

Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Minutes

March 15, 2018

Mulligan's Point C.C., Georgetown, DE

17 in attendance.

Meals were served prior to the meeting.

FCC Testing – 0 Tested

Vice President Vic Gumper called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Introductions

Presentation

Bill Duveneck introduced Delaware Senator Ernesto (Ernie) Lopez, 6th Senatorial District (Eastern Sussex County)

Senator Lopez thanked all for sharing in the hobby of Amateur Radio. He is originally from Puerto Rico, and has family residing there. He, his mother and father, thanked all for the work of Amateur Radio operators during the devastating hurricane.

He noted that we are all in this world together.

There are 21 Senatorial Districts in Delaware.

The population of Delaware is approximately 1 million people. Because of the population, Delaware may get a second U.S. representative after the next census.

In Sussex County, there are no district lines. Laws affect all constituents.

He noted that people aren't listening to each other enough. Sen. Lopez has spent 21 years as a guidance counselor.

The state legislature was able to cut spending and work through a \$400 million budget deficit.

A balanced budget was achieved.

The state is in a good place this year. There is no surplus, but we are well positioned to prepare for the future.

He discussed natural resources and the Sussex County coastline.

Sussex County tourism brings \$6.9 billion to the state. It is important for all in Delaware to respect the citizens of Sussex County.

Our infrastructure and roads need to be in top shape.

Senator Lopez holds a coffee meeting monthly. Constituents want to know how his position can leverage what they have or need.

If we can have a reasonable, respectful debate on an issue, we're in good shape. We don't necessarily have to agree on the issue.

In six years, Senator Lopez has learned to not hold grudges in politics.

He stated that it is an honor to serve. We do not need divisiveness.

What are the problems, and how can he be of help?

There is a lot of good work going on in Delaware.

He appreciates the opportunity to speak to SARA today.

The best legislation, in his opinion, comes from the constituents.

Lopez is one of the only senators with children in the Delaware public school system.

His first job out of college was as a University of Delaware guidance counselor.

He is a student counselor, Dr. Ernie Lopez. The Delaware Senate is a part-time job.

It is special to be able to represent a community which embraced newcomers. He is the first Puerto Rican senator in Delaware.

His work is meaningful.

Questions to the Senator:

1. "What are your thoughts on school safety?"

This is a big one. Delaware has protocols in place. We have been blessed with minimal violent incidents. The Delaware Omnibus Safety Act is in place. Hardening of the schools is a big issue.

2. "How do you feel about arming teachers in schools?"

Senator Lopez supports constables, and agreed with the questioner that he did not support the arming of teachers.

3. "What are your thoughts on the wind turbine?"

The senator respects the technology of the offshore wind turbine system, but the cost is still high. He is more comfortable with on-shore wind. The cost is less, while the offshore price tag is very high.

4. Homeland Security Analysis:

Supports the use of 800 MHz repeaters to get signals out of the building. With active shooters, this should be investigated further to get cellular and first response signals out of school buildings.

5. Please stay on broadcast radio. There is lots of good information to be listened to.

6. Fees For State Parks:

The questioner is of the opinion that the resident park fee is unfair. Why do residents need to pay for a facility that is already paid for? Senator Lopez noted wear and tear on the parks as a factor in the fee. A lifetime pass for Delaware senior citizens is appreciated.

Secretary's Report – Herb Quick

Minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting were distributed to the membership and posted on the SARA website. The membership moved for acceptance of the minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

The February Treasurer's report was distributed to the membership. The membership moved for acceptance of the report. Motion approved.

Hamfest – Vic Gumper

- The hamfest preparations are moving along.
- We have volunteers; more are needed for the event.
- There will be one more hamfest meeting before the event.
- The date of the 2019 hamfest is April 29, 2019.

ARRL – Bill Duveneck

- The ARRL Delaware Section now has a Facebook presence. Please check it out and "Friend" it.
- The League is working with U.S. Senate staffers on the Amateur Radio Parity Act to get it moving. If congress can't pass the legislation, it is incumbent upon the FCC to get something moving.

RACES – John Ferguson

- A mini command post rally for lower Sussex County will be held on March 22, 2018. This will be a shakedown for the Amateur Radio positions.
- Ron Block will discuss lightening protection at the EOC on April 12, 2018.
- April 22 – Coastal Delaware running event. Contact John to participate.
- June 15 – Ocean City Air Show. This event is a real challenge. Contact John if you wish to participate with communications.

New Business – Paul Ross

There will be no testing at the April meeting.

Testing will be at the April 21 hamfest.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Quick, KF3BT

Secretary