



# What's Up With the Astronomical League

## September 2020

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Compiled by Carroll  
Iorg, President

*A periodic publication for the AL membership*

### New Astronomical League Secretary Appointed

With the election of Charles Allen III to Vice President, effective September 1, past president Terry Mann was appointed Secretary to fill the last year of the term. Terry formerly served as President of the League and most capably served in many other positions as well. Welcome back, Terry!



### Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers' Annual Meet- ing Online October 2-3

The featured speaker on Saturday will be Pranvera Hyseni, founder and director of Astronomy Outreach of Kosovo (photo credit Tony Saria, Astronomy Outreach of Kosovo).

**See more information  
on page 3.**



### Astronomical League Announces New Collaboration With Explore Scientific

The League and Explore Scientific, a longtime sponsor of such AL programs at the National Young Astronomer Award and Peltier Award programs, announce a new collaboration with the firm's new Global Star Party initiative.

A promotional graphic for the Global Star Party. It features a dark background with a nebula-like pattern. At the top, it says "Explore Alliance Live Presents". In the center, there is a large yellow compass rose logo with the words "EXPLORE ALLIANCE" around it. Below the compass is the text "GLOBAL STAR PARTY" in large white letters, flanked by two small stars. Underneath that, it says "FREE LIVE EVENT". A box contains the text "Simulcast Live on Tuesday Nights" and "ASTRONOMERS • SCIENTISTS • ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD". At the bottom, it lists "World-Renowned Speakers • Live Astrophotography", "Live Chat • Space Art • Poetry • Door Prizes", and a website "explorescientific.com/live". Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram are shown. At the very bottom, it says "Our Official Door Prize Sponsor astroleague.org" and includes the Astronomical League logo.

## **Correspondence From an Aspiring Astronomer in Cameroon**

A young Cameroon astronomer logged onto a recent Global Star Party session, after being invited by one of the panelists.

Since then, he has contacted us to see if individuals, clubs, etc. would like to consider helping his fledgling astronomy club

with equipment and supplies.

If anyone is interested in checking this out, please email me (president@astroleague.org) and I will share the information.

### **ALCon 2021 and ALCon Jr.**

ALCon 2021 registration is scheduled to begin in three months! This is just a reminder that ALCon Jr., the youth's portion of ALCon, is planning to assemble their own telescopes, and in general have a fun time of learning more about astronomy. More information will follow soon.



**ALCON 2021**  
ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO

**ALCON 2021**  
August 4 – 6  
**EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL**  
1000 Woodward Pl. NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102  
<https://alcon2021.astroleague.org/>  
(Website available by January 1, 2021)

**Hosted by:**  
**The Albuquerque Astronomical Society**  
[www.TAAS.org](http://www.TAAS.org)

 

## **ALPO 2020 Conference to Feature International Astronomy Popularizer Pranvera Hyseni**

The Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers (the ALPO) is most pleased to announce that its keynote speaker for this year's conference will be Ms. Pranvera Hyseni.

Due to the continuing nearly worldwide quarantining caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and another wave of infections, the 2020 Conference of the ALPO will be held online via Zoom on Friday and Saturday, October 2 and 3, 2020. **The conference times will be from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pacific Time) on Friday, October 2, and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pacific Time) on Saturday, October 3.**

Ms. Hyseni's appearance will follow presentation of the annual Walter Haas Observer Award after the last talk on Saturday afternoon.

The ALPO Conference is free and open to all; however, all presenters must be current members of the ALPO. Digital memberships start at only \$18 a year. To join online, go to [http://www.astroleague.org/store/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=10&products\\_id=39](http://www.astroleague.org/store/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=10&products_id=39), then scroll to the bottom of that page, select your membership type, click on "Add to Cart" and proceed from there.

Ms. Hyseni is currently pursuing her master's degree in Planetary Science at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and is the founder and director of "Astronomy Outreach of Kosovo." Ms. Hyseni is dedicated to rebuilding her home country through the stars along with her organization's team, consisting of 200 volunteers. Ms. Hyseni was recently selected as one of the five most influential women in Kosovo and was also recognized as a distinguished student by the Municipality Assembly of Vush-

tri. Besides working toward attaining her master's degree, her current effort is to develop the first observatory and planetarium in Kosovo.

She's been honored by the International Astronomical Union and the Minor Planet Center with the naming of an asteroid, 45687 Pranverahyseni. The Municipal Assembly of Vushtrri (Kosovo) named her a distinguished student, and she was also honored with the "24Under24" award by the Mars Generation as a young leader in STEM education. She received the "Master Outreach" award in 2019 from the Astronomical League, and was named as Slooh's Space Ambassador by the robotic telescope service "Slooh."

**Besides access via Zoom, the ALPO conference will also be live-streamed both on the ALPO Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=2020%20alpo%20virtual%20conference> and on the ALPO YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEmixiL-d5k2Fx27Ijfk41A>.**

An advantage of Zoom access, however, is that **attendees can participate with their own questions submitted via the Zoom group text chat feature. Those attendees using Zoom must already have it installed on their computer prior to the conference dates. Zoom is free and available at <https://zoom.us/>.**

**The Zoom links for the ALPO conference will be posted on social media and e-mailed to those who wish to receive it that way on Thursday, October 1.** There will be a separate Zoom meeting set up for each day. The Zoom virtual (online) meeting room will open 15 minutes prior to the beginning of each day's activities.

## **Astronomical League Website Help Needed**

If you have experience with WordPress, we need your help with the Astronomical League website. If you are able to help out, please contact Carroll Iorg by email at [president@astroleague.org](mailto:president@astroleague.org).