

**2011 Business Meeting of the ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE**  
**ALCON 2011, Bryce Canyon, Utah**  
**Saturday, July 2, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by President Carroll Iorg at 11:05 AM  
President Iorg welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the officers of the league to the attendees.

The first item discussed was the election results – Bill Bogardus was elected unanimously to succeed himself as League Secretary.

Vice President John Goss noted that it was excellent to have having strong attendance from many clubs here at the convention and encouraged members to be involved in all of the various activities. He described the ongoing negotiations with the Astronomical Calendar, how it is useful and how to order for the coming year. He also spoke to the group describing a brochure pointing out affordable benefits such as liability insurance that is available through the efforts of the league.

He also pointed out that Outreach downloads that are available for clubs to use, such as “Navigating the Summer Sky”. These can be printed out and used for Astronomy Day and outreach events at schools.

John additionally spoke about the awards that are given out by the league. He stressed that clubs need to make nominations for these awards.

John announced that there are some new observing clubs such as the Binocular Double Star Club and the Annelemma Club.

President Iorg recognized Lowell Lyon and his committee for all of their outstanding efforts to host ALCON 2011. Related to trying new things in the league he noted the need for more communication resulting in the plans to be utilizing more electronic communications.

Carroll also noted that an outcome of the council meeting were the new Annalemma and Binocular Double star clubs, as well as the Transit Award for the upcoming transits of Venus and Mercury. The council also has approved the beginning of an imaging awards program with more details to be determined shortly. This prompted questions on photography, and specifically would this cover all types of photography. The answer to that was yes.

A question from the audience was "Would there be any clubs for radio astronomy?"; There are no Clubs at this time. Wayne Green spoke of their regions dish receiver and regional radio astronomy. Bill Bogardus suggested that this is an opportunity to put together a program to form a new club. Further discussion followed.

There was a question on marketing and that with getting emails it is difficult to get up to date information Bill informed the group up that we are pursuing online registration to keep information as up to date as possible.

There was a complaint that registration was difficult for this ALCON. Bill agreed that yes it was difficult indeed and would most likely be improved. Another suggestion was to have a PDF print off registration to send in with a check. It was mentioned that it was done in the reflector, but it should be easier to find the form on the web site.

With a quick poll it was noted that the dark sky and Bryce Canyon were the top reasons to come to this ALCON. The outreach program was also noted in the conversation.

Discussion followed on whether or not outreach has been done at other national parks. One attendee noted that the national parks are watching and bringing more cooperative ventures such as this to the parks. ARCHES National Park may be doing this. Chaco Canyon in NM may also but it has dirt roads and no facilities. Other locations mentioned were Rocky Mt. National Park in CO. Past president Barry Beeman, told the group that Arcadia National Park showed interest in hosting in the future but had limited resources.

The Treasurer's report was given by Joanne Hailey. She reported \$139 thousand in deposits, with a budget deficit of \$9 thousand in 2010-11. Budgets of nonprofit groups are suffering however membership is going up. This year there will be an effort to contact more non-member clubs to see if there is an interest in joining. In response to a question it was noted that there are 274 clubs in the League and just under 15thousand members as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. The budget for next year will look to have about half of the last year's loss. The Trust Fund stands at \$89 thousand, however we are not even close to

needing any of that. Joanne mentioned that CDs are not paying very well so our funds are in the money market accounts at this time. A question was asked regarding the possibility of any grants? Music and Astronomy Under the Stars grant are in the works. We need someone to volunteer who knows how to seek sources.

Joanne told the group that If anyone can make a donation to the AL that their generosity would be greatly appreciated. People can be supporters. We also need to find reflector advertising. One person noted to the group that reflector ads do work. In his own case, business dropped off when he pulled his ad for a time. His experience was that Ads increase sales though recognition. Carroll noted that we'd like to make it easier for advertisers to pay though Paypal.

The president announced that next year we will be holding ALCON 2012, July 4-7<sup>th</sup> in Chicago and introduced Audrey Fischer, next year's chairperson to make a presentation. Next year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of astronomy in the western hemisphere and a celebration of astronomers together across the continent. There will be a program to put together a book and documentary of all the organizations across the nation and how they are special.

At Chicago, there will be conferences before noon with excursions later in the day. The conference will be held at Lincolnshire Resort with all of the amenities that you could want and plans include star parties.

A video presentation was shown that highlighted all of the plans that they are going to use. Fermi lab will be included as a private tour. There will be a ship cruise during the 4ht of July fireworks. Nighttime observing will be held at Northwestern University and there will be a Yerkes tour and workshop for outreach for the blind and disabled. Ravinia also has potential for a concert of Chicago Symphony Orchestra and an observing star party after the Star-B-Que.

Prices at Lincolnshire are going to be set at \$70 per contingent on a guarantee of 100 rooms booked for the 4 nights. A quick survey poll showed that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the people in the room was interested in attending. There will not be the Milky Way but there will be things to see in the sky.

The Chicago club will be reaching out to neighboring organizations to help out with the convention which will also be an ALCOR and most likely in conjunction with ALPO

In closing, Carroll discussed wanting to make the League the unique source for members. He noted that there was a good turnout for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
William Bogardus, AL Secretary