

Illinois Repeater Association



*** NEWSLETTER ***

NFCC
Charter Member

Volume 13 - August 2000

20 Repeaters Decoordinated

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a list of nineteen repeaters that have been decoordinated and another list of those with pending decoordinations. Your IRA board asks that you check these two lists for both errors and your possible assistance in letting these repeater owner(s) know what has happened, or is about to happen. Virtually all of these repeater decoordinations are the result of failure to respond to the *IRA Annual Report* that is sent out in the fall of each year. In other words, our coordinator is no longer in contact with these people.

There are several other ways a repeater can lose its coordination, but this is far and away the most prevalent cause - and is the most preventable. All that is required of the holder of coordination is a signed reply stating "no changes", or listing whatever changes have been made over the past year - and the cost of a first class postage stamp. It is hard to believe that the frequency coordinations of a repeater systems worth thousands of dollars are being lost for failing to spend 10 minutes and 33 cents to reply to the annual report. But the list published in this newsletter shows this is happening.

Decoordination for failure to respond, does not require a decoordination hearing! After two years of no response, the coordinator - after mailing due notice - can "auto-decoordinate" the frequency pair and assign it to another user. This rule change was approved by the membership at the 1995 IRA Annual Meeting. You may ask "Why no hearing?" The answer is easy if you think about it. It takes too much time and resources (your dues money), to hold decoordination hearings that should seldom happen for this reason. In order to hold down association costs and man-hour requirements, auto-decoordination was approved for failure to respond to the

IRA Annual Report. Decoordination hearings are still required for other, more involved, reasons. But after working down the accumulation of these types of cases, very few new ones have developed.

In closing, we ask that all IRA members make this a must-do item in the fall of each year - and they also remind their non-IRA member fellow repeater owners to do likewise. Much aggravation of all concerned parties could be easily avoided, if everyone promptly responds when the coordinator's annual report shows up in their mailbox.

73 - IRA Board of Directors



Annual Meeting Attendees Pay Close Attention

appointed frequency coordinator. You will find the minutes of this meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Next year's annual meeting is planned for the same location in Bloomington Saturday morning, May 7th.

APRIL

IRA INFORMATION

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<http://www.enteract.com/~ira>

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President's Letter

August 1, 2000

By the time you receive this newsletter, some of you will already know there will be a real contest in this year's ARRL Central Division Director's election. Assuming their candidacies are approved by the ARRL Election Committee, our long-time incumbent director, Ed Metzger, W9PRN, is facing a challenge by George R. (Dick) Isely, W9GIG. There may be other candidates, but none of them are official until the ARRL Secretary notifies all the candidates of the names and callsigns of the other candidates on August 21st.

Mr. Metzger has given long and honorable service to the ARRL. But I think it is time for a change and Dick Isely is very well-qualified to serve on the ARRL Board of Directors.

I have known and worked with him since the first days of the Illinois Repeater Association in 1986. He has served 2 years as an IRA Director, 7 years as Secretary, and is in his 5th year as Vice President, and 8th year as *IRA Newsletter* editor. W9GIG has also served as Mid-America Coordination Council (MACC) Secretary and is currently serving as its President. Mr. Isely was instrumental in the founding of the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) in 1995/96 and is completing his second 2 year term on its board performing various jobs ranging from Secretary to President.

However, repeater coordination activities are only the latest in Dick Isely's array of Amateur Radio interests. He is an active DXer with over 200 DXCC country credits, an HF contesteer, always involved in public service communications in his local area, one of the few individuals to have confirmed 2-way video contact with the Space Shuttle using a home-brew helical antenna subsequently described in *QST*, active at various times in SSTV and ATV, editor of the Fox River Radio League's monthly *ArcOver*, and is an early user of computers in Amateur Radio - packet radio (TAPR TNC-1 kit) and developing one of the early SSTV image manipulation computer programs.

I believe Mr. Isely's wide ranging experience enables him to knowledgeably represent all the varied Amateur Radio interests and specialties. He has been efficient and even-handed in all the jobs I have seen him perform. If he is elected, I would expect to see this same high quality performance level as an ARRL director.

If you also think it's time for a change and you are an ARRL member, I urge you to vote for Dick Isely, and get all of your friends and acquaintances - who are ARRL members - to also vote for him. It's usually hard to unseat an incumbent office holder. W9GIG needs all the votes he can get.

