

Feb 79 (?)
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(WGA) NEWSLETTER

ITEM - REPORT FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The distribution of membership shown on the enclosed maps are based on membership for 1977 through November, 1979. This number totals 686 of which 500 are in good standing, i. e., dues are paid at least through 1979. This past year we have been in the process of putting our membership list on a computer. The system became operational just prior to the convention. This has resulted in payment notices for dues being sent out late in the year. Hopefully, starting in January we can get the notices out in a timely fashion. Most likely we will send a second notice in March or April prior to election of new officers. I am sure that some members will believe that they paid 1980 dues late in 1979, when actually they paid 1979 dues. However, your membership chairman has been known to make a mistake on rare occasions, so please let him know if your records don't agree.

ITEM - CONVENTION, 1979

The WGA convention at Williamsburg, Va., 17, 18, and 19 October was a resounding success. Congratulations for a job well done should go to Mr. L. Higginbotham (Chairman), Mr. B. Uttam (Guest Speakers), Mrs. E. Roland (Administration), Mr. R. Warren (Technical Program), Mr. W. Rice (Hospitality), and speakers. 142 people registered which is about a 20% increase over previous years. The guest speaker at the banquet was Dave Wiltshire, President of the NMEA who delighted the audience with an abundance of good, old Southern humor. Seventeen technical papers were presented and Chairman Ron Warren informs me that they will be published in February or March. The reproduction costs will determine the cost to non-registrants and to non-members. If it can be done within the bounds of the convention receipts, then members in good standing (1979) will most likely get them at no cost. It was good to see so many old friends in Williamsburg, but I wish that we could have seen more of you. Maybe next year in Boston.

ITEM - The next WGA symposium will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. For those who were hoping for a West Coast location, please examine Attachments A and B.

ITEM - LORAN-C TO REPLACE LORAN-A (News Release, 12th Coast Guard District, November 13, 1979)
LORAN-A, a sophisticated long range electronic naviga-

tion system that enables the user to determine his position anywhere within the designated coverage area, will be replaced with an even more sophisticated and accurate system called LORAN-C.

LORAN-A will no longer be in service on the west coast of the United States and Canada, including Alaska, after midnight Greenwich Mean Time, December 31, 1979.

The phase out of LORAN-A was first announced in 1974 and a 30-month overlap of LORAN-A and LORAN-C service was provided to allow the public a period to convert to new receivers.

LORAN, an acronym for Long Range Aid to Navigation, is a navigation system in which signals sent out by two pair of radio stations of known position are used by navigators to determine the position of their vessel or aircraft.

LORAN-A, pioneered during the Second World War at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and implemented by the Coast Guard, is the predecessor of LORAN-C. By 1971, there were 83 LORAN-A stations, with many of the transmitters having been in constant service for almost 23 years.

During the last 1950's and early 60's, the Department of Defense began developing LORAN-C, a system less costly to the government and more accurate than LORAN-A. However, until recently the high cost of LORAN-C receivers made the system less attractive to potential users.

Today there are 11 LORAN-C transmitting chains, with a total of 12 expected to be in operation by 1980. Although the two systems now overlap, when the LORAN-A system is completely phased out on December 31, LORAN-C will become the government-sponsored navigation system.

Using LORAN-C the navigator can determine very precisely his position anywhere within the designated coverage area. Currently that area covers more than 16 million square miles of the earth's surface.

While LORAN-A is accurate to from one to five nautical miles of a particular point in the coverage area, LORAN-C can identify a position with one-quarter mile accuracy. This increased accuracy can be critical to the navigator operating in confined, crowded, or otherwise hazardous sea lanes.

While LORAN-A required 30 transmitting stations to cover a wide area, LORAN-C will provide more accurate coverage with about half as many stations and at a lower cost.

For technical information about LORAN-C or further details, please contact the Aids to Navigation Branch, Twelfth Coast Guard District, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, California 94126 or telephone (415) 556-2560.

- ITEM - Port Hardy, Canada (5990), West Coast Canadian Chain has a planned operational date of March 31, 1980.
- ITEM - Electronics for Yachting (1525 Southeast 16th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33316, (305) 525-3478) is a new firm offering LORAN-C sales and services. Contact Donna Zoley.
- ITEM - Specification of the LORAN-C Transmitted Signal. A copy of the recent USCG "Specification of the LORAN-C Transmitted Signal" was mailed to all WGA members. A second panel (follow-up of the discussion held in New Orleans October, 1978) discussion was held in Williamsburg. Improvements to the package were discussed. We extend our thanks to the panel members (Coast Guard and Industry), and WGA membership who participated.
- ITEM - Efforts to form a West Coast Chapter of WGA are being discussed at a LORAN-C meeting at the San Diego Yacht Club on January 23, 1980. WGA Director Walt Dean and LCDR Jim Alexander, 11th Coast Guard District, will co-host the meeting, which is expected to attract between 100 and 200 interested participants. About a dozen LORAN-C receiver manufacturers are expected to have products on display.

