

Minutes of the Astronomical League Council Meeting
ALCon 2008
Des Moines, Iowa
July 17, 2008

Part I. Call to Order

The annual Astronomical League Council meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Terry Mann.

Part II. Roll Call: Council Members and Proxies Present

Terry Mann, President; proxy for Michael Flick, Representative of the GLRAL
Carroll Iorg, Vice-President
John Goss, Secretary; MERAL Chair
Mary Sutter, Treasurer
Mike Benson, SERAL Chair; proxy for SERAL Rep Joe Haley
Robert Gent, proxy for WRAL Rep Tim Hunter
James Roe, MSRAL Chair
William Bogardus, proxy for NERAL Chair Maryann Arrien
Wayne Green, MARS Chair
Vern Raben, MARS Rep
Ron Whitehead, GLRAL Chair

There were 14 Council votes present.

Quorum: Council members and proxies present, according to Bylaws Article III, Section 4, must be two-fifths (2/5ths) of the members of the National Council (i.e. 10 members) to constitute a quorum. **A quorum was present.**

Others present at the beginning of the Council meeting:

Mitch Glaze, National Office Manager
Roger Berger, Reflector Assistant Editor

All persons holding a proxy serve as members of the board of directors of the Astronomical League (a.k.a. the Council), and all members are bound to confidentiality in closed sessions of Council in the same manner as elected

Council members.

Part III. Reading and Approval of 2006 Council Minutes

Mike Benson indicated that he found an apparent typo mistake on page 11 of the 2007 minutes. John Goss will change “they” to “their.”

Motion

Wayne Green made a motion that the minutes be accepted with the correction found by Mike Benson.

William Bogardus seconded the motion.

It was passed unanimously.

Part IV. Officer and Committee Reports

President Terry Mann opened the discussion by emphasizing our obligations to the League:

Being here demonstrates everyone’s commitment to the League and its programs. We all want the League to succeed.

We must understand that for something to get done, someone must do it. If we accept an assignment, we must do our best to complete it in a timely manner. With that in mind, we should all actively participate in the League and encourage others to do so too.

A. President: President Terry Mann reviewed the activities of the President’s office over the past year.

1. Much of her efforts were focused on League participation in the International Year of Astronomy 2009. There will be various club activities and general IYA information listed on the League’s website. More will be discussed about this later today.

2. Work on the League’s website is primarily done by Vern Raben with valuable assistance given by Michael Hotka. They need help. **Interested League members are encouraged to offer their expertise for this vital League operation.**

3. Over the years, the National Young Astronomer Award and the Peltier Award were sponsored by Meade Instruments. This year they decided to discontinue their involvement with these two popular League programs. Another company that recognized the value of the NYAA and Peltier programs generously offered its sponsorship. More will be said later today about this.

4. A new League award, chaired by Mike Reynolds and Scott Roberts, will be presented at the 2009 League Council meeting. More will be said later today about this, too.

5. On April 24 - 26, Terry Mann, Carroll Iorg, John Goss, and Tammy Plotner represented the League at the Northeast Astronomy Forum (NEAF) in Suffren, NY. It was great vendor exposition with a lot of people attending. This gave the League valuable exposure in the amateur community.

6. Terry Mann will be speaking at the Pacific (PATS) in Pasadena, CA this fall. This will be a good opportunity to enhance the League's exposure on the west coast.

B. Vice President: Carroll Iorg thanked the Des Moines Astronomical Society for hosting this year's ALCon.

1. ALCon 2009 will be held near New York City and hosted by the Amateur Observers' Society of New York (AOSNY). Later today, William Bogardus will give a presentation about their plans. ALCon 2010 may be in Colorado. More on this later today.

2. Two League officer positions were up for election this year — the President and Vice President. Since both Terry Mann and Carroll Iorg are running for those positions, respectively, the Nominating Committee Chair is John Goss. He will examine the ballots tonight. Also there was a Bylaws change included.

3. *"What's Up With the Astronomical League?"* Several times during the past year, Vice President Carroll issued an e-mail newsletter to all League ALCors describing important League news. This was a means of directly reaching the Societies.

4. The Horkheimer and NYAA winners will be at ALCon and will give presentations about their efforts. Unfortunately, the Mabel Sterns newsletter winner will not be able in attendance.

Jim Roe commented that Mary Masterman, a past recipient of the NYAA, is doing very well in college.