It's time to QSY to W9GIG !

Bob Hajek, W9QBH
President
Illinois Repeater Association, Inc.

FREQUENCY COORDINATION AN ON-GOING SAGA

By Dick Isely, W9GIG

Since the February, 2000 issue of the *IRA Newsletter* was published, several things have happened in the Amateur Radio frequency Coordination arena.

The National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) continues to work on issues affecting both the organization and all of its members. Progress has been excruciatingly slow, but there is progress to report. The NFCC Board of Directors (NFCB) has met with ARRL and then FCC staff in the first five months of this year.

Some of the board traveled to Newington, CT on February 14th to discuss various issues with ARRL Executive VP and Secretary, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, Rosalie White, WA1STO, and new NFCO Tom Hogerty, . The purpose of this meeting was to clarify a few issues concerning the NFCC's ongoing relationship with the ARRL, to meet Jay Mabey's replacement (who has subsequently been replaced by Brennan Price, N4QX), and to discuss various ideas about the NFCC's goal of obtaining more specific FCC recognition of Amateur Radio frequency coordination and coordinators.

The entire NFCB then journeyed to Washington, DC to meet on May 17th with D'wana R. Terry, Chief of the Public Safety and Wireless Division of the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. This is where in-house wireless communications policy and rule change recommendations to the Commission usually originate. In addition to Ms. Terry, FCC staff members Bill Cross, W3TN, and Jeanne Kowolski were in attendance.

The purposes of this meeting were to brief Ms. Terry on the history and current status of the NFCC, how it could be of service to the FCC, to review the status of Amateur Radio frequency coordination, and to present ideas on how to deal with the growing number of coordinator disputes revolving around how best to ascertain who is the "recognized" coordinator for a given frequency band and/or in a given geographic area.

Copies of the NFCC Bylaws and Standards, and the NFCC/ARRL Memorandum of Understanding were left with Ms. Terry and her staff members.

Ms. Terry was most attentive to what was said and she asked questions that lead the NFCB to believe the meeting met its goals of being informative and providing an opportunity for the NFCC to present concepts for a future relationship between itself and the FCC. Ms. Terry said she and her staff would be responding to the ideas presented over the course of the next couple of months. The NFCB believes the basis for a constructive, cooperative, and enduring relationship was put in place at this meeting. But only time will bear this out.

And speaking of time, this coming October marks five years since virtually all the nation's Amateur Radio coordination entities got together in St. Charles, Missouri and started a process that led to the formation of the National Frequency Coordinators' Council, Inc. Millions of words, thousands of man-hours, and a lot of board members' personal expense has gone into the NFCC. Yet in some ways it's still a work in progress with no real estimate of when its goal of real FCC recognition of coordinators will be met.

So far, tenacity has been the operating theme. It takes a lot of time, even using electronic means, to coordinate schedules, set up meetings, and to simply carry on the sporadic - but continuous - debate and decision-making within the NFCB and on the NFCC Remailer (the primary means of member entity communication). The Amateur Radio community including all of its various sub-groups are affected by the constantly shifting political winds in Congress and the FCC in particular. The combination of organizational inertia and the changes in FCC personnel results in an almost constant re-working of ideas within the NFCC about what to do next. It is often a frustrating process.

However, some coordinators are now seeing some rays of light in the Amateur

Radio enforcement actions of Riley Hollingsworth. In the past couple of months, he has issued letters to interfering uncoordinated repeater owners requiring a 30 to 20 day response with plans to eliminate the interference. What is important is his use of the records of long-standing coordination organizations to determine which of the interfering repeaters are coordinated. So far, the issue of who is the "recognized" coordinator has not been a factor in his actions.

Here in Illinois, the Illinois Repeater Association is still the only recognized coordinator of Amateur Radio repeater frequencies. This should not change as long as the IRA is perceived as providing a relatively prompt, competent, even-handed, coordination service. But one never really knows what the future may bring. Stay tuned for more...

Humor: The Best Medicine

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He said, "Call for backup."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

BOARD of DIRECTORS MINUTES

April 14, 2000

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association meeting for April 14, 2000 was called to order by IRA President Robert Hajek at 8:42 PM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present: President Robert Hajek, W9QBH - Vice-President George Isely, W9GIG - Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF - Directors: Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC - Dennis McCann, W9UH - Tim Childers, KB9FBI - Jack Frank, KE9WS.

