

VOLUSIA COUNTY ARES LOOKING FOR A NEW EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

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When Steve Craft, W1SGC, accepted the job as EC in 2010 he had but one caveat: He would serve for two years. Steve wants August 2012 to be his last month in the position. We owe Steve a huge 'atta boy' for the leadership, direction, and service he is providing, and honor his wishes by finding someone who can fill his shoes! That will not be an easy task – any and all help in doing so will be appreciated.

With the concurrence of WB4OMM, the former East Coast District Emergency Coordinator (DEC,) a **Committee to Select** an Emergency Coordinator has been formed. The committee will review all applications, interview the most promising, and make recommendations to the DEC in order for the new EC to take office September 1, 2012. Due to the time required for volunteers to step up, apply, and be vetted, it is not too soon for everyone to get going on this.



By this time next year the county EMA will be nearly ready to occupy a large, modern Emergency Operations Center (EOC) complete with a Ham Radio shack and several Ham Radio antennas on an 80 –ft. tower. The new facility will be a showpiece and we need to continue on seamlessly with current plans for support there and throughout the county. Strong and positive leaders and a large, well-trained, functioning ARES group coordinating with its partners will show Ham Radio support to the community and solidarity among hams and diverse ham groups.

Do the right thing. Do not stand by and wait for the other hams to act. There is far too much of that going on. Assess your capabilities (see criteria below) – be honest with yourself – and apply for consideration if indicated.

Do the right thing. If not you- WHO? Canvas your close ham friends and reach out beyond to others and see if you can find one or more qualified candidates and see if he/she is interested and will apply. There has been far too much apathy regarding EMCOMMs and Public Service in Volusia County – and lots of individual and group ‘politics’ to be considered – and, hopefully, mitigated.

Here is how it works: Applications will be submitted to the Committee To Select. Application for the appointment of Emergency Coordinator will be accepted *from any ham radio operator residing in Volusia County*. Current membership in Volusia ARES is not required, but membership is required to ultimately serve as EC.

There is a convenient on-line application [form](http://www.volusiaares.org/ecapplication) [www.volusiaares.org/ecapplication] to be filled out and submitted. Before submitting an application, consult/review the following:

Basic requirements for EC include: Technician or higher class Amateur Radio License issued by the FCC, and ARRL membership. Beyond that the Committee To Select will be interested in prior participation, experience and training in Emergency Communications (EMCOMMs) planning, demonstration of leadership and people skills, and sufficient time to devote to continued growth and capability of Volusia ARES. The duties of the EC are spelled out on the [ARRL website](#). Further, this is from the Volusia ARES Emergency Communications Plan:

“The EC is an individual who:

- can work closely with a membership whose interests, though they range across a broad spectrum of non-amateur and amateur radio, intersect with public service and emergency communications;
- recognizes the potential geographical/political barriers to coordinating services across such a large county with a diverse amateur radio population and will endeavor to establish and maintain effective working relationships among the amateur radio community, the local city emergency operation centers (EOC) and the county EOC;
- establishes professional and positive working relationships with served agencies including memoranda of understanding whenever necessary, and maintains an attitude that VOL ARES is there to assist its served agencies by providing effective radio communications when all else fails;
- is willing to communicate and develop close working ties with the DEC, SEC, SM as well as ECs and DECs in neighboring counties and sections;
- is willing to embrace present and future software and technology that can prove useful in providing the best communications support to respective served agencies;
- is ultimately responsible for keeping ARES county emergency plans, deployment procedures and protocols, and VOL ARES membership lists up to date and ensuring that members are properly trained for assigned tasks;
- performs his/her duties with a professional sense of decorum and maintains a high standard of conduct.”

Review the on-line application [form](#) to see what personal information is initially required.

ANONYMITY GUARANTEED The identity of applicants will be limited to only those who need to know so that a selection can be made.

The Committee To Select will start accepting applications on February 9, 2012.

Direct any questions to any or all members of the Committee to Select.

COMMITTEE TO SELECT

Dave Wilkie AL7LH al7lh@arrl.net

Mark Friedlander KV4I KV4I@arrl.net

Bud Thompson N0IA n0ia@arrl.net