

QCWA HISTORY

It all began during a 10-meter round table one Friday night in November, 1947. Six of the members decided they should form an organization of Amateur Radio operators who have been licensed for more than 25 years.

The initial organizational meeting was held December 5, 1947 in a restaurant in midtown New York City. Thirty-four old-timers attended. John DiBlasi-W2FX, was elected President; George Droste-W2IN, Vice-president; Leon Hansen-W2FIT, Secretary, and David Talley-W2PF, Treasurer. Frank Lester-W2AMJ (W4AMJ) proposed the name of the organization. The logo was developed from a cartoon in a 1923 QST accompanying an article "ROTTEN QRM," written by "The Old Man" himself, Hiram Percy Maxim. Otto Eppers-W2EA, a commercial artist, made some minor modifications to the drawing, added some sparks and the letters "QCWA," and the QCWA logo was born.

Membership grew rapidly within the first month and when the rolls were closed on December 31 1947, there were 54 Charter Members:

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| 1. John DiBlasi, W2FX | 19. Frank Frimmerman, W2FZ | 37. F. A. Long, W2PYY |
| 2. G. T. Droste, W2IN | 20. Alfred B. O'Hara, W20G | 38. Oscar Oehman, W2KU |
| 3. Leon Hansen, W2FIT | 21. Harold D. Pour, W2FLR | 39. Murry Blum, W2MY |
| 4. David Talley, W2PF | 22. Dr. A. L. Walsh, W2BW | 40. W. L. Wheeler, Jr., W2ILO |
| 5. James Millen, W1HRX | 23. Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF | 41. W. E. Owens, W2DDA |
| 6. Fred W. Huff, W2AMB | 24. F. C. W. Thiede, W2EC | 42. Moe Joffee, W6PHE |
| 7. Irving Groves, W2DX | 25. E. W. Dannals, W2GG | 43. Nat Burnett, K40L |
| 8. W.J. Howell, W211 | 26. Thomas McCann, W2AFB | 44. Perce B. Collison, W2KN |
| 9. Uda B. Ross, W2UD | 27. R. D. Valentine, W2GX | 45. George Nolan, W2QF |
| 10. W. H. Neuman, W2RB | 28. John A. Gioe, W2FD | 46. Harold Wetterholm, W2BKY |
| 11. E.S. Crane, W2EF | 29. Walter A Cobb, W2CO | 47. Philip Levinson, W2MIN |
| 12. Otto Eppers, W2EA | 30. Earl R. Thomas, W2MM | 48. Dr. E. A. Cyriax, W2DI |
| 13. Frank Lester, W2AMJ | 31. Clarence Seid, W2K | 49. Dr. Paul Z. Haus, W2VH |
| 14. J.A. Stobbe, W2WZ | 32. Kurt Schoenfeld, W2BT | 50. Charles A. Service, Jr W4IE |
| 15. Lester Reiss, W2BR | 33. Reeve O. Strock, W2YW | 51. Myron J. Earl, W9WNF |
| 16. Morton Kahn, W2KR | 34. Raymond Farwell, W2BJ | 52. Robert E. Baur, W9NN |
| 17. Dan E. Lindsay, W2PL | 35. Jack Heidt, W4MW | 53. Gordon Braendle, W6YYU |
| 18. H.T. Hayden Jr., W2FO | 36. W.H. Kennedy, W2AS | 54. Ambrose H. Hardwick, W2YQ |

Our last Charter Member to become a Silent Key was Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF on March 27, 2008. We are using the original signs out members held in 1947.

In January 1951, a group in Cleveland, Ohio petitioned to become a chapter of QCWA and in June 1954, Chicago area became the second chapter. From there on, chapters began springing up all over the country. It was not until 1966, however, that the by-laws were changed to permit officers and directors of the national organization to be elected from outside the New York Metropolitan area.

In spite of the great increase in QCWA membership throughout the years, the number of directors remained at five from 1947 until 1983. At that time the constitution was amended to provide for an additional five directors. Efforts were made to obtain candidates from each of the U.S. call sign areas and from Canada and overseas. The following election resulted in selection of members from eight U.S. call areas and a VE and DL to serve on the Board of Directors.

By mid-1984, total memberships issued were approaching 18,000 and there were over 150 chapters throughout the world. By mid-1993 the total membership had reached well over 25,000, there were over 10,000 active members and 187 local Chapters. As the membership has grown, more activities have been added. There is a good turnout at the weekly international nets and on numerous local nets. CW and SSB QSO Parties attract many participants every Spring and Fall and there is always a good attendance at the Annual Meeting and Convention each Fall. A number of attractive certificates and honor awards are offered to recognize operating accomplishments and leadership contributions to QCWA. The *QCWA Journal* is published four times a year and the Hot Line Report is available every few months. QCWA is an organization made up of many of the world's most experienced Amateurs. It has a proud history and great potential for the future, making use of the reservoir of knowledge and experience represented within the membership for the benefit of all Radio Amateurs.

Thanks to Dave Talley, W2PF for much of the above information