This meeting was inspired by the success of a LORAN-C meeting in Long Beach on December 5, under the sponsorship of the Southern California Marine Radio Council, at which eight manufacturers displayed LAT-LONG type receivers.

A similar meeting is being planned in the San Francisco area for February 13th. For information in Los Angeles call Walt Dean at 213-373-1309 or LCDR Jim Alexander at 213-590-2247. San Francisco arrangements are being made by Clyde Kirlin at 415-934-0607.

If any WGA member has any noteworthy LORAN-C news, please forward a few one liners to your Newsletter Editor at:

Effects Technology, Inc.,
5383 Hollister Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

or call it in to Pauline Pyros at (805) 964-9831, Ext. 266.

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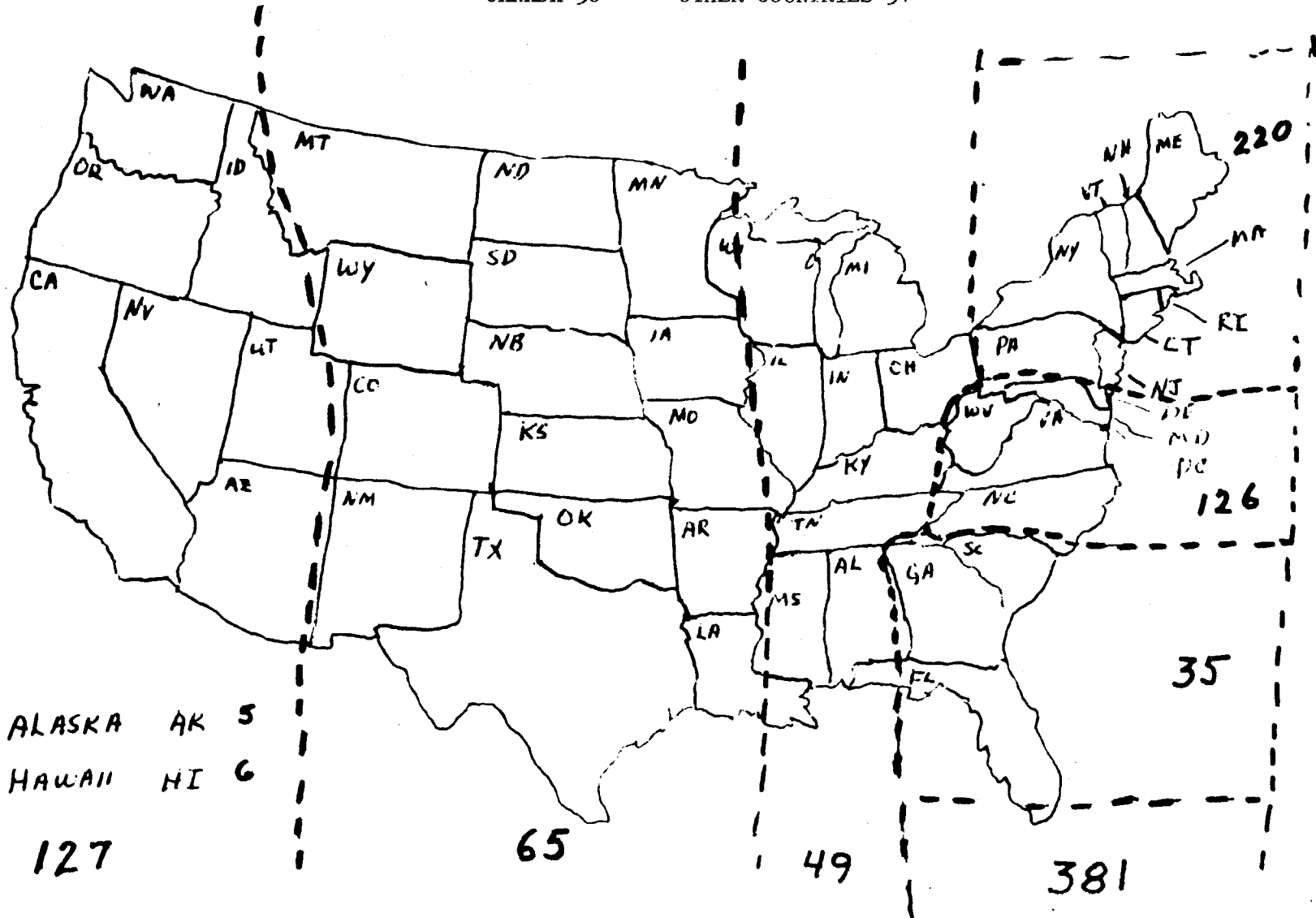
WGA MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION (SECTIONAL)

