

**2011 Council Meeting of the ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE**  
**ALCON 2011, Bryce Canyon, Utah**  
**Thursday, June 30, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER (8:30 am) President Carroll Iorg

Present:

Carroll Iorg,	President
John Goss,	Vice President, MERAL Chair
William Bogardus,	Secretary
Joanne Hailey,	Treasurer
Tim Hunter,	WRAL Representative
Vern Raben,	MARS Representative
Wayne Green,	MARS Chair
Jim Small,	MSRAL Representative
Susan Rose,	NERAL Representative
Mike Benson,	SERAL Chair
Barray Beeman,	Past President
Jackie Sterns	
Ed Flashpolar	
Terry Mann,	Past president
Ron Whitehead -	Executive Secretary - (via speaker phone)

READING AND APPROVAL OF 2010 COUNCIL MINUTES

**Motion** by Tim Hunter seconded by Jim Small to waive the reading of the minutes. Carried

**Motion** by Tim Hunter seconded by Jim Small to accept the minutes with three minor corrections. Carried

REPORTS

President Carroll Iorg made comments on the Horkheimer award. With a brief interruption this year, we will be going back to the award as in the past. He announced St. Louis club's 75th anniversary and the Cincinnati club's 100<sup>th</sup>. Carroll reported that we've been approached by Guy Ottewell about publication of the Astronomical Calendar and that we would talk about that further in the meeting.

He also commented that we need to increase the revenue from clubs to balance our budget due to the present balances. In response to this, a conversation was initiated by

Tim Hunter who questioned about the number of clubs that are members of the league compared to the total. Recently reported percentages were discussed.

Vice-President John Goss wanted to thank the volunteers for putting on the ALCON 2011 convention. We need to show them our appreciation when we see them here at the convention. John showed the council examples of the posters available to member clubs for use in outreach.

Youth Awards – we need to find better and alternate ways to get nominations. There were very few this year and we need to get the word out for more. Jim Small suggested that we make contacts with the NSTA as well as put applications on line. Wayne Green mentioned the FIRST robotics competition.

Secretary Bill Bogardus pointed out the color coded packets that were prepared for the various reports along with a few last minute additions.

Treasurer Joanne Hailey reported that we are operating at a deficit at this time. She introduced the reports that she prepared, copies were handed out to the members of the council. There was discussion of delinquent clubs. There are a few clubs that are very slow in sending in dues. Some clubs are high maintenance and some don't pay until pressed or dropped. Joanne would like a policy to be developed.

Executive Secretary -Ron Whitehead (via speaker phone) Spoke about getting up to speed on his duties discussion on new member clubs including Pittsburgh club and ASLI. John added his comments on offering a new club a 10% introductory discount. Tim Hunter suggested that 50% would be more appropriate. Ron Whitehead spoke about the need to have people approach clubs personally. Regional Chairs should be involved in this effort with the information and power points to approach these clubs. Barry Beeman spoke about the fact that all of us can be ambassadors for the league.

MAL Report - Mitch Glaze and Joe Alburty from the national office went over

the Member at Large Program report. Mitch reported that our membership renewals are increasing over the last few years. Mitch added that we had increased MAL dues last year and membership went up regardless. The possibility of using Paypal to help collect revenue was brought up.

**Motion** made by Jim Small seconded by Bill Bogardus to look into getting Paypal set up to collect funds. **Carried unanimously.**

President Iorg appointed Mitch Glaze, Vern Rabin, Joe Auberty and Bill Bogardus to work on this. This needs to be done with a preliminary analysis done by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion on how this would be set up to work followed.

No action - Society membership update and other news  
National Office Report

Webmaster - Vern Raben stated that we have a very good web team at the moment. Some issues with our server have come up. Shared hosting plan is costing us \$179 per year which is very cheap. Wayne Green spoke in favor of finding a good solid provider to step up our service. Sue Rose offered that she might have someone who could do this.

**Motion** by Wayne Greene seconded by Tim Hunter to budget up to but not over \$600 per year to fund web hosting services. **carried unanimously.**

League Sales - Mitch reported that sales are not real pretty. We've had a downward slide due to the economy and current product in inventory. There was discussion on observing club manuals for various clubs such as the Sunspotter club President Iorg praised the Publications Chair who has been doing a good job. Barry Beeman spoke about the process of the variable star measurements now being done visually, needs to be rewritten to meet the new methods in our variable star book.

