



What's Up With the Astronomical League January 2025

A periodic publication for the AL membership

Volume 18 Number 1

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Compiled by Carroll
Iorg, Immediate Past
President

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Advertising Coordinator **N E E D E D**

Now is your chance to join the *Reflector* team! We are currently seeking a volunteer Advertising Coordinator. Responsibilities include contacting existing and prospective advertisers, collecting ad orders, forwarding prospective ads to our Design/Production Coordinator, and working with the AL Treasurer to issue invoices once ads have run. Estimated time commitment per issue is only about ten hours of work. This is a great opportunity to connect with star party organizers and industry experts across the country. Plus, you'll have the satisfaction of supporting the success of our beloved magazine.

If you can help, please contact
Chuck Allen at president@astroleague.org.



January 24, 2025 7:00PM EST



Laurie Ansorge
*"Amateur Astronomy
in the Computer Age"*

also

Chuck Allen, Terry Mann,
Don Knabb, and John Goss,
with Scott Roberts,
and David Levy



Watch Live Stream or Recorded:
[Explorescientific.com/live](https://explorescientific.com/live), or
www.facebook.com/Astronomical.League



Astronomical.League

ASTROCON 2025:
Bryce Canyon, Utah, June 25–28, 2025



Influence the future, Nominate the young!



Horkheimer Youth Service Award: The Smith and D'Auria Awards...

If you know a League member, 18 years or younger, who has brought amateur astronomy to your club or to the public, please consider nominating that person for one of the two Horkheimer Service Awards.

First place winner receives the beautiful Horkheimer/Smith Award plaque, an expense paid trip to ALCon, and a \$1750 check!

Second place winner receives the beautiful Horkheimer/D'Auria Award plaque, and a \$1000 check!

Horkheimer/Parker Youth Imaging Awards...

Specifically meant for young people who have images that they are particularly proud of.

- Must be 18 years old or younger.
- Must be a member of the Astronomical League.

First place winner receives a beautiful plaque and \$1000!

Second place winner receives \$500.

Third place winner receives \$250.

Horkheimer Youth O'Meara Journalism Awards...

Expressing oneself effectively is so very important. The O'Meara Journalism Award has been created to spotlight young scientists who submit well composed science essays that demonstrate their writing talent.

- Must be 8 to 14 years old at the time of the piece.
- Must submit a 300 - 500 word essay about a science related topic.

National Young Astronomer

Sponsored by Explore Scientific

Recognizes outstanding astronomical research achievements of high school age students throughout the United States.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be 14 - 19 years old (when nominated).
- Must NOT be enrolled in college.
- Project must be applicant's own work.
- Team effort is permitted.

Winning Entries

First place winner receives a fine telescope from Explore Scientific and an expense paid trip to ALCon. Second place winner also receives an expense paid trip to ALCon. Both winners will present their projects at ALCon.

Consider that the purpose of these ten or more avenues of recognition is not simply to encourage students to become professional astronomers. No, it is much more than that...

It is to open young minds to examine where their futures may lead.

It is to open young hearts to a lifelong love of the night sky.

It is to show that amateurs across the country respect the activities of young observers, letting them know that amateur astronomy is a worthwhile avocation.

Entry Deadline: March 31

More details - <https://www.astroleague.org/astronomical-league-awards/>



ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

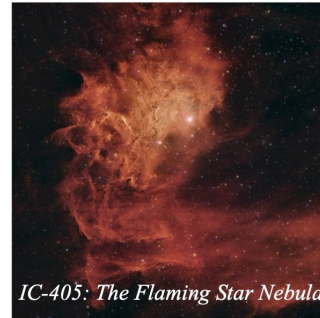
Williamina Fleming Imaging Award



The Williamina Fleming Imaging Award recognizes achievements in deep-sky, solar system, and wide-field astronomical imaging by female Astronomical League members who are 19 years of age or older.