Staff Present: Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW, frequency coordinator.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: W9GIG moved and KB9FBI seconded a motion to approve the minutes as previously published in the August, 1999 newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurers Report: Secretary/ Treasurer, KA9FCF, reported that at the last meeting, the checking account had been reported as containing 4,030.23. That report was in error due to a deposit of \$300.00 being double entered in the ledger. The corrected balance as of the last meeting was \$3,730.23. Income for the year was \$3,122.60 and expenses were \$2,513.75 leaving a balance of 4/10/00 of \$4,339.08.

Because of the high cost of the business checking accounts, it was decided to close out the checking account and place the money into a regular "passbook" savings account. Normally we write less than ten checks in the year and we are able to have the bank cut cashiers checks free of charge. In addition the interest on the savings account is variable at about 5% compared to 1.5% on the checking account. It was in our best interest to make the change. W9GIG moved and KB9FBI seconded that the report be approved, as amended. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Frequency Coordinators Report: In the past year the coordinator, K9VXW, handled 16 coordination requests, 20 inquiries from coordinators in adjacent states and 75 items of correspondence, via E-mail and/or paper copy.

K9VXW reported that the main coordination problems in the past year have been repeaters coordinated by MISMA with no consideration to repeaters located in Illinois and over the written objection of the IRA coordinator. The other situation of concern is several coordination holders that have not responded to the annual update forms for two or more years. Two that are candidates for decoordination are the K9GBN and W9NMO repeaters. In addition there is reasonable evidence that the repeaters in question are not in service and have not been for some time. W9GIG proposed and W9UH seconded a motion that decoordination proceedings be initiated promptly. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. KE9WS agreed to follow up on the status of the K9GBN repeater and report to the board.

Technical Committee Report: In the absence of the chairman no report was available. All agreed that there should be a new technical committee chairman appointed.

MACC and NFCC Report: W9GIG reported on current activities of both organizations.

Illinois/Wisconsin Reduced-Space Agreement: W9GIG reviewed the status of negotiations on a repeater reduced spacing agreement with the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR). The agreement has been approved, in principle, and is currently awaiting formal signatures by both organizations.

IRA Website: W9GIG stated that the website does not require frequent updating, but it be done in a timely manner. The board needs to establish policies to ensure that this is done.

KE9WS moved and KB9FBI seconded a motion that the IRA reimburse the vice president W9GIG for expenses related to representing the IRA and NFCC at meetings with the ARRL and FCC to be held at Newington and Washington D.C. not to exceed \$250.00. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment: KE9WS moved and W9UH seconded that the IRA Board of Directors' Meeting be adjourned. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted ,

Robert Koch, KA9FCF
Secretary/Treasurer,
Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

Annual Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2000

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by IRA President Robert Hajek, W9QBH at 10:01 AM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois .

Attendance Report: IRA Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF reported that 69 members in good standing were in attendance in person, by delegation, or by written proxy. Thirty nine attendees were owners and/or designated delegates of 69 repeater owners and/or repeater groups.

Introduction of Officers and Attendees: W9QBH asked that each officer introduce himself. Each attendee introduced himself/herself and identified the repeater(s) they represented.

Reading of Minutes: N9EAO moved and WD9HSY seconded that the minutes of the 1999 annual meeting be approved as published in the August, 1999 *IRA Newsletter*. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF reported that the balance as of the 1999 annual meeting was \$3,730.23. During the past year income was \$3,122.60 and expense was \$2,513.75. The balance in the bank as of 04/100/00 was \$4,339.08. KA9FCF reported that due to increased bank charges and the bank canceling interest bearing free accounts for not-for-profit checking accounts, the checking account was closed out and our money put into a pass book savings account. Some discussion of current bank charges followed. N9JWI moved and W9TJ seconded that the report be approved. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Coordinator's Report: Frequency Coordinator Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW reported the past years activity included 111 items of activity. Sixteen (16) coordination requests, 20 inquires from adjacent state coordinators and 75 items of correspondence. K9VXW again highlighted the **return of the annual update forms is a requirement of continued coordination**. There are currently several repeaters that are candidates for automatic decoordination as a result of being off the air for over 160 days and/or not replying to the annual update forms for two years. Some of the update forms have been returned by the USPS as addressee not known, although they were sent to the address currently on file with the IRA and the FCC. Carl received a round of applause for a difficult job well done.

