



ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

A FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

- ★ *To promote the science of astronomy;*
- ★ *By fostering astronomical education;*
- ★ *By providing incentives for astronomical observation and research;*
- ★ *By assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.*

ASTRO NOTES

Produced by the Astronomical League

Note 2: Astronomical League Services

We are often asked, "What do I (or my club) get for my (our) dues to the League?" This is understandable. We all want value for our money. The Astronomical League offers many services to both individuals and clubs. It is difficult to remember all of them, so this sheet is a convenient reminder.

the REFLECTOR

The League Bylaws specify that, "The League shall produce a publication for distribution on a regular basis to the membership." That publication is our quarterly newsletter *the REFLECTOR*. It is our major tool for communications, both between officers and members, and between member clubs. It brings news of national and regional activities and highlights local activities that might be of general interest to our membership. If you have items to contribute to the newsletter, contact the editor: **Andy Oliver, Editor, the REFLECTOR, P. O. Box 2694; San Angelo, TX 76902. Phone number: (325) 226-9172, e-mail: editor@astroleague.org**

Publications Committee

Besides overseeing the publication of *the REFLECTOR*, this committee publishes a variety of pamphlets about amateur astronomy clubs and the Astronomical League and publishes our popular *OBSERVE* manuals. This series currently includes: *Observe and Understand the Sun*, *Observe Eclipses*, *A Guide to the Messier Objects*, *Observe the Herschel and Herschel II Objects*, *Observe Meteors* and *Math for Amateur Astronomers*. In cooperation with ALPO, we also published the *ALPO Mars Observers Handbook*. Suggestions for new manuals or improvements to existing ones are always welcome and should be addressed to Publications Chair: **Open Position**.

Astronomical League Sales

You can order copies of your *OBSERVE* manuals plus a variety of T-shirts, jewelry and patches bearing the Astronomical League emblem from this office. See the ad in each issue of *the REFLECTOR* or visit the Astronomical League Sales website at www.astroleague.org/store. You may also write for a price list or ordering information to: **Astronomical League Sales, 9201 Ward Parkway Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64114 or e-mail at leaguesales@astroleague.org**.

World Wide Web Homepage

Point your Internet browser to www.astroleague.org and check it out. Besides current information on the League and its activities, we also maintain links to a variety of sources of astronomical information.

Education Committee

Each year the Education Committee helps many clubs begin astronomy education programs through the use of its publication *Astronomy Teaching Handbook: a Course Planning Guide*. The handbook includes presentation hints, lesson plans and sample exercises which illustrate the basics of astronomy. The Committee has produced a slide set and script, "Introduction to the Universe," to provide clubs with a ready-to-show program to introduce astronomy to the general public. Both items are available from League Sales. For further information, contact Chair: **Dr. T. Michael Flick, 1720 Monticello, Ft. Wright, KY 41011. E-mail: flick@xavier.edu**

Astronomy Day Coordinator

Astronomy Day is an annual or biannual activity to promote astronomy to the public. Each year, many local clubs set up displays in shopping malls or other public locations to "Bring Astronomy to the People." Our Coordinator assists those clubs with a FREE 75 page web-based planning guide (the Astronomy Day Handbook), answering questions, spreading ideas among participants and administering awards for the best events held during each year's Astronomy Day. Contact: **Gary E. Tomlinson, 30 Stargazer Lane, Comstock Park, MI, 49321. E-mail: gtomlins@sbcglobal.net**

Book Service

League members can purchase any book in print related to astronomy for a 10% discount. They are not limited to the offerings of a specific publisher or book club. There are no additional "hidden" charges for postage or handling, the Book Service takes care of all of that. Send the name of the book, list price, author, publisher, the name of your League member society, your name and mailing address, phone number, and a check for the list price less 10% to: **Marilyn Unruh, 324 W. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ, 86301. E-Mail: booknook@northlink.com**

Observing Awards

One of the Astronomical League's prime missions is to develop observing skills in its members. While many of the *Observe* manuals provide detailed instruction, this committee rewards dedicated effort. Our Messier certificate has been awarded to over 2,400 members who have observed at least 70 of Messier's famous objects. Certificates are available to members who observe 50 Messier or Deep Sky or Southern Sky objects with binoculars. A special certificate is available for those who persevere to observe through urban light pollution. An observer wanting further challenge is invited to observe objects from William Herschel's list or the Arp Peculiar Galaxies list to earn appropriate certificates. Award programs are also in place for solar, lunar and meteor observers. For further information, see *AstroNotes* **12, 25, 28** and **29** or the League's website.

Young Astronomer Awards

The **National Young Astronomer Award** is a competitive award recognizing the astronomical achievements of high-school-age young astronomers. A national panel of judges examine all entries based on defined criteria. The **Three Jack Horkheimer Awards** recognize exceptional service to the Astronomical League or a member society by a young astronomer. A **Fourth Horkheimer Journalism Award** recognizes young astronomers through age 14. For full details and an entry form for these awards, contact **Carroll Iorg, Astronomical League Awards Coordinator, 7241 Jarboe, Kansas City, MO, 64114. Phone: (816) 444-4878 E-mail: Carroll-Iorg@kc.rr.com**. Information regarding these awards is also available on the League's website.

Club Liability Insurance

Many parks, shopping malls and other public areas are requiring proof of insurability before allowing an astronomy club to host a star party or set up an Astronomy Day display. This insurance is not inexpensive, but the Astronomical League has made arrangements for member clubs to obtain \$2 million liability coverage at a competitive rate. Contact the National Office or Executive Secretary for further information.