

2013 Astronomical League Council Meeting Minutes

Alcon 2013, Atlanta, GA

July 23, 2013

Part I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Iorg at 9:30 AM.

Part II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Present:

President		Carrol Iorg	1
Vice President	MERAL Chair	John Goss	3
Secretary		Bill Bogardus	1
Exec Secretary	GLR Chair	Ron Whitehead	3
MARS Chair		Wayne Green	2
MSRAL Rep		Jim Small	1
SWRAL		David Moody	1
AL Sales		Denise Moser	
AL National Office		Mitch Glaze	
Reflector Editor		Ron Kramer	
Secretary Elect		Ann House	
AL First Lady		Betty Iorg	

There were 12 votes held by the members from 5 regions. It was determined that we had a quorum.

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 2012 Council Minutes

Minutes of the previous council were read for approval with corrections.

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Jim Small, seconded by John Goss and carried.

Part IV. Officer and Committee Reports

President Iorg gave comments on his report to the council. Membership is up, foreign clubs are being worked on, and disposal of the International Space

Station Amateur Telescope (ISS-AT).

Vice President Goss spoke about the Astronomy magazine from England and a possibility of cooperative cooperation.

Adding to his written report, Vice President Goss spoke about the Library Loaner Telescope program presented at the MERAL meeting.

He thanked Ron Whitehead for his writings about youth in the Reflector.

Bill Bogardus thanked the council for a fun four years.

Exec Secretary Whitehead reported on his work with clubs.

President Iorg reported that there were no clubs in the Grand Rapids area which was where the 2017 ALCON was intended to be held in conjunction with the 2017 Solar Eclipse.

Mitch Glaze went over his report from the National Office. He pointed out that membership is notably up, but response to electronic balloting is down. There was some discussion on getting response from clubs on paying dues on time. Wayne Green suggested that the regional reps could help with that.

Mitch gave kudos to Denise Moser for picking up the job of League sales. He reported that the finances of sales were dismal. League sales staff is being paid out of League Sales budget.

Discussion followed on the League sales and management.

Jim Small suggested that the sales office prepare for the demand of eclipse glasses. A question asked was about the writing of the observing

manuals. This initiated much discussion on the writing and sales. There were samples of t-shirts that may be offered to people completing observing clubs. The idea of the AL getting promotion out of various endeavors was discussed. The discussion bridged to the proposal to have ALCON 2017 in Casper Wyoming for the Eclipse. Pros and cons for holding the convention were discussed.

Bill Bogardus made a motion to hold the 2017 convention in Casper, WY seconded by David Moody, 10 to 0 carried.

Wayne Green proposed an Exploratory Eclipse promotional Committee to work on items pertaining to the 2017 eclipse. Items would include glasses, partnering with S&T, Astronomy magazines. Also, there could be a manual, workshops possibly at future ALCONs and Health & safety aspects.

Dave Moody gave a presentation on a proposal for ALCON 2014, to be held July 8th -13th. There are plenty of attractions in the area. All of the activities are in one location. A motion to approve the convention to be held at San Antonio was made by Bill Bogardus and seconded by Jim Small. Carried

Ron Kramer gave a presentation to the council on the possibility of holding the ALCON 2015 convention at Los Cruces, NM in the middle to end of August. The convention can be held at the University of NM. White Sands proving grounds, VLA and the Sunspot Observatory are nearby. Bill Bogardus made a motion seconded by Ron Whitehead to tentatively approve holding the 2015 ALCON in Las Cruces, NM carried.

The council reviewed regional reports. Ron Whitehead made comments on the Great Lakes Regional report. There was discussion of having a standardized form for the regional reports and associated discussion of what regions should be doing. Jim Small reported on Midstates and Wayne Green spoke for Mars. Dave Moody reported for Southwest. John Goss reported on Mideast region.

Ted Blank gave a presentation on IOTA and its goals as relating to the proposal for a new observing program. He showed videos demonstrating the observation of occultation of stars. He suggested that an observing program would require 25 observations.

Afterwards the council discussed the eight (8) new "observe" awards programs that were proposed. Time was given to the value of establishing binocular award programs. There was a lot of discussion over the philosophy of what the league is promoting by offering.

The council voted and approved three new programs.

Bright Nebulae program	8 - yea	1 - nay
Hydrogen Alpha program	6 - yea	3 - nay
Occultation program	unanimous	
Double Star II program	send back for more work	
Observing Sketch program	send back for more work	

John Goss gave a report for the Reflector. He noted that we now have several new people on board working on the magazine. He spoke about the thought of printing the issues in China but the thought is that members would appreciate the Reflector continue to still be made in America. Further discussion ensued on incentives to have members choose to switch to e-copies. Still further discussion revolved about the concept of making the Reflector open to anyone or restricted to members.

President Iorg discussed the Trust Fund Report and pointed out that the trustees could invest the money in better. Nominations for the expiring trustee position were opened. A motion was made by Jim Small seconded by Ron Whitehead to nominate James Fox to succeed himself. Carried

President Iorg announced the awards to be announced at the convention. Vice President Goss named awardees also.

Division of Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society will be in Denver in October 2013. We can help put the word out about this with an article in the Reflector and on our Facebook page.

Since the budget is the last item left, that will be done on a conference call later this summer.

Honoraries

Mitch announced that the league has a discount for its account which can be shared with clubs.

Bill Bogardus made a motion, 2nd Wayne Green that there should be a page on the web site that recognizes honoraries. Carried

Jim Small made a motion to adjourn which was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM

respectfully submitted,

William Bogardus, AL Secretary