Technical Committee Report: In the absence of the technical committee chairman there was no report.

President's Report: President Hajek, W9QBH, reported that the effectiveness of the organization is the aggregate of all working parts and thanked all attendees for their direction and help. Several problem areas were identified as needing attention including possible decoordinations. To this end President Hajek appointed Aaron Collins, N9OZB, as the new chairman of the Technical Committee.

MACC Report: Dick Isely, W9GIG reported that the Mid-America Coordination Council has not been very active since the advent of the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC). MACC may be dissolved in another couple of years if the establishment of the NFCC as the preeminent Amateur Radio frequency coordination council of coordination entities is successful.

NFCC Report: Dick Isely, W9GIG provided an update of the NFCC activities in the last year. Included were comments relative to the "D'Wanna Terry letter". When compared to the "Kowolski letter" of several years ago, there does not appear to be any actual change of policy. Dick discussed how the letter came about, some background and current status. The entire situation seems somewhat fluid at this time and there's hope for resolution in the near future. Discussion followed on the possible future of coordination.

Election of Directors: To serve two year terms;

Director - Jack Frank, KE9WS was nominated by WD9HRU, seconded by WD9CIR.

Director - Dennis McCann, W9UH was nominated by W9TJ, seconded by WB9IGB.

N9EAO moved and WD9HSY seconded that nominations be closed. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. WD9HRU moved and N9JWI seconded a motion that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the above nominees. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Business: N9EAO voiced concerns about the IRA web page not being updated in a timely fashion. There was some discussion about the need to change the web master. The board agreed to look into the matter, primarily with the intent of getting help for the web master.

Previous Year's Board Actions: The board requested approval of reimbursement, not to exceed \$250.00, to W9GIG for expenses incurred while representing the IRA /NFCC at meetings with ARRL and FCC. This was a recommendation of the board. N9OZB moved and WD9HSY seconded a motion to approve the actions by the board of directors for the previous year including the above request. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment: W9KBU moved and N9JWI seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert J. Koch, KA9FCF
Secretary/Treasurer, Illinois Repeater Association, Inc.

Repeater Decoordination & Pending Decoordination Lists

The repeaters listed below have been decoordinated or are in danger of being decoordinated. The primary reason listed is failure to respond to the annual IRA Update Report that is mailed out every fall. If your repeater is on either of these lists, or you see one that is owned by someone you know, please contact the **IRA Frequency Coordinator ASAP**. His contact information is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. The repeaters are listed in callsign suffix order.

IRA membership is not a requirement for obtaining and/or maintaining a frequency coordination. Coordination services are provided by the Illinois Repeater Association to all Illinois Amateur Radio licensees according to the policies and procedures approved by the association's members - who provide the funds needed to perform this voluntary service. The same is true for frequency decoordinations.

NOTE: Some of these frequency pairs are already in the process of being re-coordinated. Please check with the IRA coordinator before spending money on a repeater.

Repeater	Contact	Output	Location	Decoordination Reason
N9AZZ	Same	146.805	Johnston City	Voluntary
WD9BAE	Same	444.450	Joliet	Failure to respond - Update
KG9CF	Same	145.430	Waterloo	Failure to respond - Update
KG9CF	Same	444.950	Waterloo	Failure to respond - Update
N9DH	N9HEB	224.020	Galesburg	Failure to respond - Update
N9GDJ	Same	442.075	Granite City	Failure to respond - Update
N9EGL	Same	444.250	Dupo	Failure to respond - Update
N9FZF	Same	444.975	Normal	Voluntary
KA9IDM	Same	443.050	Enfield	Failure to respond - Update
N9LMO	Same	147.375	Plano	Voluntary
K9RRP	Same	443.750	Salem	Failure to respond - Update
KA9SEQ	Same	224.620	Oak Park	Voluntary
K9SLH	Same	443.975	Chicago	Failure to respond - Update
KA9SKS	Same	145.47	Danville	Voluntary
WA9V	Same	146.565	Carbondale	Voluntary
WB9YIJ	Same	147.326	Streator	Failure to respond - Update
KA9YMH	Same	224.480	Caseyville	Failure to respond - Update
KA9YMH	Same	443.525	Collinsville	Failure to respond - Update
WB9ZNL	Same	223.980	Darien	Failure to respond - Update
KA9ZRQ	Same	224.700	Fairview Heights	Failure to respond - Update

