

# ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE 2012 COUNCIL MEETING minutes

ALCON 2012

Chicago, Lincolnshire, IL

Wednesday July 4

Cal to Order 8:30 AM

Roll Call:

President Carroll Iorg (1)

Secretary William Bogardus (1)

Treasurer Joanne Hailey (1)

John Wagoner SWRAL w/proxy (2)

Dave Clark SWRAL (1)

Sue Rose NERAL w/proxy (2)

Mike Benson SERAL (1)

Ron Whitehead GLRAL (1)

John Goss MERAL (1)

Jim Small MSRAL (1)

Joe Alburty Office Coordinator

2011 Gen Meeting minutes approved on a motion by Ron Whitehead, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Small

2011 Council Meeting minutes approved on a motion to accept by Sue Rose, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Wagoner

2012 Feb Teleconference minutes approved on a motion by Jim Small, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Whitehead

President Iorg spoke briefly about approved clubs from the conference call. The council had approved the Observing Stellar Evolution Program and the Occultation Observing Program.

Ron Whitehead suggested that he contact all of the regional representatives and provide a format for reports to see if we can get improved reports and breathe energy from the regions. Further discussion followed regarding long range plans

Discussion of the problems with the convention. The promise of so much at the convention turned out to be overwhelming. We will look to have the convention in Atlanta next year and we will try to keep the options more reasonable. The leadership at this convention has been overwhelmed. Sue Rose spoke about the need for the AL to take ownership of the registration for the convention. Carroll said that next year may be a little more laid back. Jim Small suggested that we may try holding the council meeting the day before the convention starts.

**A Motion** to hold the council meeting the day before the convention starts was made by Bill Bogardus 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Rose **carried**.

Bill Pellerin - from Houston Astronomical Society was invited to speak about the the Observing Club proposal, Observing Stellar Evolution. The program

takes members through observations of all the kinds of stars, etc. that represent the stages of a stars life. The observing list has 100 objects. The objects that were chosen were such that they would be relatively easy to see. By completing the program, observers should get the full spectrum of stellar evolution. Sue rose suggested that observations not come from a previous set of observations done previously, but done independently for this program and not for any another program. Bill Bogardus suggested that we put the manual up available for down load at a reasonable price donation through Pay Pal. The question arouse that we may wish to want to use this as an experiment for this type of sales method. Ron Whitehead said that we may try to compare this with a manual that is already available for comparison. Bill Bogardus suggested that one of the requirements be that a person show proof that they have obtained a copy of the manual for submission.

There was discussion on the submission of other observing clubs. In this, it was mentioned that there might be the possibility of expanding the Master Observer program to a higher level. It was agreed that Mike would look into it and report back by ALCON 2013.

Joanne Hailey stated that she felt that we need to Limit the clubs to two per year unless the club brings in its own funding. Ron Whitehead suggested that we might want to ask if a person if they would elect to not to accept a pin which would save us money. John Wagoner added that it was indeed all about the pin. A question from Ron was, how much is the expense of clubs compared to the overall budget. It was pointed out that the percentage is small compared to paying for office employees. Ron asked what is the criterion of the club and how do we choose.? Do we have criterion?

## Treasurer's Report

Joanne Hailey presented the profit and loss statement for the period though May. She was shocked because the League is actually going to finish in the black Additionally, over 50% of the clubs have already paid their dues. This has not happened before in recent memory. Sue Rose questioned the

process that is allowing clubs to continue so long without consequence. Sue raised discussion on the possibility of other ways to collect dues from clubs.

Joanne told the council of how many entries there are to document the number of payments made to the league. She said the policy should be to keep annual dues limited. The policy should be set that October be the limit after which clubs should be dropped from the roles. Bill questioned what number of clubs are in arrears. It was estimated that 20 out of the 270 or so clubs are late in paying. Ron asked how is that we can deal with 20% of the Clubs causing 80% of the problem. In the discussion it was estimated that the cost of Reflector 76 cents per issue.

Jim Small spoke about the positive effect of using Pay pal with it's links and how it promotes quick payments.

**A motion** was made by Bogardus, 2nd Jim Small that we establish or use an existing account in conjunction with pay pal on a trial basis though Aug 31<sup>st</sup> ,2013 for next year to collect the receipt of dues and any other payments to the League to see if dues are paid in a more timely fashion. Discussion followed as to the Paypal fee adding up to \$1800. **carried on a close vote.**

The minutes of the conference call meeting of June 2012 had arrived and were presented for discussion. Carroll pointed out the discussion on the possibility of international clubs join the league. Jim Small suggested that the league may want to be able to sell a DVD with a collection of all the past reflector.

**A motion** mad by Bogardus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rose that Chuck Bycher be presented with a recognition award at the next appropriate opportunity. **Carried.**

**Motion** by Sue Rose 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Small, to approve the process of the league using electronic voting . **Carried unanimously.** Sue suggested that a notice

of the process be sent to the member clubs explaining that this would be the way that it will be done next year.

**Motion** by Jim Small to approve the minutes of June 2012 seconded by Ron Whitehead **carried**

**Motion** by Mike Benson, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Wagoner to elect Joanne Hailey to succeed herself at as Trustee of the AL Trustee Fund,. **Carried** Sue Rose questioned if it might be more favorable to move the funds to a better place to deposit those funds. That the return on the money is not as good as it should be. The board generally agreed that return on the deposit was downright poor.

