

## WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION COMMITTEE

For Immediate Release

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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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### MEMBERS VOTE FOR NEW WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION

(Seminole, FL) --- The West Central Florida Section Referendum has passed in a landslide. According to results received today from ARRL Headquarters, 920 League members voted YES while only 86 cast NO votes. The YES vote also carried in all nine proposed WCF counties by an overwhelming margin.

"The Committee is thrilled and elated with the vote of the membership", exclaimed Committee Chairman Paul Toth-K2SEC. "This victory puts us one vote away from having this new Section. We are looking forward to action by the ARRL Board that will create the WCF."

The membership vote now paves the way for action by the full ARRL Board of Directors. A vote to approve the proposal is the last step needed to create the new Section. That action could come at the Board's next regular meeting in January, 2000.

The Committee has campaigned actively for the creation of the new Section, visited Amateur Radio Club in the nine county area, some two and three times since the initiative was launched in January. Just prior to the Referendum, which began in August, the Committee conducted an information mailing to all League members in Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota counties. The Committee also fielded questions from League members through a toll-free telephone number (877-WCF-ARRL). The number, according to Toth, could become part of the Administrative Communications fabric of the new Section.

The West Central Florida Section proposal was submitted to the ARRL in early April. It contained a number of key points including greater visibility for the Section leadership, development of a pro-active program to encourage new licensees and growth in League membership, a Section Speaker's Bureau to promote Amateur Radio and a coordinated Technical Education effort to help League members embrace all aspects of the hobby. The proposal also focused on the need to provide better support for public service and emergency communications activities.

"The Committee will now discuss some specific recommendations to help the first Section Manager with the task of organizing the new Section", according to Toth. "This will be an enormous undertaking. We all look forward to the challenge."

The Committee may also make a recommendation to the League on the appointment of the first WCF Section Manager. The League's procedure for creating a new Section specify the appointment of the first Section Manager for a two year term. Thereafter, the Section Manager is elected by the ARRL membership.

For more information, visit the West Central Florida Section Committee Internet site at <http://www.qsl.net/wcfla>.