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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ARRL Board Elects Executive from an International Robotics Company as its new Chief Executive Officer**

Newington, CT – August 27, 2018 – The Board of Directors of ARRL, The national association for Amateur Radio, has elected Howard E. Michel, PhD, WB2ITX, 65, of Dartmouth, MA, to be the association’s new Chief Executive Officer, effective October 15. Michel is currently Chief Technology Officer at UBTECH Education, and Senior Vice President of UBTECH Robotics, a \$5 billion (U.S.) Shenzhen, China, AI and robotics company. As the Chief Technology Officer at UBTECH Education, Michel helped build this company from a start-up in China to \$100 million in valuation.

“I have amateur radio to thank for starting me on a very successful career, and I’m excited about the opportunity to further ARRL’s goals as CEO. Leading the League will allow me to ‘give back’ to a great community and provide similar opportunity for future generations,” Michel said. “I have been a licensed ham for fifty years, and I’ve seen many changes in the hobby. One of my top priorities as CEO will be to develop new products and services so all licensed hams, whatever their license class or interest, find value in League membership,” he added.

Michel first became licensed as WN2ITX when he was about 16 years old and upgraded to General Class and Advanced Class within a year of that. He upgraded to Extra Class in 2000. He notes that he has always had a strong interest in building and repairing radio equipment. “I’ve operated CW/AM/FM/SSB/Digital on 80/40/20/15/10/2 on equipment that I have either built, repaired or modified.”

“We are excited to have someone of Howard’s qualifications to lead this organization,” said Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL president. “Howard’s management experience, along with his experience at leading a membership-driven association, makes him an ideal person to move this organization forward,” Roderick said.

In 2015, Michel was the volunteer president and CEO of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a volunteer-led 501(c)3 association advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

“In any large membership-led organization such as ARRL, its members and volunteers are its greatest asset, and a good staff-volunteer relationship is crucial to its success,” Michel said. “I intend to build on

this relationship and multiply and amplify the efforts of both staff and volunteers in furthering ARRL's goals to advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio."

Michel is a retired U.S. Air Force officer having served as a pilot, satellite launch director, engineer and engineering manager, including a tour in the People's Republic of China where he served as a senior U.S. Government technical representative enforcing technology-transfer control plans and procedures during two satellite launch operations.

He notes that during his time in the military, wherever he could set up an antenna he took the opportunity to operate.

Michel has a notable academic background, including currently being a Visiting Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Science, University of Johannesburg in South Africa. Previously he was a member of the faculty at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Michel says that some of his favorite activities include attending hamfests to find old stuff to repair or re-purpose, contest operating, and DXing, especially on 80/40 meters. He adds that he is a Life member of the Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association.

Michel will succeed Barry J. Shelley, N1VXY, who had been serving as ARRL's CEO since January of 2018 following the resignation of Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. Shelley had been ARRL's Chief Financial Officer since January of 1992.

*ARRL The national association for Amateur Radio® ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)), represents the interests of Amateur (or "ham") Radio operators across the country. Founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim as The American Radio Relay League, ARRL has a proud history of achievement as the standard-bearer in amateur affairs. Now in its second century, the organization remains focused on "advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio."*