On September 30, 2001 at 1700 hours local time, Delegates, Observers and Invited Guests gathered at the Guatemala City Marriott Hotel to hold the Extraordinary General Assembly convened by the Executive Committee of IARU Region II.

The Secretary Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH welcomed those present including all the members of the Executive Committee and declared the meeting open. He subsequently asked the delegates to nominate the third member of the Credential Committee. Mr. Samuel Arévalo, TG9CC was elected. After a short recess the Chairman of the Credential Committee, acting Treasurer Dario Jurado HP1DJ, told the Assembly the name of the head of delegations and the represented societies, including those by proxy.

The following societies attended:

1. Brazil  
   LABRE  
   Gustavo Faria Franco, PT2ADM

2. Canada  
   Radio Amateurs of Canada  
   Ken Oelke, VE6AFO

3. Colombia  
   Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados  
   Ignacio Barraquer, HK3CC

4. Cuba  
   Federación Radioaficionados de Cuba  
   Pedro Rodríguez Pérez, CO2RP

5. El Salvador  
   Club de Radioaficionados de El Salvador  
   Francisco Fischnaler, YS1FAF

6. Guatemala  
   Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala  
   Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD

7. Honduras  
   Radio Club de Honduras  
   Hugo Emilio Guerra HR2HEG

8. Mexico  
   Federación Mexicana de Radio Experimentadores  
   Carlos Narvaez, XE1FOX

9. Panamá  
   Liga Panameña de Radioaficionados  
   Heiródenes E. Moscoso HP1DUD
Afterwards, the Secretary gave the floor to the President, Mr. Thomas B. J. Atkins, who addressed the Assembly, welcomed the delegates, and gave a brief account of the events leading to this meeting. At the end of his remarks he asked the delegates to nominate a candidate to serve as moderator. Mr. Ignacio Barraquer, HK3CC nominated Mr. Pedro Seidemann, YV5BPG. This nomination was duly seconded. No other nominations were made and Mr. Seidemann was unanimously elected.

Mr. Seidemann made a few comments, regarding his willingness to handle the discussion with impartiality, but reserved his right to vote, as the sole delegate from Venezuela. He explained that the three documents will be discussed and approved separately, but they are part of a whole, and once the Constitution is approved, the other documents should be approved with the modifications that the assembly might introduce. He further explained that, since its founding, the Region has functioned with a single document called Bylaws, and that the proposed document to regulate the Region, named “Constitution”, will replace the former Bylaws, complemented by two new documents: “Bylaws” and “Standard Operating Procedures”. The moderator then gave the floor to the delegate from Colombia, Mr. Ignacio Barraquer HK3CC, who said: “that this meeting was convened according to the resolution approved in the Porlamar Assembly, following the considerations of document YV-A-23, and adopted in a resolution published as document YV-P-05. In this resolution the Assembly solely approved to make changes in the Bylaws. Nothing was said about any constitution or any other document. “The
constitution and the bylaws are different documents, as far as we know”. In its last paragraph the document TG-I-01 states: “The only item to consider is the Bylaws, IARU-R2” nothing was mentioned about any constitution, nothing was mentioned about procedures, only the Bylaws were mentioned, and at this moment, IARU-R2 only has single Bylaws, it doesn’t have a Constitution. We should establish a rule to create a Constitution and modify any other document other than the Bylaws, as ordered by the Porlamar Assembly, furthermore, it approved that the EC take the necessary steps to modify the Bylaws to avoid the possibility, in the first place, that any area director serve as officer of the region; secondly, to modify the Bylaws –not in the Constitution or any other place- to comply with the requirements of literal A; and thirdly, that the financial impact of these modifications should be part of the report, which has already been received. All this was approved by the Assembly, and the sole objective of this Assembly is to only make these modifications in the Bylaws of IARU-R2.”

The moderator then asked the Assembly if the document that the Executive Committee has now named “Constitution” should be formally read or not, taking into account that it had already been distributed among the delegates.

The delegate from El Salvador said that the first step to make this document official is to ask the Assembly, sovereign as it is, if it wants to establish the “Constitution”.

The reading of the “Constitution” was not considered necessary. At this point, the moderator asked the Assembly if the document named “Constitution” was the document as mandated in Margarita.

The delegate of Colombia then asked for the floor again saying: “I remind the Assembly that article 5.15 of the Bylaws states: “In the Extraordinary General Assemblies,” which is the present case, the only item that will be discussed is the item for which the Assembly has been convened. The only item the Assembly was convened for was the revision of the IARU Bylaws, not to read a Constitution.”

The moderator explained that the Executive Committee of IARU Region 2 submitted the document named “Constitution” following the mandate of the Margarita Assembly. If this Assembly considers it is not so, it now has the opportunity to express that opinion. The floor was open on this item. The moderator decided to start with the voting since there were no more interventions.