REFLECTOR Fiscal year report - John Goss reported that the editor will be here this week so we can talk to him. They are considering a special issue dedicated toward getting young people involved. There was a problem finding suitable images for the cover of the magazine. We would like to have images from the imagers. Not having the winter directory insert would save us \$1500 per year and we're considering not having them next time. Discussion on

information data base followed. There were issues of privacy of information and the Night Sky Network.

**Motion** by Wayne Greene seconded by Jim Small to see what is possible to set up a prototype on management of club roster and dues through the AL with a report due by Oct 1<sup>st</sup> with the same team as before. Mitch and Vern, Joe Auberty and Bill Bogardus was **carried unanimously**

Mitch Glaze questioned payment of club dues on a quarterly basis.

ISS-AT - Terry Mann reported that there was very little activity on the equipment. Berry Beeman suggested that the AAVSO might be able to use the equipment. Terry would like to come up with a plan to put the equipment to good use.

A **Motion** by Terry Mann seconded by Tim Hunter to allow up to Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to research possible uses for the ISS-AT with the report to come back to the Executive Council at that time was **carried unanimously**

The Council took a break for 10 minutes

Publications (Ann Adkins)- no action

Publicity – Needs a replacement – no action

Observing Club Committee Reports (Aaron Clevenson/Mike Benson) – no action

Astronomy Day Awards report and discussion (Gary Tomlinson) - no action  
Awards and Recognition

1. Astronomical League Award
2. Peltier Award
3. Wright Award
4. NYAA
5. Horkheimer Awards (Service & Journalism)
6. Sterns Award
7. Webmaster Award

Sky & Telescope might withdraw support for the program.

There was a question about finding the Astronomy Day award applications on line. It needs to be a little more obvious for people to find.

Nominating Committee Report - Ballot counting meeting; The President appointed counters Joe Auberty and Wayne Greene to do the counting

#### Regional Reports:

Great Lakes - Ron Whitehead reported on the Indiana Star Party which was also the regional event

MARS - Wayne Green spoke of bringing a proposal to host ALCON next year.

Mid-East - John Goss brought up the idea of a regional activity which involved sketching that could be shared.

Mid-States - Jim Small region held a meeting at the area star party. One discussion was about communication with the league to be discussed later.

North Central

Northeast - Sue Rose spoke of Stellafane meeting planned for August..

Northwest

Southeast - Mike Benson reported that meetings are difficult to have.

Southwest

Western

Book Service – no action

Education Committee – no action

IDA – no action

#### FUTURE CONVENTION PROPOSALS FOR 2012

##### Proposal 1 – Chicago

The Chicago Astronomical Society proposed hosting ALCON in conjunction with 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of club and would also schedule a regional convention in conjunction with this.

Audrey Fischer from the Chicago Astronomical Society made a presentation to bring the ALCON to her city. The proposal is to have daytime lectures and excursions from Lincolnshire Resort where the convention will be hosted to astronomy related sites such as the Field Museum, the Adler Planetarium, a cruise ship, the Yerkes Observatory and workshop, the Chicago symphony field at a Music and Astronomy Under the Stars event, a Star Park and Fermi Lab. They intend to work with ALPO and three other societies to put on the convention with 5000 square feet of conference space and 100 rooms for 4

days, at a rate of \$69 per night. The July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday gives the best price so the dates will be July 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2012.

#### Proposal 2 - 2012 Colorado Dark Sky Area

Terry Mann proposed having the convention at the Keystone Resort in Colorado, 75 minutes west of the Denver metropolitan area. She pointed out that last year we had agreed on a plan to have the convention at a dark sky location held in the same manner as this year. Travel from the Denver airport to the location would cost \$60. Accommodations would be \$99 per night and we could buy rooms in blocks of 20. The resort set a condition that there be a \$5000 food expense requirement. Dates for the convention would be July 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> which is a new moon week, which should have similar events to Copper Mountain.

The council discussed pros and cons of the proposals and the majority of a ballot vote was for the convention to be held at Chicago.

There was no discussion on 2013 or beyond for conventions.

## TRUST FUND REPORT

Financial report – not available

Election of Trustees

Terms of office:

**Robert L. Gent - July 2006 - Aug. 31, 2011**

Joanne Hailey - July 2007 - Aug. 31, 2012

James Fox - July 2008 - Aug. 31, 2013

Berton Stevens - July 2009 - Aug. 31, 2014

Tim Hunter - July 2010 - Aug. 31, 2015

**Motion** made by Bill Bogardus seconded by Sue Rose that Bob Gent succeed himself expiring in 2016

**Carried unanimously**

## OLD BUSINESS

Professional-Amateur Collaboration – no action

Lou Mayo has approached Carroll about closer collaboration with League

## NEW BUSINESS

Unsolicited Business Proposal made to League

To begin publication of "The Astronomical Calendar"

Currently owned and published by Guy Ottewell

There has been an unsolicited proposal by Guy Ottewell to turn over the publication of the Astronomical Calendar to the league. John talked to Guy on the phone who found the history of the connection between the league and his publication. In a following conversation Guy asked John if the league would like to take over publication.