C. Secretary: John Goss reported on the various activities of the Secretary's office. All actions of the Secretary were done with the following philosophy in mind: *For the League to be successful, it must actively engage its constituent clubs and provide benefits that its members truly want. But the League can not stop there, it must also promote those benefits. It must prove to its many members that it gives them what they want. Why? The League exists because of its membership, not the other way around.*

1. World AstroCast. The League has given England's Northamptonshire Natural History Society publicity for their "World AstroCast." This program is a series of lectures by prominent names in amateur and professional astronomy.

2. Spring Mailing. Every year the League sends out election ballots to all the MALs, Patrons, Lifetime members, and clubs. The Secretary and Mitch Glaze of the National Office handled this task this year.

3. Annual League reports. The call for the League annual reports was made by the Secretary this year. The Secretary also collected, compiled and distributed the reports.

4. Privacy policies of clubs. There doesn't seem to be any laws or regulations concerning the privacy of the members of private clubs. However, there is much concern today about the privacy topic by the general population. A good starting point for the interested club is the resource:

<http://www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs28-nonprofits.htm>

Thirteen clubs were contacted about their privacy policy. There was a wide range of positions taken concerning the distribution of member contact information (postal addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses).

D. Treasurer: Treasurer Mary Sutter will present the full budget report this afternoon. The League is in good financial condition.

E. Executive Secretary: The Executive Secretary was not able to attend ALCon this year.

Mitch Glaze commented that at the conclusion of Jackie Beucher's term as Executive Secretary, many of the activities of that office were transferred to him. He now handles the MAL category of membership. Complete transferal of "Welcome" packets hasn't been made to him yet.

F: National Office: Mitch Glaze reported that activity was concentrated in several areas.

1. Dues mailing. League Treasurer Mary Sutter helped Mitch with the dues mailing. It was mailed earlier (mid-April) than in previous years and sent by 1st class postage. The quick response rate was good — a 95% return rate. This was a big improvement over the past years.

2. Partial club membership. More clubs are dropping their full membership status to that of a partial membership. This proves to be cumbersome in handling club payments. Mitch feels that as societies scrutinize their finances, especially in these slumping economic times, some decide to save funds by cutting back to partial membership.

3. Member-at-Large (MAL) membership. There is a retention problem with MALs. Of the 188 MALs that expired only 54 re-newed. This begs the question, "Why would someone want to be a MAL?" There could be several reasons:

- a. there is no club in the area,
- b. unhappy with the local club,
- c. want to support the League,
- d. want to receive observing awards before discontinuing as MAL,
- e. want to receive the Reflector,
- f. want to vote in League elections (MAL receives 1 vote).

Wayne Green commented that clubs in Wyoming left the League because they perceived that they weren't receiving any important benefits.

Ron Whitehead wondered if the Regional Chair could assist in contacting MALs to let them know that the League values their membership. He also wondered if International MALs of each specific country could be organized as one

entity. For instance, group all the Australian MALs together.

Bob Gent said that in 1991 Meade printed and distributed thousands of MAL brochures with the telescopes that they sold. Few people joined through that avenue.

Ron Whitehead brought the discussion back to the issue of perceived League benefits, "What's in it for me?" He raised the possibility of the League offering reduced costs for benefits outside of the League, perhaps reduced dues to other organizations.

Mitch Glaze was concerned about how closely the current MAL dues cover the costs of MAL membership. Currently the US MAL dues are \$30 and the International MAL dues are \$40. Mitch suggested increasing those to \$35 and \$50, respectively.

Motion

Wayne Green motioned to empower the Envision the League's Future (ELF) committee to examine cost management approaches to sustain the League. This includes dues increases and places where the League can save money. Mike Benson seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

F. National Office: Mitch Glaze reported on the status of the National Office. He reviewed the annual Excel spreadsheet which details membership trends. Today the League membership is just under 15,000. Four years ago, it reached its peak of 18,000 people.

1. Club listing maintenance. Mitch described a project in which he is involved with webmaster Vern Raben. They would like to have clubs be able to update their own listings on the League website. This would remove that current burden from Mitch freeing his time for other duties.

2. Regional website maintenance. It would be beneficial to League operations to have a similar project for updating the webpages of the 10 regions. As it currently stands, Regions can not update the pages allotted to them.

Terry Mann stressed that this is another reason why the Webteam needs assistance.

3. Updated rosters. Mitch Glaze called on all Regional officers to remind their constituent clubs to send their updated club rosters periodically.

