

# **ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE**



## **BYLAWS and STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

**2025**

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# Astronomical League Bylaws

As Amended  
Effective September 1, 2025

## Preamble

The purposes of the Astronomical League (hereinafter referred to as the "League") shall be:

To promote the science of astronomy,  
To promote public education in astronomy,  
To encourage and coordinate activities of amateur astronomical societies,  
To foster observational and computational work and craftsmanship in the various fields of astronomy, and  
To provide a medium for correlating amateur activities with professional research.

## Article I. Members

### Section 1. Membership Criteria

All classes of membership in the League shall be contingent upon (a) acceptance of these Bylaws by the proper authority of the organization or by the individual, (b) approval by the League Council, and (c) payment to the League Treasurer of the prescribed fees and dues as specified in Standing Resolution #9 for the appropriate category of membership.

### Section 2. Membership Classes

Membership classes of the League shall be:

**a. Member Society** - Any club, society, or organization with a bona fide interest in astronomy and three (3) or more members may become a Member Society of the League.

**b. Member-at-Large** – Any individual with a bona fide interest in astronomy may become a Member-at-Large of the League.

**c. Youth Member-at-Large** – Any individual under the age of eighteen (18) with a bona fide interest in astronomy may become a Youth Member-at-Large of the League.

**d. Affiliate Member** - Any national or international company, corporation, manufacturer, society, or other organization with a bona fide interest in astronomy and a desire to lend financial support to the League may become an Affiliate Member of the League.

**e. Patron Member** - Any individual with a bona fide interest in astronomy and a desire to lend financial support to the League may become a Patron Member of the League.

**f. Honorary Member** - The title of Honorary Member of the League may be bestowed upon any person who has made a significant, sustained, or outstanding contribution to the League or the science of astronomy. It is granted only upon unanimous approval of the Council.

**g. Lifetime Member**- Any person with a bona fide interest in astronomy and a desire to lend financial support to the League at the dues level described in Standing Resolution 9 may become a Lifetime Member of the League.

### **Section 3. Privileges of Members**

All classes of membership are entitled to participate in League affairs, address the Council as specified in Article VIII, Section 2.c., attend national business meetings, and receive official notices and publications of the League:

**a. Member Societies** shall have these additional privileges:

1. The right to have one (1) vote at national conventions and in national elections and affairs and one (1) additional vote for each ten (10) members, or part thereof, in good standing beyond the first ten (10). Voting in national elections shall be as outlined in Article IV.
2. The right to be represented on the Regional Council of the region in which the society is located.
3. The right of members listed on the society's membership roster to hold national offices if at least 21 years of age or regional offices if at least 18 years of age and to serve on League committees.
4. The right to vote at League Business Meetings and the right to vote at regional conventions of the region in which the society is located as provided in Article IX.

**b. Members-at-Large** shall have these additional privileges:

1. The right to have one (1) vote at national conventions and in national elections and affairs. Voting in national elections shall be as outlined in Article IV.
2. The right to hold national offices if at least 21 years of age or regional offices if at least 18 years of age and to serve on League committees.
3. The right to vote at League Business Meetings and the right to vote at regional conventions of the region in which the member resides.

**c. Youth Members-at-Large** shall have the same additional privileges as Members-at-Large.

**d. Patron Members** shall have the same additional privileges as Members-at-Large.

**e. Lifetime Members** shall have the same additional privileges as Members-at-Large.

### **Section 4. Non-Exclusive Memberships**

Membership in any membership class set out in this Section 2 of this Article is non-exclusive, meaning that the member is free to join other membership classes for which the member is qualified and is entitled to the full voting privileges granted by each class as set out in Section 3 of this Article.

### **Section 5. Online Clubs**

Online or virtual clubs may not cast more votes in national elections and affairs than the number of votes accorded to a society of 500 members unless the online or virtual club charges total dues equal to at least four times the current League per-member rate charged to full membership Member Societies. This rule shall not apply to League members societies that normally hold regular in-person membership meetings, but, due to pandemics or other causes, cancel in-person meetings on a temporary basis.

