votes to be taken at that meeting. Such proxies shall be considered as "current members present" for the purpose of a quorum.”

Additionally, the club officers felt the “member in good standing” definition should be updated to help the club officers “cleanse the roster” from time to time to address the presence of silent keys, members who have lost contact/interest in the club, etc., on the member list. Doing so will help ensure that the member list remains an accurate representation of the club.

The proposed changes to the definition of a “member in good standing” are as follows **(in red)**:

current definition:

“A member shall be considered current and in good standing by being active in amateur radio contests, by attending club meetings and events, or be considered a contributor to club affairs by a club officer.”

proposed new definition:

~~A member shall be considered current and in good standing by being active in amateur radio contests, by attending club meetings and events, or be considered a contributor to club affairs by a club officer.~~ **A member shall be considered current and in good standing by being an active participant in VHF+ amateur radio activities (such as VHF+ contesting, satellites, antenna design and building, radio experimentation, EME, or presenting/writing about VHF+ related topics, etc.), by attending club meetings and activities, or by being considered a contributor to club affairs by a club officer. Club officers together shall periodically review the membership roster to remove silent keys, those who have asked to be removed from the membership roster, and those demonstrating a lack of interest in participating in the club and its mission. Those removed from the roster may be reinstated by submitting a new club membership form.**

The foregoing discussion regarding changing to the definition of a quorum and member in good standing will be voted on at the 2026 Aurora business meeting as defined in the club's C&B.

Future Aurora Date Planning: After discussion among the members present, it was decided that the 2026 Aurora will be held on May 30, 2026.

2025 Central States VHF Society Conference: Bruce, W9FZ, discussed the upcoming CSVHFS conference, which will be held July 24-27, 2024 in Lincoln, NE. A number of NLRS members are helping with the planning and execution of the conference. Bruce encouraged NLRS members to attend...many good talks and activities are planned that will be of interest to VHF+ enthusiasts.

North Star Radio Convention (ARRL MN State Convention): Paul, N0SUW, mentioned the North Star Radio Convention, a general interest ham radio conference, which will likely include some VHF+ talks, will take place October 11, 2025. Location is the same as last year, the Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park, MN.

ARRL June VHF Contest: Jon, W0ZQ, reminded those present that the ARRL June VHF contest is June 14-16, 2025. He reminded those considering participating in the contest to check the CW and SSB calling frequencies at the top of each hour when operating the digital modes.

Wesslund Award: The Wesslund Award has reappeared after a long period of absence. This year's winner is Rob, K0XL. Congrats Rob!

Adjournment: Following the closure of new business, Jon, W0ZQ, motioned for a vote to close the business meeting. Ron, KA0RYT seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:
Janice Hoettels, KA9VVQ
NLRS Secretary