G. Webmaster: Vern Raben lead a discussion on the status of the League's website and plans for making it better.

One year ago, 40% of the pages were updated and made more relevant. More work needs to be done on this. Finding time is the primary problem.

Terry Mann again emphasized that the Webteam needs helps to get this and other jobs completed. For being such an important part of League functioning, the Webteam doesn't have enough staffing.

Wayne Green suggested having clubs update their own rosters. The rosters could contain the names of members who would be interested in various types of information. An example would be asteroid occultations. When an pertinent occultation is about to occur, those members could then be notified.

Bob Gent commented that some ALCors don't communicate sufficiently with the National Office as it is, and asking them to use the League website to update their own information would be asking too much. It is unreasonable to assume that they will update their rosters correctly and in a timely manner.

Terry Mann said that Vern and Mitch will meet later to discuss the possibilities of this.

H. League Sales: Mitch Glaze reported that, because of the improved website, League Sales is doing much better this year than last.

1. The most popular items are the Planetary Nebulae and Globular Cluster Observe manuals.

2. Old Clothing. These could be offered to MALs in lieu of an observing manual, which some of them may own already. Clothing could be offered at a discount.

3. ALPO memberships. The League handles ALPO memberships through League Sales. Last year, three were sold.

4. MAL and Patron memberships. The League Store accepted 156 MAL payments and 1 Patron membership.

5. Reprinting guide books. Mitch would like clarification on whether the reprinting of manuals should be funded through Sales or the Observe Clubs. John Goss will check through previous year's minutes to find out. The reprinting of manuals by the authors should be checked with Mitch first. He may be able to find a less expensive printing rate.

I. Reflector: John Goss reported on the status of the Reflector magazine. The Reflector focused on making its content more relevant to the membership of the Astronomical League. Sadly, the June issue saw the departure of its editor, Kent Marts. Thank you, Kent, for your efforts over the past 4 years.

1. ALCon ad guidelines were established to avoid confusion with the convention organizers.
2. A new extended series called "*The Fine Art of Observing*" began. It is aimed at improving the observing experience of the beginner.
3. All Regions were offered a 1/12 page complimentary ad to promote their meetings. 7 out of the 10 regions took advantage of this.
4. The Reflector is seeking a new lead editor.

J. ISS-AT: Terry Mann described the state of the ISS-AT. It needs a serious upgrade in equipment before it becomes an asset to the League. She would like a proposal written for grant money which would help make this possible.

K. Publications: Guidelines need to be developed to instruct potential new authors on what is required by the League for books and manuals.

L. Publicity: President Terry Mann emphasized that with IYA 2009 approaching, the League needs a publicity officer who has the time and energy to put the word out to the media about upcoming events.

M. Observe Committee: Mike Benson described his efforts at giving Master Observer plaques to all Master Observer recipients. He found a company in Nashville which will place the MO pin design in the upper left corner of the plaque. Mike would like \$1000, instead of the previously approved \$500, to continue his work.

Terry Mann informed the Council that Aaron Clevenson, who could not attend the Council meeting, will create guideline standards for new observe clubs.

Mike Benson would like his responsibility of the Urban Observe Club to be transferred to a member of the Houston Club. National Observe Program Co-ordinator, Aaron Clevenson, knows this person. The Council felt that would be acceptable.

N. Astronomy Day: Kelly Beatty will discuss this later.

O. Awards and Recognition:

1. Astronomical League Award: Richard Schmude
2. President's Award: to be announced at the banquet
3. Peltier Award: Richard G. Hodgson
4. Wright Award: the Astronomical Webteam
 - Vern Raben
 - Michael Hotka
 - George Baker
 - Tammy Plotner
5. National Young Astronomer Award: John Hodge II, *"Light Curve Analysis of Cataclysmic Variable Star Systems: Cam Var 06, FS Aur, Ht Cas, IP Peg and Eq Aqr."*
6. Horkheimer Service Award: Christina Lee
7. Mabel Sterns Newsletter Editor Award: Dana Koch, *"Sidereal Times."*
8. Webmaster Award: Del Gordon

P. Nominating Committee: Since both the President and Vice-President were running for re-election this year, Secretary John Goss oversaw the nominating and election process. The ballots will be counted tonight and the results will be announced at the Business Meeting on Saturday.