## **Section 6. Membership Lists**

Membership lists, to include member's names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers, shall not be used for any commercial purpose nor be sold to or purchased by any person.

## **Section 7. Quorum**

A quorum of the membership for purposes of national voting shall consist of not less than 10 percent of all votes accorded to the membership. This is required by Missouri state law.

## **Section 8. ALCors**

**a. Designation.** To maximize the benefits of League membership, the League encourages each member society to designate an Astronomical League Correspondent ("ALCor").

**b. Duties.** The duties of the ALCor may include (a) provision of society membership roster updates to the League's National Office, ideally on a quarterly basis, (b) receipt and transmission to society members and officers of all communications from the League including, but not limited to, notices, announcements, and ballots, and (c) communication of society questions, concerns, suggestion, and requests to the League.

# **Article II. Officers**

## **Section 1. National Officers**

The national officers of the League shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Secretary (hereinafter referred to as "national officers"). All national officers must be at least 21 years of age. The national officers shall be members of the Council. The Council, described in Article III, may appoint such assistants to the national officers as are deemed necessary for the proper operation of their offices. These assistants shall serve such terms, and be removed from their positions when deemed necessary, as the Council decides.

## **Section 2. Executive Committee**

The national officers described in Section 1 of this Article shall constitute the Executive Committee of the League, hereinafter referred to as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Council, and with its full authority, on matters requiring Council action that arise at such times as the Council is not in Session. Members of the Executive Committee shall have one (1) vote each.

## **Section 3. Terms of Office**

The terms of office of the national officers shall be as follows:

**a.** The offices of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall be for two (2) years, with those of the President and Vice-President running concurrently. The Secretary's term shall begin in the interim year.

**b.** The offices of Treasurer and Executive Secretary shall be for three (3) years. The terms shall begin in successive years, with that of the Treasurer coming first.

c. National officers may not hold more than two (2) consecutive terms of office in the same executive position. For purposes of this subsection, appointment or succession to an office with more than one (1) year remaining in an unexpired term shall be regarded as a term of office.

d. Each term shall begin on September 1.

## **Section 4. Resignation.**

Officers may resign by delivering written notice to the Secretary or, in case of resignation of the Secretary, to the President.

## **Section 5. Removal**

a. A national officer may be removed from office without cause prior to completion of a term of office in accordance with MO Rev Stat 355 § 346 (2021).

## **Section 6. Simultaneous Offices**

a. No person may hold two national offices simultaneously. If a person is elected or appointed to, or succeeds to, a second national office while holding a first, that person will be deemed to have resigned from the first office upon commencing the second.

b. A Regional Chair or Representative may hold national office simultaneously but will be limited to one (1) vote on Council per Article III, Section 6.

## **Section 7. Duties**

The duties of the national officers shall include the following and such other duties as the Council may, from time to time, assign:

**a. The President** (i) shall be the chief executive officer of the League; (ii) shall have general charge and supervision of the business and affairs of the League, subject to the powers vested in the President by the Council; (iii) shall have the power to sign, execute and terminate all contracts, deeds, obligations, and other legal instruments in the name of the League as authorized by the Council; (iv) shall preside over Business, Council and Executive Committee meetings and shall have a vote on all issues; (v) may call special sessions of the Council or Executive Committee as prescribed in Article VIII; (vi) shall create, dissolve, and appoint and remove members of ad hoc committees; (vii) shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees except the Nominating Committee; (viii) shall appoint national officers to fill vacancies as provided in Article II, Section 8.b.; (ix) shall appoint Regional Chairs and Representatives to fill vacancies as provided in Article IX, Section 13.b.; (x) shall be responsible for national convention planning and for obtaining all required signatures on convention agreements as set out in Standing Resolution #2, subject to negotiated amendments thereto; and (xi) may, as the most recent living past-president, serve as an non-voting advisory member of Council until succeeded.