Repeater	Contact	Output	Location	Decoordination Status
N9BNR	Same	444.425	Caseyville	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9CWA	KF9OK	147.270	Salem	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9CWA	KF9OK	443.200	Salem	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9CWA	KF9OK	443.200	Salem	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WD9DRC	Same	146.655	Fox River Grove	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WB3EAQ	Same	443.425	Flossmoor	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
KB9EGI	Same	442.925	Greenville	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
KD9F	Same	145.430	Odell	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9FUL	Same	147.180	Libertyville	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WB9GBF	Same	146.640	Springfield	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WB9GBF	Same	147.045	Springfield	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
KA9GCI	Same	145.450	Pekin	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
KA9GCI	Same	443.000	Pekin	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
KA9GCI	Same	444.000	Pekin	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
K8IE	Same	147.210	Hampshire	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
K8IE	Same	444.600	Hampshire	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WA9IMB	Same	444.925	Minooka	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WD9IQY	Same	223.960	Algonquin	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
KG9LE	Same	442.750	Belleville	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs

List Continued On Next Page

Repeater	Contact	Output	Location	Decoordination Status
W9MJL	WA9EIC	146.820	Danville	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WB9NLQ	Same	224.860	Wheaton	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9NMO	Same	147.390	Niles	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs *
W9NMO	Same	443.150	Niles	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs *
WB9QAH	Same	443.050	Naperville	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
N6QBS	Same	223.860	Mount Prospect	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9RAN	Same	443.275	Freeport	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WB9RKD	Same	147.030	Lake Villa	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WB9RKD	Same	444.400	Lake Villa	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9SLO	Same	147.210	Galesburg	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9SLO	Same	427.250	Galesburg	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
N9UKB	Same	427.250	Alexis	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
K9VI	Same	52.910	Crystal Lake	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9WBY	KA9SWW	223.840	Chicago	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
W9WBY	KA9SWW	443.675	Chicago	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
WA9YDK	Same	444.800	Freeburg	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
N9YWS	Same	145.310	Metropolis	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs
K9YY	Same	443.400	Gillespie	Pending - No Response - 2 yrs

* No evidence of an operative repeater at site as verified by the IRA.

BOARD of DIRECTORS MINUTES

April 15, 2000

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was called to order by IRA President Robert Hajek at 11:40 AM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present: President Robert Hajek, W9QBH - Vice-President George Isely, W9GIG - Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF - Directors: Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC - Dennis McCann, W9UH - Tim Childers, KB9FBI - Jack Frank, KE9WS.

Committee and Frequency Coordinator Appointments: W9QBH appointed Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW to serve as Frequency Coordinator. W9GIG moved and KE9WS seconded that this appointment be confirmed.

W9QBH appointed Aaron Collins, N9OZB to serve as IRA Technical Committee Chairman. W9UH moved and KA9KDC seconded a motion to confirm this appointment. Both motions passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MACC Director Appointments: W9QBH appointed himself and W9GIG to serve as MACC Directors for the next 12 months, and K9VXW to serve as MACC Frequency Coordinator for the same time period. KB9FBI moved and KE9WS seconded that the IRA Board of Directors confirm these appointments. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

NFCC Delegate: W9UH moved and KB9FBI seconded a motion that: "The IRA President shall cast all NFCC ballots on behalf of the IRA, and that the IRA Vice President shall do so in the absence or incapacity of the IRA President, or by the direction of the IRA President." Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Provision of Repeater Access Information to IRA Officials: KA9FCF moved and W9GIG seconded a motion that; "All Holders of coordination shall provide to IRA officials the information needed to activate all restricted access repeaters coordinated by the IRA. If requested, such information shall not be disclosed beyond the requirement to prove the existence of the specified repeater(s)." motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment: W9GIG moved and KB9FBI seconded that the IRA Board of Directors meeting adjourn. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

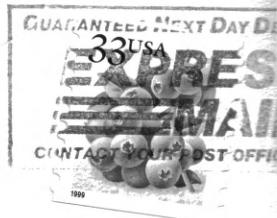
Respectfully submitted,

Robert Koch, KA9FCF

Secretary/Treasurer,

Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

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Member: Mid-America Coordination Council, Inc.

NFCC Charter Member