Addendum:

1. *The winners of the election were Terry Mann for President and Carroll Iorg for Vice-President.*

2. *The Bylaws change passed. Before the change, the last sentence in Article II, Section 4d read: "The Treasurer will annually prepare the IRS form 990 in time to meet the required IRS deadline." The last sentence in Article II, Section 4d shall now read: "The Treasurer will annually oversee the preparation of the applicable state and federal reports by the required*

deadlines.” Secretary John Goss will update the Bylaws to reflect this change.

Next year, both the offices of Secretary and Treasurer are scheduled for election. John Goss can not run for re-election since he is ending his second consecutive term.

Q. Regional Reports: The NCRAL did not submit a report.

R. Book Service: Marilyn Unruh was unable to attend the Council meeting. She wrote, “This past year we served 15 clubs or members and processed orders for 22 items. The Book Service reserve continues to be sufficient and the committee remains self-supporting. There is no funding request.”

S. Education Committee: The Committee is currently working on an update to the Eclipse CD. The current CD will not play on some newer computers. The new version will include the slide package with presentations from Introduction to the Universe.

T. IDA: Bob Gent, past League President, announced that he stepped down as President of the IDA Board. Bob informed the Council of current efforts to meet with the staff of various US Senators to discuss controlling light pollution as a means to conserve energy.

James Roe hopes to present a light control ordinance to a community near him. He will stress the light trespass factor.

Note: the agenda topics of the Treasurer’s Report and upcoming ALCons were moved until after lunch.

PART VI. TRUST FUND REPORT

The current Trustees are:

	Elected	Term Ends
James Fox	July 2003	Aug. 31, 2008
Berton Stevens	July 2004	Aug. 31, 2009
David Bachtell	July 2005	Aug. 31, 2010
Robert L. Gent	July 2006	Aug. 31, 2011
Joanne Hailey	July 2007	Aug. 31, 2012

Jim Fox's term ends on August 31 of this year.

Motion

Bob Gent moved to re-elect Jim Fox as a Trust Fund Trustee. Jim Fox previously consented to his nomination.

Ron Whitehead seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

PART VII. OLD BUSINESS

B. Pro-Am Committee: Please refer to the report submitted by Pro-Am member Janet Stevens for more complete description of committee activities.

The Executive Committee of the Astronomical League was encouraged to submit nominations of qualified individuals for the Chambliss Amateur Award. Procedural details can be found on the AAS website:

www.aas.org/grants/awards.php#amateur

LUNCH BREAK 12:15 - 1:15

Kathy Machin joined the Council meeting.

PART IV. REPORTS (continued)

U. Future Convention Proposals.

ALCon 2009. William Bogardus from the Amateur Observers' Society of New York presented his clubs plans to host the 2009 ALCon. Hofstra University will be the venue. The AOSNY expect an attendance level of about 250. They hope to have hotel rooms in the area available for \$100 per night (similar to Des Moines Marriott prices) and dorm rooms for \$60 per person per night. The Star-B-Que will be held on Friday night, possibly at the "Cradle of Aviation." Although this is the NYC metropolitan area, parking will not be an issue as the University has plenty of parking.

The AOSNY hopes to arrange tours during the week:

Monday — a general tour of Manhattan.

Tuesday — a visit to the Hayden Planetarium and a walking tour of astronomy sites in Manhattan.

Wednesday — Theater district for plays.

Thursday — famous Jones Beach.

Sunday — a tour of Brookhaven National Laboratory

They will need to secure a \$3 million insurance policy with the League. Terry Mann, Carroll Iorg and Bob Gent will investigate the details of this.

ALCon 2010. Wayne Green presented a rough proposal from the Estes Valley Astronomical Society to host ALCon 2010 at Estes Park near Boulder, CO. There is a possibility that the Denver Astronomical Society will partner with the EVAS, which is a relatively small club.

Since this is high tourist season for this area, the exact date is uncertain but should fall in mid to late July. The venue is the Estes park Conference Center. There is a Holiday Inn in the area, with also RV camping and the YMCA nearby.

Motion

Bob Gent made a motion to have ALCon 2010 at Estes park in July 29 - 31, if the facilities are available with the flexibility of shifting the dates two weeks forward.

Wayne Green seconded the motion.

Motion passed with 1 opposing and 1 abstaining vote.