**b. The Vice-President** (i) shall assist the President in the discharge of presidential duties and perform them in the case of absence, death, disability, or resignation of the President; (ii) shall chair or, if a candidate for office, co-chair the Nominating Committee; (iii) shall chair national award committees delegated to the Vice-President by the President or by Standing Resolution of the Council; (iv) shall promote the presentation of annual awards in each League region; and (v) shall serve as ex-officio member on all League award committees.

**c. The Secretary** (i) shall record and preserve the minutes of the Council, Executive Committee, and Business meetings and distribute these minutes within sixty (60) days following said meetings to the Council and to the League Webmaster for posting online; (ii) shall provide a summary of the Council and Business meetings in the next edition of the League publication and shall make additional copies of the

minutes available to members of the League upon request; (iii) shall make available five (5) copies of the current Bylaws and Standing Resolutions for use and reference during the Council meeting; (iv) shall issue notices of Council and Executive Committee Meetings; (v) shall announce to the Executive Committee any called meeting to be conducted in person, virtually or by electronic means and transmit to the Executive Committee the results of any voting conducted by electronic means; and (vi) shall file with the Secretary of State of Missouri the annual corporate report due on August 31 of each year if filing annually or due by August 31 of each even-numbered year if filing biennially.

**d. The Treasurer** (i) shall receive all dues and other funds due the League and shall keep proper books of account of all monetary transactions; (ii) shall place the funds in a repository approved by the Council and shall present an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the League to the Council at the annual Council meeting and to the Executive Committee when requested but at least quarterly; (iii) shall pay all legal obligations of the League unless instructed otherwise by the President or Council; (iv) shall be bonded if requested by Council; (v) shall conduct audits of League Sales, League regions, and League-owned property when requested; (vi) shall maintain an accurate and up-to-date inventory of all League property; (vii) shall annually prepare IRS form 990 in time to meet the required IRS deadline; and (viii) shall serve as Trustee and Treasurer of the League Trust Fund

**e. The Executive Secretary** (i) shall oversee the national headquarters of the League; (ii) shall annually review the hourly rate and expense reimbursement rates of all employed staff members; (iii) shall work with the National Office Manager, the Treasurer, and a correspondent from each member society to maintain an up-to-date membership roster; (iv) shall manage the election process of national officers in accordance with Article IV, Sections 2d and 3, unless a candidate for national office; (v), shall assist in the process of removal of a Regional Chair or Representative in accordance with Article IX, Section 12; (vi) shall serve as Secretary *pro-tempore* if the Secretary is unable to serve and until the Secretary is able to resume duties or until a new Secretary is appointed or elected; and (vii) shall manage voting regarding adoption of proposed amendments to the Bylaws in accordance with Article XII, Section 3.

## **Section 8. Succession and Appointment**

**a.** In the event of the death, resignation, removal, or disability of the President, the order of succession shall be Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Secretary.

**b.** In the event of the death, resignation, removal, or disability of an executive officer other than the President, the President may appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term with the consent of a majority of the entire Executive Committee.

**c.** If two or more executive offices other than the President must be filled under Section 5b of this Article, the unfilled offices shall be filled by Council.

## **Article III. Council**

### **Section 1. Function**

The Council serves as the League's board of directors. The affairs of the League shall be managed by the Council as provided for in these Bylaws and in the Standing Resolutions which Article III, Section 8, prescribes.

### **Section 2. Membership**

The Council shall consist of: (a) the Chair of each Region, (b) the Regional Representative of each Region, (c) the Executive Committee, and (d) the most recent living past-president as provided for in Article II, Section 7.a.(xi).

### **Section 3. Membership Requirements**

Council members must be League members in good standing and at least 18 years of age.