Bill pointed out that we might want to look at the Reflector report. Sue Rose made comments on the use of PDF to disseminate the Reflector.

At 11:30 AM the President recessed the meeting until 8 AM the next day.

Meeting reconvened at 8:15 by president Iorg.

Present: All previous attendees except Dave Clark

also in attendance:

John Goss, Vice President

Tom Lynch – Treasurer Candidate

Chris Brownwell

Joe Alburty – Office Coordinator

Joe presented the National Office report, MAL report, League sales report and the Profit & Loss report for the League Sales. Bill Bogardus noted that total

membership is up somewhat and the total number of clubs is up but the number of large societies is down and shouldn't we make an effort to find out who those large societies are and what could be done to bring them back.

Ron Whitehead spoke about areas of interest, concerns, and issues needed for long range planning. We need action items in a long range plans to develop a road map of objectives of action items for the council such as the issue of retaining or taking on the large clubs. Joanne recalled that we had been calling all of the clubs that had dropped out to find out why they were dropping out. As an example,

one club responded that the League no longer meets their needs. In a nut shell we're paying money, and what do we get? If the club is not involved in League activities they do not wish to be members.

Another claim was budgetary. The most important summary mentioned was "Out of sight, out of mind." Unless we are out front they will not care.

John Goss stated that It's apparent that we have experienced difficulties, but the game is not over in the first quarter. A lot of good comments have been noted about the talks. We have to give the caterers with a number today so pressure is on to have all of the registration correct. The work to have a good convention continues.

Joe Alburty finished up his reports with the sales balance, noting that the loss this year is not as bad as it has been in the past.

**Motion** - Bill Bogardus made a resolution, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Wagoner that the League should determine which clubs produce the greatest #s and %s of members completing Observing Programs and advertise that to the membership through the Reflector as well as on the League website. A place should be set up for club and society awards to be noted. **carried.**

**Motion** by Bogardus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Small, to request that in the future, the Observing Programs coordinator provide the council with the applications and descriptions, along with the evaluation for consideration by the council for its consideration 60Day prior to the convention. carried.

Radio Astronomy Observing Program - Bill Bogardus gave an explanation of the program

Mike Benson made **a motion**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Rose to give provisional approval pending production of the manual and considering addition of the meteor observations to the basic level. . **Carried 6-2**

**A motion** by Sue Rose, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Small that the council set up a yahoogroup for inter council communication and establish files and records. **Carried Bill** offered to set it up. Add that it's a secretary function to maintain with the president as a backup. Notice of this should be sent to all members of the board along with a general notice that files are to be named by fiscal year-type.

The council turned their attention back to the Observing Program Proposals. Discussion centered around the need for more clubs and what makes them worthy of adoption. Jim Small noted that we should make a note of which clubs produced the most completions and recognize those clubs. Mike Benson – Questioned the funding of the two previously approved OP . He recommended that Occulataation Timing is not ready.

**Motion** by Bogardus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wagoner that the council recommends that the H-alpha be incorporated with the Sunspotter into a Solar Observing program.**Passed with one abstention.**

It was left that Bright Nebulae , binocular asteroids, be considered again next year.

**A motion** that Stellar Evolution Observing Program be approved with a budget of \$575. Bogardus / John Wagoner **carried 5-1**

Discussion occurred again over the money in the trust fund earning with so little in interest. This was in regard to the League requesting money from the trust fund to fund the new clubs. There was a lot of discussion on the management of the trust fund to earn so little money.

ALCON 2013

**A motion** by Bogardus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rose to table discussion until after the business meeting to approve the convention after the business meeting. We will reconvene after the business meeting to consider approval. Discussion centered around choosing the date not to be near the new moon. **Carried.**

Off the record discussion occurred with regard to the problems of funning this years convention.

Suggestions were made that we get a report of lessons learned. Ron Whitehead was asked to be the person to gather this information.

Bill, Joanne, and John Wagoner volunteered to count the votes with Joe Alburty this evening.

Motion by Iorg/ Rose to make Carolyn Shoemaker an honorary membership **Carried**

Sue Rose raised discussion on web hosting. Last year it was decided to look into website hosting by a contact that she had. No one from the League had contacted Wes to host.



Mike Simmons from Mt. Wilson, Astronomers without Borders addressed the group with a presentation. Ron Whitehead wanted to come up with mutual activities that might help us expand together, and help us work together for mutual benefit.

Mike addressed the council about the organization and what it does. Discussion developed about membership of foreign clubs so that they could participate in the Observing Programs. The prime purpose of his organization is to connect people together through astronomy. The League has connections with many clubs in the US that may want to become involved. Affiliates can join the organization. We need to get the word out there thought the league.

Joanne, presented her budget for the council.

**A Motion** by Bogardus 2<sup>nd</sup> Benson to approve the budget as amended. **Passed, Unanimous**

The President thanked Joanne for her 9 years of service as treasurer.

Motion by Whitehead, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Small to adjourn. Carried

Meeting Adjourned, 11:35AM