***Addenda:** A few weeks after the Council meeting, the Estes Valley Astronomical Society withdrew their offer to host the 2010 ALCon.*

PART V. TREASURER'S REPORT

1. League Treasurer Mary Sutter discussed the League finances and the proposed budget.

Checking	\$38,651.72
Endowment Fund	\$1419.76
First American Funds Money Market	\$65,153.37
US Bank CD (8 month)	\$13,663.31

US Bank CD (14 month)	\$13,763.02
Business Money Market	\$35,613.08

2. It has been over two years since the last League audit. Council decided that it is not necessary for an audit at this time.

3. League credit cards. The President and Vice-President will each have a card with a limit of \$2000 and \$1000, respectively. The balances need to be paid monthly. Mary needs the receipts sent to her when the cards are used.

4. National Office Lease. The lease will expire on October 31.

Council vote on approving the proposed budget will take place closer to the end of the meeting, after the suggested changes have been incorporated.

PART VIII. NEW BUSINESS (continued and not in agenda order)

C. New "Observe" Award Proposals

1. **Astronomical League's Dark Sky Advocate Program.** John Goss presented his Dark Sky Advocate program. He estimates that it would require \$500 for the first year operations (primarily for pins and postage):

Introduction

Light pollution and light trespass are two subtle but pervasive problems which degrade our quality of life and destroy our enjoyment of the night skies. Too many amateur astronomers have silently witnessed the unnecessary destruction of the night skies, first beginning in the cities but now spreading to the remaining rural areas. We must not choose to ignore this problem.

Objective

To become a Dark Sky Advocate, the candidate must understand the problem of light pollution: its causes and solutions, and how it affects our society and amateur astronomy.

Eligibility

All Astronomical League members, whether they belong to a club or are Members-at-Large, are eligible to receive the Dark Sky Advocate award once they meet the qualifying requirements.

This award shall not be counted towards the requirements of the Master Observer Award.

Requirements

To qualify for the award, the Dark Sky Advocate candidate must accumulate at least 75 points within both of the Personal Enlightenment and Public Enlightenment sections, giving a total of 150 or more points. Each section contains a variety of projects and activities aimed at acquainting the DSA candidate with the many aspects of the light pollution problem. If the requirements are completed, real progress will have been accomplished.

Motion

Bob Gent moved that the Dark Sky Advocate program be approved and that Trust Fund interest will be used to fund it.

William Bogardus seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Astronomical League's Dark Nebulae Club. Kathy Machin presented a proposal for a new Observe program that covers observing various dark nebulae. There will be 20 - 25 required objects and 40 - 50 optional objects, including some nebulae visible in the far south. Since dark nebulae typically have a relatively large angular size, these nebulae should be visible to people with binoculars and small telescopes.

The proposed winter objects still need to be confirmed. The summer objects are being confirmed now.

William Bogardus suggested that Kathy seek the input of the Master Observers. Kathy likes the suggestion and will follow up with them.

Kathy would like the tentative approval the Council and give Mike Benson and Aaron Clevenson the final say on approval. This is so it can go into effect at the next Council meeting.

Barry Beaman joined the Council meeting.

Motion

Mike Benson moved that the Council accepts the Dark Nebulae Program as described by Kathy Machin.

William Bogardus seconded the motion.

The motion passes unanimously.

D. League travel. Terry Mann described a proposed program of having the League involved in tours of dark sky areas in our national parks.

Jim Roe asked how this would be different from a standard star party. Terry said that it would be an official League event.

Wayne Green inquired about funding. Terry thought that people could be attracted by advertising in Sky and Telescope and Astronomy magazines. She prefers to keep the number of travelers between 20 and 30 people.

Terry would like to investigate the details of this proposed program, then send her findings to the Council.

Motion

Bob Gent moved that the Executive Committee be allowed to consider the elements of a “Dark Sky League Travel” event.

William Bogardus seconded the motion.

The motion passed by consensus.

MISCELLANEOUS. Barry Beaman informed the Council about the AAVSO/League AstroNote 27, *“How to observe Beta Lyrae.”* Roger Kolman and Barry are working on a new variable star observing club that would be administrated by AAVSO staff. The League would issue the award.

B. IYA 2009.

1. Terry Mann described the IYA working group’s plan of establishing Dark Sky Discovery Sites. These observing locations can be backyards, parks, and observatories.

2. John Goss described four possible ideas that the League could pursue to promote and participate in IYA 2009.

a. Galileo Observing Club. An award would be given to people who

completed various activities as Galileo did way back when.

b. 400 Years of Astronomy Timeline. Show the events of both astronomy and the world on an 8 foot timeline.

c. Light nano-second ruler. Create a ruler with inch increments on one side and light nano-second divisions on the other.

d. "Do you know more than an 8th grader?" In a poster format, create a series of question showing what an 8th grader knows about astronomy.