NGC 6188: *The Fighting Dragons of Ara*



IC-405: *The Flaming Star Nebula*

2024 First Place Deep Sky (tie): Suzanne Beers, Colorado Springs Astronomical Society,
NGC 6188, The Fighting Dragons of Ara

2024 First Place Deep Sky (tie): Bonnie Ryder, Colorado Springs Astronomical Society,
IC-405, The Flaming Star Nebula

Award submissions will be made by emailing the entry form and image attachments to flemingaward@astroleague.org no later than April 30, 2025.

The award consists of a single category of astronomical imaging which may include atmospheric phenomena, deep sky imaging, solar system imaging, and wide-field imaging.

Note: Images submitted by professional astrophotographers or using professional observatory facilities will not be accepted. The term "professional astrophotographers" means persons whose astronomical Imaging produces income of \$2500 or more during the 12 months preceeding the submission deadline.

First, second, and third place plaques will be awarded at ALCon/ASTROCON, the Astronomical League's annual convention.

For more details on the Williamina Fleming Imaging Award Program,
see: <https://www.astroleague.org/williamina-fleming-imaging-award/>

The Astronomical League wishes to thank Explore Scientific for its generosity and vision in sponsoring this award program.

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10th Anniversary!



2025 Astronomical League Sketching Award Competition

Do you have an astronomical themed sketch that you'd like to share with others?

The deadline is approaching to submit entrees into the
2025 AL Sketching Award competition.

Deadline: March 31

For complete information:

<https://www.astroleague.org/astronomical-league-awards/>

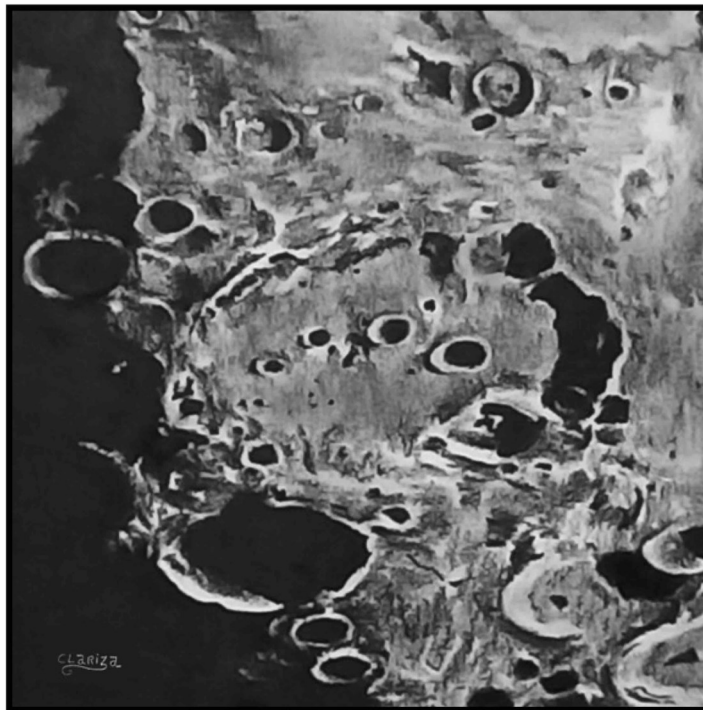
Submit entrees to: Sketch@astroleague.org

2024 First Place:

Clavius,

Clariza Kern,

Ponchatrain Astronomical Society



Remember: Deadline for entry: March 31

Special Notice Regarding the March 2025 Issue of the *Reflector*



As most of our readers probably have noticed in the last several years, the prices for many of the items we individually purchase have gone up considerably.

The printing industry has not been protected from these price increases. In fact, prices for printing paper and related expenses for the industry have increased even more dramatically than for other segments of the economy.

With all of these considerations, the League leadership has made the decision to change to a less expensive printer. Our new printing company will need ample time to set up the conversion between companies. Therefore, the **March 2025 issue of the *Reflector* will be published in digital format only. We should have the new printing vendor firmly in place to hopefully insure a smooth experience with the June 2025 *Reflector*, the first issue printed by the new company. Thanks for your understanding!**