### **Section 4. Quorum.**

The presence of two-fifths (2/5) of the members of the Council, not counting the immediate living past-president, shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least three (3) regions are represented.

### **Section 5. Voting**

In order to pass any resolution, motion, appropriations, or any other matter requiring action in a Council session, a majority vote of the members present shall be necessary except for matters requiring a larger vote as provided for in these Bylaws or by statutory or common law.

### **Section 6. One Person-One Vote**

The League adopts the One Person-One Vote rule set out in Robert's Rules of Order with respect to voting on Council. No person may cast more than one (1) vote at Council even if that person holds more than one office each of which, alone, would entitle that person to a vote. This vote shall be in addition to a proxy vote held under Section 7 of this Article.

### **Section 7. Proxy Voting**

Council members, other than the President, who are unable to attend the Council meeting, may be represented by proxy. A written statement designating the substitute and signed by the respective Council member, is necessary before the proxy may be seated. The Regional Chair may also assign the proxy for an absent regional Representative. Proxies may not be assigned by a proxy holder. No person may vote more than one (1) proxy at Council. Proxy holders are subject to the fiduciary obligations of Council members. Proxies must be delivered to the Secretary in writing or by electronic means.

### **Section 8. Operating Procedures**

Standard operating procedures of the League or its activities shall be defined by Standing Resolutions:

- a.** Standing Resolutions shall be passed by the full Council when and only when it is in open session at a national convention or when meeting virtually if no in-person convention is held.
- b.** No Standing Resolution shall be adopted that conflicts with these Bylaws.
- c.** Standing Resolutions shall be in force from the time they are passed until they are revoked by the full Council in open session at a national convention or when meeting virtually if no in-person convention is held.
- d.** The Bylaws and Standing Resolutions notebook shall be the property of the League and at least one per Council Member shall be made available by the Secretary at each national convention.

### **Section 9. National Office (HQ)**

The League operates a National Office (headquarters), and the Council or Executive Committee may hire consultants or employees as needed and as finances allow. The duties of any consultants or employees will be described in Standing Resolutions. The paid National Office staff will be supervised by the Executive Secretary.

## **Article IV. Elections**

### **Section 1. Voting**

- a.** The officers of the League shall be elected by a plurality vote cast on official ballots mailed or transmitted electronically to all members.
- b.** If no nominees are identified on the mailed or electronically transmitted ballots for a particular office up for election, election to that office shall be decided by a majority vote of Council at the annual Council meeting, or, if the convention is canceled, at a virtual meeting of Council.
- c.** In the unlikely event of a tie on the mailed or electronically transmitted ballots, the tie shall be broken by a majority vote of Council at the annual Council meeting or, if the convention is canceled, at a virtual meeting of Council.

### **Section 2. Nominating Committee**

- a.** The Vice-President shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee which may include, but not be limited to, the Regional Representatives from as many Regions as possible. The Chair shall issue, through the medium of the League's publication, a call for nominations at least six (6) months prior to the national convention at which the election results will be announced. If the Vice-President wishes to be a candidate, the President shall appoint a Co-Chair.
- b.** The deadline for receiving nominations shall be March 31 or three (3) months before the annual convention, whichever is earlier (the "Ballot Nomination Deadline").
- c.** The Nominating Committee, in its discretion, shall have 15 days after the Ballot Nomination Deadline in which to secure nominations, or additional nominations, for any office for inclusion on the mail ballots.
- d.** At the expiration of the 15-day period set out in Section 2c, above, the Nominating Committee Chair or Co-Chair shall report the nominees for each office to the President and the Executive Secretary.