The Assembly decided by majority of the votes to continue discussing the document “Constitution”, as presented by the EC.

The moderator asked the delegates for any comments on the document. None of the delegates had anything to say, and the voting to approve the document named “Constitution” began. From now on it will substitute the current Bylaws. The delegate of El Salvador asked to speak. He said that he believed the audience should be better informed of the differences between “Constitution” and Bylaws.
The moderator then asked Mr. Rod Stafford, W6ROD as chairman of the Drafting Committee, to clarify the doubts put forward by the delegate from El Salvador. Mr. Rod Stafford explained that when the Committee started the review of the Bylaws it considered convenient to issue three separate more modern and updated documents, in accordance to similar organizations’ document. These would substitute the previous one. The Committee sought the advice of the Executive Committee. The EC approved the procedure and directed the Reviewing Committee to produce the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standard Operating Procedures. The Constitution is the document that sets forth the basic idea for the Organization, what the Organization’s principles are and what the Organization does, which do not usually change. The Bylaws, which can occasionally change, provide a framework for the day-to-day operation of the Organization and the Standard Operating Procedures take care of details of the daily operation or details of the Regional Conference. To revise the Bylaws and come up with these three documents it was important to consider the three documents as replacing the existing Bylaws.

The moderator then submitted to the delegates’ consideration the first document, the Constitution, which was approved by the required majority of the votes.

The delegate of Colombia then asked to speak. He emphatically requested that Colombia’s and Ecuador’s disagreement with the procedure be stated in the minutes of the meeting. He repeated that this Assembly had been convened to review the Bylaws, not to create a Constitution, and he reserved the right to appeal to IARU.

The moderator opened the discussion for the second document, Bylaws. The delegate of El Salvador asked how the Executive Committee arrived to the conclusion of the need to maintain the number of members and not expand it, as mandated by the Porlamar Assembly. Again the moderator asked Rod Stafford to explain this to the Assembly.

Mr. Stafford said that in the original draft presented to the Executive Committee by the Bylaws Revision Committee, provided for the expansion of the EC to 11 members, 4 Officers and 1 Area Director from each of the Areas, it was the collective decision of the EC, for several reasons, financial and otherwise, that it would not be a good idea to expand the EC from the current 9 members to 11. A paper, titled “Financial Impact of EC Expansion”, EGA-2, was distributed via E-mail and together with the rest of the material you have been provided with at this Assembly. In addition to the financial implications, the EC took a look at the other two Regions and at the number of societies, the number of people on their EC, and concluded that, with over 120 societies in Region I, it has been operating quite well with 10 EC members, just one over what we have right now. Region 3 has slightly more member societies than Region 2, and has been operating quite well with only 6 members on their EC.

The moderator gave the floor to the Secretary of Region II, Reinaldo Leandro, who pointed out that: “the original draft was distributed last year to all the Societies by the former Secretary, asking for their comments about it. Only two Member Societies made any remarks, Canada and Venezuela. These comments were immediately included in the second draft. Venezuela’s comments were very similar to those that later appeared in the Financial Impact paper and were distributed by that society to all the Member Societies, by e-mail and postal mail at the beginning of the year. The EC had to take Venezuela’s comments into account, and after a unanimous
decision, it included them in the final draft, electronically distributed twice and once by postal mail before this meeting to all the Member Societies. No further comments had been made until then."

The delegate from El Salvador said that he considered important to add in article 2.3, following the part that says “who shall be amateurs from that country”, “must be an active member of that society.”

The moderator suggested to vote immediately in favor or against the modification. It was approved by majority of the votes.

The delegate from El Salvador said that in article 7.2, line five, the part that says “listed in this article” should be changed to “listed in article 7.3”. His proposal was approved without opposition. The delegate from El Salvador continued: The entire article 7.10 was written considering the expansion of the EC, and should be rewritten for a nine member Executive Committee.

After a break, the Secretary of Region II said that he and the delegate from El Salvador reached the conclusion that article 7.10 of the new Bylaws should be written exactly as it was in the former Bylaws, article 5.9. The moderator read article 5.9 of the former Bylaws, so that the Assembly could decide if it should replace article 7.10 of the new Bylaws. It was approved without opposition.

Since there were no more comments or proposals the moderator submitted to the Assembly the approval of the new Bylaws, which were approved by the required majority of votes.

Next, the moderator opened the discussion on the third document: Standard Operating Procedures. The delegate of El Salvador expressed his compliments to the Executive Committee and the Committee for the Review of the Bylaws for their work in producing the documents that will enrich and facilitate the Organization’s activities.

The moderator then submitted the SOP document to the Assembly. It was approved by the required majority of the votes.

Once the goal the Assembly was convened for was reached, the meeting was adjourned.


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Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH
Secretary