Carroll added that he has gotten an attorney involved in the discussion.

Records are very unkempt and difficult to gain complete financial information making it difficult to present facts to the council. Last year the 7000 copies sold were down a couple thousand from previous years. Some major distributors who get shipments at a discount are involved. There is considerable money spent contacting buyers on renewals by Ed at Universal Workshop. We need specific information including a token fee to contribute to the project. We would also need to set up a separate LLC to run this and we could use present employees to work on the project.

John said that Guy would like to stay involved with the calendar contributing in the future as much as his health will allow. Bill questioned who would have editorial control. Sue Rose pointed out that a lot of the information that is provided that is available on the web by other sources. There was following discussion on whether the print version is more viable than digital. Is this a way for the League to be viable in the future providing services to amateurs. Relevance in branding would help boost the League. Joanne suggested that financial information should be sought for four years to have complete assessment of finances.

Carroll said that we have passed the time to get this done for 2012 but we are in good position to pick up 2013. Carroll asked for guidance on where to go for this. Joanne stated that we need good financial information. We need people to take on the jobs necessary to do the work. Wayne said that we need a good business plan.

A straw poll was taken to see who is in favor to proceed. The majority was in favor. There is a question of what persons would be able, ready and willing to take this project on.

**Motion by** Wayne Green seconded by Jim Small to pursue action on this and formulate a business plan, to be in place with a report due by December 1<sup>st</sup> , Subject to the Executive Council's decision that this continues to be a viable opportunity, and that this be presented to a special council meeting no later than January 31, 2012 . **Carried** 8 in favor and 2 opposed.

#### NEW CLUB OR AWARD PROPOSALS

Analemma –improved since its presentation to 2010 council

Lowell Martin was present to speak about the proposal for the Annelemma Club. He passed around a demonstration model. He had changed the number of observations to 100 and made the mathematical computations to mandatory. He described the activities required for the club. After questions and answers about the club,

**Motion** by Tim Hunter seconded by Vern Rabin to approve the club with a budget of \$350 for the first year. **Carried**

AsterismClub – tabled

Planetary Transit Award - Aaron Clevenson

**Motion** by Jim Small seconded by Mike Benson to approve the club with the stipulation that funds would not be available until the 2012-13 budget. **Carried**

OSIRIS-REx List Asteroid Club - a.k.a. Education and Public Outreach Citizen Scientist project - Aaron Clevenson (not present)

Carroll read a letter of intent which he received about the club. (no cost-pending approval from NASA)

**Motion** to table by Bill Bogardus seconded by Sue Rose **carried**.

Binocular Double Star Club - Robert Kerr was present to speak about the club. **Motion** by Bill Bogardus seconded by Tim Hunter to approve the club with a budget of \$350. **Carried unanimously**

Imaging Awards Program-Vern Raben spoke about the program goals and the possibility of corporate sponsorship.



**Motion** by Bill Bogardus seconded by Tim Hunter that we approve an Imaging Award program and that the coordinator be allowed to go out and seek and be subject to successful corporate sponsorship. **Carried**

League on line video meetings with regions - Jim Small spoke on the possibility of utilizing programs to allow on line video meetings. Webex handles up to 30 people.

**Motion** by Wayne Green seconded by Jim Small to budget up to \$200 for the purpose of exploring the possibility of on line meetings. President Iorg appointed Vern Rabin, Wayne Greene and Jim Small as a committee to test and make recommendations.

Honorary Member Nominations - discussed. The possibility of limiting Honorary Membership to 25 persons – to be discussed further next year.

#### APPROVAL OF BUDGET

Joanne presented the budget to the council. The council reviewed the items. Discussion followed on ways to improve income. Vern Rabin proposed raising dues by \$1 per member. Wayne Green proposed asking for donations. John Goss proposed sending election ballots out to clubs by email to save on that cost.

**Motion** made by Vern Rabin seconded by Mike Benson moved to pass the proposed budget with revisions. **Carried.**

Other

There was more discussion on Guy Ottewells age and health with regard to turning it over to us.

Sue Rose announced that a web host has offered services to the league for free. Vern will work on this.

**Motion** by Sue Rose to adjourn meeting **carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:34

Respectfully submitted,  
William Bogardus, AL Secretary