Terry Mann would like to price these ideas.

F. Honorary Member Nominations. Council suggested several people to be nominated as Astronomical League Honorary Members:

David Dunham

Joe Patterson

Timothy Ferris

Mitch Glaze needs the mailing addresses of these people so they can receive the Reflector magazine.

Mike Reynolds and Scott Roberts arrived.

A. New Award Program. Mike Reynolds described a new award program to recognize excellence in astronomy journalism. Details have not been firmly established, yet.

Ron Whitehead inquired if the award could be presented to organizations and companies, as well as to individuals. Both Mike Reynolds and Scott Roberts said yes.

Terry Mann asked the Council for its approval to have the Executive Committee proceed with the development of this award.

Motion

Mike Benson made a motion that the Executive Committee proceed developing this award.

William Bogardus seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

PART IV. REPORTS (continued)

A. President. This morning, President Terry Mann stated that the NYAA and Peltier awards have a new sponsor. She reveals that Scott Roberts through his new company, Explore Scientific, is the new sponsor.

Scott Roberts indicated that he wants to continue his long association with the League and its outreach efforts.

Terry Mann expressed her appreciation for Meade Instruments sponsoring both NYAA and the Peltier awards in the past.

PART VIII. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

G. Any other New business. John Goss discussed the Envision The League's Future (ELF) committee of which he is chair. The ELF committee has been examining the status of the League and how it can maintain and increase its relevancy to amateur astronomy in the future. The Committee has discussed the topics of the lack of young people in our hobby and ways to secure additional funding. The ELF committee's work is on-going.

PART IV. REPORTS (continued)

M. "Observe" Committee Reports. Mike Reynolds, chair of the Outreach Club, would like to have an alternative chairperson for this club. The response to this club by members has been nearly overwhelming. In two years, 219 awards have been given.

Mike Reynolds was a little concerned that too many applicants do not follow the clear and easy directions for participating in the Outreach program.

Mike Benson will be talking to the observing club chairs about having them each send 10 certificates and pins to the National Office so it can act as a back up if the need arises.

PART VIII. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

G. Any other New business.

League member, Jordan Kaiser, submitted some ideas for the League to consider.

1. Reflector on the League website. It might be acceptable to place past Reflector issues on the website, but not the current one. In any case, the

webteam needs more help to be able to do this.

2. Post club newsletters on the League website. Again, this requires time that the webteam currently does not have available. Mitch Glaze asked why clubs can't put their newsletters on their own website. Many already do.

3. On the website, establish a speaker base for clubs to use. Again, this requires time that the webteam does not have. Also, a specific person would be needed to head this up and maintain the listing.

PART IX. APPROVAL OF BUDGET

Mary Sutter presented the budget for Council's approval. The anticipated revenue for the year will be \$107,810.00 and the expected expenses will be \$106,808.00, which gives the League a net of \$1002.00.

Motion

Mike Benson made a motion that the budget be accepted.

Bob Gent (and others) seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws Change

1. Council discussed eliminating the position of Executive Secretary and creating a "Special Projects" position, instead. This would require many Bylaw changes.

Ron Whitehead asked about the line of succession that is dictated in the Bylaws. He commented that the Executive Secretary is someone who later could run for League Vice-President or President.

It was agreed that this proposal requires much more thought and discussion.

2. Treasurer Mary Sutter suggested a Bylaws change to bring the wording into compliance with actual procedure. Currently, Standing Resolution 1, part 6 states:

The ALTF Treasurer will submit an annual financial report to the League Treasurer 30 days prior to the annual convention. The League Treasurer will in turn incorporate this information in the League's financial report to Council. Should no national convention be held, the ALTF financial report shall

be filed with the League Treasurer by August 1.

Mary recommended that the first sentence be changed so that the ALTF report could be submitted within 30 days after the close of the fiscal year.

Motion

Bob Gent made a motion that the the first sentence of SR 1, no. 6 be changed to: "The ALTF Treasurer will submit an annual financial report to the League Treasurer 30 days after the close of the fiscal year."

James Roe seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

PART X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Carroll Iorg made a motion to adjourn.

Mike Benson and others seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The 2008 Council meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

End of the 2008 Astronomical League Council meeting minutes.

Submitted by

John Jardine Goss
Astronomical League Secretary