### **Section 3. Ballots**

- a.** The Executive Secretary (or a non-candidate national officer if the Executive Secretary is a candidate) shall direct the National Office Manager to submit to each member a mailed or electronically transmitted ballot, along with biographical data on each candidate, by May 31 or two (2) months before the annual convention, whichever is earlier. The ballot shall instruct members regarding voting procedures. Any cover letter accompanying the ballots shall be signed by the National Office Manager.
- b.** The National Office Manager shall review the number of members in each member society and determine each society's weighted club vote pursuant to Article I, Section 3.a (1).
- c.** The ballot shall make provision for write-ins for any office for which there is at least one (1) nominee on the ballot.
- d.** If there is no nominee on the ballot for a particular office, no provision shall be made for write-ins for that office, and the ballot shall contain a notice that the office will be filled at the annual Council meeting.
- e.** Candidates' names shall appear on the ballots as reasonably directed by the candidates but without prefixes (Mr., Dr., Fr. etc.) and without professional suffixes (PhD, MS, MD, DDS etc.). Prefixes and suffixes or descriptions may be included in candidates' bios. Candidates' names shall be listed on the ballots in alphabetical order by last name with no indication of incumbency.

## **Section 4. Election Procedure**

- a.** Ballots shall be counted by a National Office staff member assigned by the National Office Manager prior to the convention and shall be counted again before the annual Council meeting by the Nominating Committee Chair (or by the Co-Chair if the Chair is a candidate) in the presence of two additional League members who are not League officers or candidates for office.
- b.** Results of the election shall be reported by the Nominating Committee Chair (or by the Co-Chair if the Chair is a candidate) to Council at the annual Council meeting.
- c.** If two or more candidates are tied for the highest number of votes on the ballots, the tie shall be broken by a majority vote of Council.
- d.** In the event of the death, disability, or declination to serve of the only candidate for an office on the ballot or of the winning candidate for an office on the ballot, the office will be filled by a majority vote of Council at the annual Council meeting.
- e.** If an election to national office is to be conducted by Council pursuant to Sections 3(d) or 4(d) of this Article, (1) notice shall be given to the membership, either on the ballot or on the League website, that any member may nominate someone for consideration by Council by contacting the Executive Secretary prior to the scheduled date of the annual Council meeting, and (2) Council members may nominate additional candidates for consideration at the annual Council meeting.
- f.** In the event of the death, disability, or declination to serve of the officer-elect occurring after the annual Council meeting, the office will be deemed vacant on September 1 and will be filled pursuant to the succession and appointment provisions set out in Article II, Section 8.
- g.** The mail ballots or electronic ballot files shall be retained by the National Office Manager for sixty (60) days after announcement of election results at the annual Business Meeting and may then be destroyed or deleted provided that the election results have not been challenged under Article IV, Section 5.

## **Section 5. Election Misconduct**

- a.** Members shall not engage in activity that (i) implies League endorsement of any candidate for League office or (ii) implies League endorsement of any policy that has not been approved by Council. Activities that imply League endorsement include, but are not limited to, (a) statements that the League endorses a candidate or policy and (b) the use of League funds, League logos, or League letterhead for these purposes. Groups or committees may be formed around genuine policy differences or for the support of specific candidates so long as no official League endorsement is made or implied. Members of Council shall not endorse any candidate for League office but may endorse and promote any League policy approved by Council.
- b.** Any member may challenge election results on any of the following grounds: (1) alleged irregularity in the tabulation of votes, (2) alleged violation of the election procedures outlined in Article IV, or (3) alleged misconduct in violation of Article IV, Section 5a. Such a challenge shall be filed by registered postal mail and must be received by the National Office within sixty (60) days of the announcement of the election results.
- c.** In the event of a challenge, Council, meeting in person or virtually, shall decide within sixty (60) days after such challenge what parts, if any, of the election results should be considered invalid. Offices that are the subject of an election challenge shall be filled by the winner of the election as determined by Council or, if no winner is determined, by the succession and appointment provisions Article II, Section 8.

## **Article V. Dues**

### **Section 1. Dues Renewal**

All dues are renewable by June 30 of each year. Any member whose dues are not paid by June 30 of the year when billed will be considered delinquent.