CANADA-30

OTHER COUNTRIES-31

V20-1

51



ALASKA AK 5
HAWAII HI 6

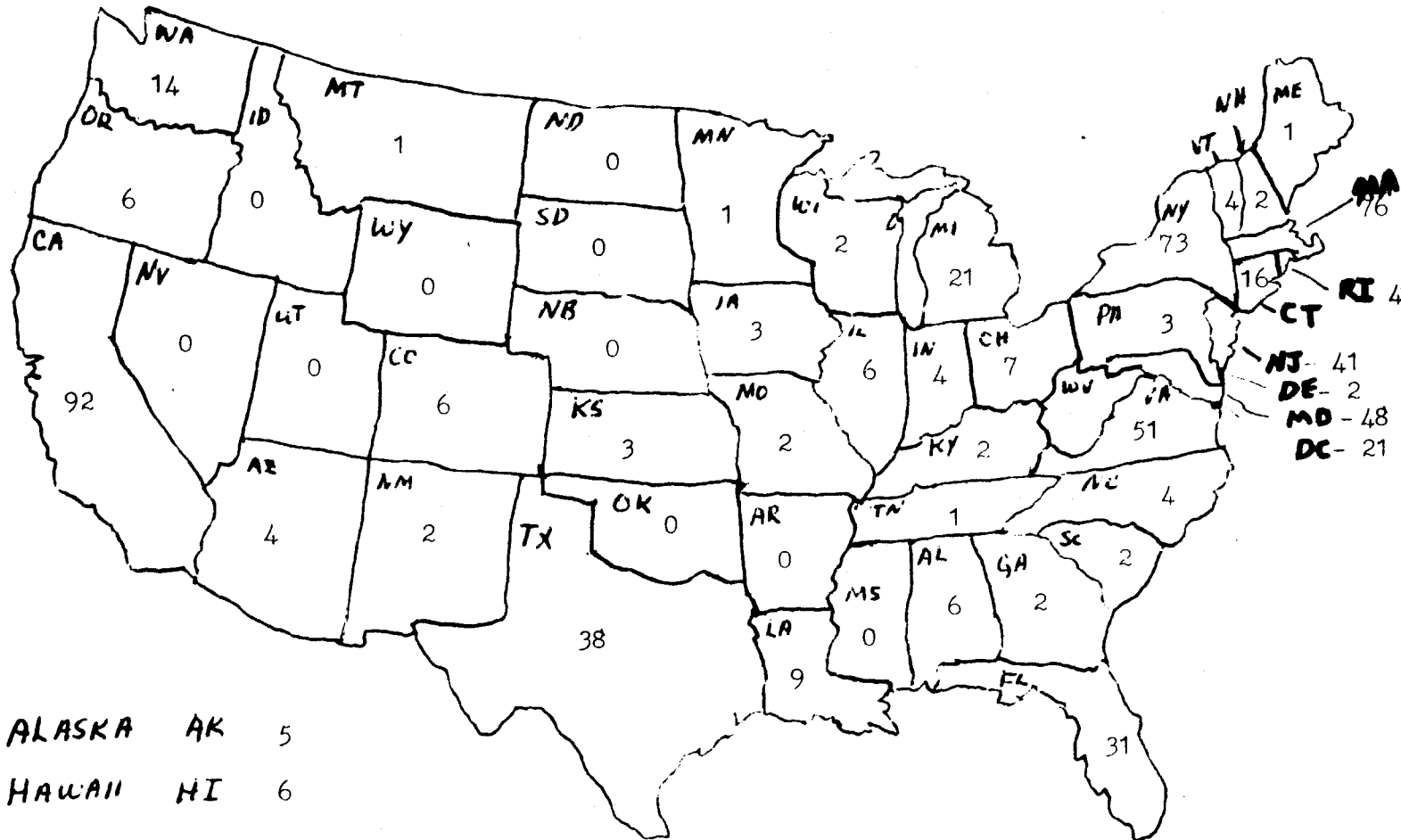
Attachment A

WGA MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION November, 1979

Includes members from 1977 thru 1979

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Belgium-	3
Canada	30
Denmark	1
England	10
Germany	1
Iceland	2
Israel	2
Japan	7
Norway	2
Yugoslavia	1
Venezuela	1
Faroe Is.	1

Attachment B