Astronomical League
Observing Programs
Annual Report 2018

Submitted by the Astronomical League Observing Program Board:
Aaron Clevenson
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Al Lamperti
Maynard Pittendreigh

Highlights for the year:

2017-2018 has been a good year for the Astronomical League Observing Programs. A total of 664 certificates and/or pins were issued during the previous year (2017). At the end of this report, there is a detailed analysis of all of the observing programs and awards. In that report, expenses represent actual costs of doing business, but may not be submitted for reimbursement. The Treasurer is the best source for actual costs to the Astronomical League. Total expenses reflect those reported by the coordinators or those by the Treasurer, whichever were higher. Pin purchases through the national office are included. Requested budget for next year reflects the best estimate by the coordinator and includes expected pin purchases.

At the AL-Con in 2017 there were a total of 3 proposals. Those adopted are in **bold**:

- **Beyond Polaris**
- **Binocular Master Observer**

Since the 2016 AL-Con, this program was adopted:

- Mars Apparition 2016-2018

These proposed Observing Programs for consideration by Council at the AL-Con in 2018 were reviewed by Observing Program Directors. A summary of those reviews and recommendations was submitted to the President, John Goss and to the Council via email. The list of known Observing Program Proposals for review at the 2018 AL-Con are:

- Nova

New Coordinators were appointed for these observing programs in the past year:

- Lunar Observing Program - Nina Chevalier
- Hydrogen-Alpha Solar Observing Program - Mark Simonson
- Bright Nebula Observing Program - Bob Scott
Observing Programs by activity level:

- Those programs with an average of over 50 certificates in the past year:
  - Outreach (239 awards in 2017)

- Those programs with an average between 25 and 49 in the past year:
  - Lunar (47 awards in 2017)
  - Messier (29 awards in 2017)

- Those programs with an average between 10 and 24 in the past year:
  - Advanced Binocular Double Star
  - Advanced Observer
  - Binocular Double Star
  - Binocular Messier
  - Carbon Star
  - Comet Hunter
  - Double Stars
  - Globular Cluster
  - Herschel 400
  - Master Observer
  - Meteors
  - Observer
  - Radio Astronomy
  - Sketching
  - Stellar Evolution
  - Urban Observing

- Those programs with an average between 5 and 9 in the past year:
  - Asterism
  - Asteroids
  - Binocular Variable Star
  - Caldwell
  - Constellation Hunter – Northern Skies
  - Deep Sky Binocular
  - Galileo
  - Hydrogen-Alpha Solar
  - Master Observer- Silver
  - Radio Astronomy
  - Solar System
  - Sunspotter
  - Two in the View
Those programs with an average of 4 or less in the past year:
  o Active Galactic Nuclei
  o Analemma
  o Arp Northern
  o Arp Southern
  o Binocular Master Observer
  o Bright Nebulae
  o Constellation Hunter Southern Skies
  o Dark Nebulae
  o Dark Sky Advocate
  o Earth Orbiting Satellites
  o Flat Galaxies
  o Galaxy Groups and Clusters
  o Herschel II
  o Local Galaxy Group
  o Lunar II
  o Mars
  o Master Observer - Gold
  o Master Observer – Platinum
  o NASA Observing Challenges
  o NEO
  o Occultation
  o Open Clusters
  o Planetary Nebulae
  o Planetary Transits
  o Sky Puppy
  o Southern Skies Binocular
  o Southern Skies Telescope
  o Universe Sampler
  o Variable Stars

Accomplishments for the Overall AL Observing Program:
  • Three new Observing Program Coordinators were appointed existing Programs.
  • Two new Observing Program Directors were appointed to the Observing Program Board.
  • Two additional NASA Observing Challenges were identified and introduced to the membership (Mars InSight and TESS).
  • These Observing Program Manuals have been reproduced:
    o Carbon Stars
    o Galaxy Groups and Clusters
    o Globular Clusters
    o Math for Amateur Astronomers
Overall Observing Program Growth:

There were no issues requiring the attention of the Observing Program Directors. Issues were minor and handled well by the Observing Program Coordinators. None were escalated to the AL President. All have been resolved.

At this time four coordinators have more than three Observing Programs; Aaron Clevenson has the Master Observer Progression, 2 NASA Observing Challenges, and one Observing Program; Al Lamperti, Cliff Mygatt, and Scott Kranz have 4 each. Three is the best practice maximum that we follow. We have a total of 32 different coordinators at this time coordinating 65 Observing Programs and Awards. There are a total of 81 different certificates (by level and program) issued through the Astronomical League.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron B. Clevenson
Clifton B. Mygatt, Jr
Al Lamperti
W. Maynard Pittendreigh
National Observing Program Directors
May 22, 2018
Observing Program Name: Active Galactic Nuclei
Coordinator Name: Al Lamperti

Active Galactic Nuclei Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Advanced Binocular Double Star
Coordinator Name: Bob Kerr

Advanced Binocular Double Star Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Advanced Observer
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

Advanced Observer Observing Award

![Graph showing the number of observers over time for Advanced Observer program.]

