



**10 June 2023**

Dear RRI Registered Radio Operator:

By now, you have undoubtedly heard about the ARRL's "NTS2.0" initiative. In response to the numerous meetings held throughout the country, the broadcast emails from Marcia Forde, KW1U, and the recent QST article on the subject, the time has come for RRI to respond to this initiative.

Since our creation in 2016, Radio Relay International has always sought to be nonpolitical, constructive, and collegial. Our volunteers have invested countless hours in the process of modernizing the traffic system. We have worked closely with various ARRL sections throughout the United States, investing considerable time providing training and support for ARES® organizations, traffic networks, and similar public service communications entities.

During the past seven years, RRI developed many new and innovative approaches to traffic handling. Our goal has been to modernize the system, promote participation, and restore the relevancy of the traffic networks. We have seen considerable success in this area. During this period, we repeatedly reached out to ARRL headquarters to build a collegial, constructive relationship. Each of these attempts were rebuffed. Nonetheless, we always sought to promote the ARRL and its NTS program.

When the NTS2.0 Committee was created, numerous ARRL Section Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, and Section Traffic Managers contacted us to ask if we were involved in the NTS2.0 process. As a result, we once again reached out to ARRL Headquarters in an attempt to build a relationship. The answer was a dismissive "no." Worse yet, the ARRL clearly stated in meetings that "there cannot be two traffic handling agencies."

With the announcement of NTS2.0 activities, you will note that the ARRL has targeted many of the projects RRI has already engaged in. They have also developed alternative practices that conflict with the work product, standards, and practices we have developed, and which are in widespread use by EmComm groups throughout the country. Unfortunately, this is a sure-fire way to create an environment of conflict rather than collegiality.

During this entire NTS2.0 process, RRI has sought to remain silent. We have not interfered with it. Our desire was to shield the many honorable men and women who simply want to enjoy the purposeful use of two-way radio from politics. Unfortunately, RRI now finds itself at a crossroads with only two possible options not of our choosing, one of which is to simply close-up shop and abandoned the thousands of hours of hard work and years of life energy we have invested, and the other of which is to create a new, parallel traffic handling program and independent network totally isolated from the old National Traffic System. The RRI Board will not make this decision alone. Instead, you and your fellow RRI Registered Radio Operators will make this decision for us.

Over the next few months, RRI will hold three forums open to RRI Registered Radio Operators in the Eastern, Central and Western Areas of the United States. We will discuss the future of RRI and the traffic system. We will use your input to determine if there is a path forward and whether our ongoing investment of time and volunteer energy is of value to our supporters.

The RRI track record speaks for itself. We were created to do what's best for the Amateur Radio Service and the traffic handling community and this has been the basis for our actions over the past seven to eight years. This will continue to be our approach regardless of outcome.

An announcement regarding a series of meetings will be forthcoming soon. Likewise, more information on this subject will be provided in the upcoming issue of the "QNI Newsletter" ([www.qni-newsletter.net](http://www.qni-newsletter.net)) and on the RRI Blog at: [www.radiorelay.org](http://www.radiorelay.org).

Thank you, and 73,

The Radio Relay International Board of Directors