Observing Program Name: Analemma
Coordinator Name: Douglas Smith

Analemma Observing Program

![Graph showing the number of observers over time for Analemma program.]

Observing Program Name: Arp – Northern Skies
Coordinator Name: Al Lamperti

Arp – Northern Skies Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Arp – Southern Skies
Coordinator Name: Al Lamperti

Arp – Southern Skies Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Asterism
Coordinator Name: Troy Stratton

Asterism Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Asteroid
Coordinator Name: John Goar

Asteroid Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Binocular Double Star
Coordinator Name: Bob Kerr

Binocular Double Star Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Beyond Polaris
Coordinator Name: W. Maynard Pittendreigh

Beyond Polaris Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Binocular Master Observer
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

Observing Program Name: Binocular Messier Observer
Coordinator Name: John Goar

Binocular Messier Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Binocular Variable Star
Coordinator Name: Robert Togni

Binocular Variable Star Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Bright Nebulae
Coordinator Name: Bob Scott

Bright Nebulae Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Caldwell
Coordinator Name: Sue Rose

Caldwell Program Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Carbon Star
Coordinator Name: Robert Togni

Carbon Star Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Comet
Coordinator Name: Scott Kranz

Comet Hunter Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Constellation Hunter – Southern Skies
Coordinator Name: Cliff Mygatt

Constellation Hunter – Southern Skies Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Constellation Hunter – Northern Skies
Coordinator Name: Cliff Mygatt

Constellation Hunter – Northern Skies Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Dark Sky Advocate
Coordinator Name: John Goss

Dark Sky Advocate Observing Award
Dark Nebulae Observing Program

Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Double Star
Coordinator Name: Steve Bell

Double Star Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Earth Orbiting Satellite
Coordinator Name: Tom DeClue

Earth Orbiting Satellite Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Herschel 400
Coordinator Name: Jack Estes

Herschel 400 Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Herschel II
Coordinator Name: Candace Pratt

Herschel II Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Hydrogen-Alpha Solar
Coordinator Name: Mark Simonson

Hydrogen-Alpha Solar Observing Program

[Graph showing data over years]

Observing Program Name: Local Galaxy Groups
Coordinator Name: Dareth Murray

Local Galaxy Groups Observing Program

[Graph showing data over years]
Observing Program Name: Lunar
Coordinator Name: Nina Chevalier

Lunar Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Lunar II
Coordinator Name: Cliff Mygatt

Lunar II Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Mars
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

Observing Program Name: Master Observer
Master Observer – Silver
Master Observer – Gold
Master Observer – Platinum
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

Master Observer Award

![Graph showing Master Observer Award over years from 1965 to 2020. The x-axis represents years, ranging from 1965 to 2020, and the y-axis represents the number of awards, ranging from 0 to 25.]
Platinum Master Observer Award

Observing Program Name: Messier
Coordinator Name: Scott Kranz

Messier Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Meteor
Coordinator Name: Scott Kranz

Meteor Observing Program

Observing Program Name: NASA Observing Challenges
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson
Observing Program Name: NEO
Coordinator Name: Dolores Hill and Carl Hergenrother

Target NEOs Observing Program

Observer Award

Observing Program Name: Observer
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson
Observing Program Name: Occultation
Coordinator Name: Steve Conard

Occultation Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Open Cluster
Coordinator Name: Cliff Mygatt

Open Cluster Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Outreach
Coordinator Name: W. Maynard Pittendreigh

Outreach Observing Award (note the scale on the left)

Observing Program Name: Planetary Nebulae (Northern and Southern)
Coordinator Name: Ted Forte

Planetary Nebula Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Radio Astronomy
Coordinator Name: William Bogardus

Radio Astronomy Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Sketching
Coordinator Name: Cindy L. Krach

Sketching Observing Award
Observing Program Name: Sky Puppies
Coordinator Name: W. Maynard Pittendreigh

Sky Puppies Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Solar Eclipse 2018
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

Solar Eclipse 2017 Special Observing Award
Observing Program Name: Solar System
Coordinator Name: Bryan Tobias

Solar System Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Southern Skies Telescopic
Coordinator Name: Kathy Machin

Southern Skies Telescopic Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Southern Skies Binocular
Coordinator Name: Cindy La Russa

Southern Skies Binocular Observing Program

![Graph showing the observing program from 1965 to 2020 with peaks in 2000 and 2015.]

Observing Program Name: Stellar Evolution
Coordinator Name: Bill Pellerin

Stellar Evolution Observing Program

![Graph showing the observing program from 1965 to 2020 with a peak in 2020.]
Observing Program Name: Sunspotter
Coordinator Name: Scott Kranz

Sunspotter Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Two in the View
Coordinator Name: Bob Scott

Two in the View Observing Program
Observing Program Name: Universe Sampler
Coordinator Name: Amelia Goldberg

Universe Sampler Observing Program

Observing Program Name: Urban
Coordinator Name: Terry N. Trees

Urban Observing Program