### **Section 2. Termination**

The membership and privileges of any person who is delinquent in payment of dues may be terminated in accordance with procedures established by Council in Standing Resolution #9. The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may suspend mailing of publications to delinquent members.

### **Section 3. Dues Rates**

Dues and fees for all classes of membership shall be periodically reviewed and fixed by the Council. Current dues rates shall be recorded as amendments to Standing Resolution #9.

## **Article VI. National Conventions**

### **Section 1. Convention Scheduling**

A national convention shall be held each year at a time and place designated by the majority vote of Council, or of the Executive Committee if Council is not in session, with prior notice to the highest officer of any member society or entity that has expressed interest in hosting the convention under consideration. Conventions may be canceled for reasons of pandemic or other exigent circumstances.

### **Section 2. Convention Hosts**

The national convention shall be hosted and conducted by one or more League committees or groups or by member societies after the adoption of the Convention Agreement in Standing Resolution #2 or as otherwise negotiated by the parties. The League may share profits from the convention with a host society or groups in a proportion approved by the Council, but in no case shall the League receive less than fifteen (15) percent of net profits. Losses will be shared on the same basis.

### **Section 3. Registration Fees**

The registration fees for the national conventions may be tentatively set by the convention host and shall be approved in advance of the convention each year by the Council or the Executive Committee. The registration fee will be distributed as outlined in Standing Resolution 2 (Convention Agreement), paragraph 6.

### **Section 4. Council and Business Meetings**

Provision will be made at the national convention for the annual Council and Business Meetings of the League as outlined in Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2, and in Standing Resolution 2, paragraph 1.

### **Section 5. Joint Conventions**

The Executive Committee may approve the participation of other organizations at its conventions.

## **Section 6. Convention Oversight**

The President shall appoint a committee chaired by the President or other appointee to maintain oversight of convention planning and finances. The Council shall be the final authority in resolving questions or disputes concerning the conduct of national conventions.

## **Article VII. Committees**

### **Section 1. Standing Committees**

Standing Committees of the League shall include all committees and activity/service sections that are expressly created by operation of League Bylaws and Standing Resolutions. Standing Committees shall include the League's regions but shall not include League award programs for which no award committee is expressly created by operation of League Bylaws or Standing Resolutions.

### **Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees**

Ad Hoc Committees of the League shall include all committees that are created by the President from time to time to effectuate the purposes of the League and that are not expressly created by operation of League Bylaws or Standing Resolutions.

### **Section 3. Creation and Dissolution of Committees**

- a. Standing Committees may be created or dissolved by amendment of League Bylaws or Standing Resolutions, as appropriate.
- b. Ad Hoc Committees may be created or dissolved at the discretion of the League President.

### **Section 4. Appointment and Removal**

- a. Members of Standing Committees may be appointed or removed by majority vote of Council unless other procedures are established in the Bylaws or Standing Resolutions that created the Standing Committees. This provision does not apply to League regions that are subject to the appointment and removal provisions of Article IX, Sections 12 and 13.
- b. Members of Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed or removed at the discretion of the President.

### **Section 5. Committee Reports**

By June 30 of each year, all Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall submit to the League Secretary a report on committee activities and submit to the Treasurer a report on committee finances and projected budget.

## **Article VIII. Meetings**

### **Section 1. Business Meetings**

The League Business Meeting shall be held annually at the place of, and during the period of, the national convention. The exact time and place will be stipulated by the Executive Committee. Twenty (20) delegates shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least five (5) Member Societies are present. Voting on ordinary business motions at the Business Meeting shall be by majority vote of those in attendance.

Ordinary business motions shall not include elections of Trust Fund Trustees or any matter for which an alternative decision process is set out in these Bylaws or Standing Resolutions.

## **Section 2. Council Meetings**

**a.** The Council shall be in regular session during the period of, and at the place of, the national convention. The President shall fix the time of such meeting with sufficient notice so that the Secretary can and will transmit this information to Council members at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention. During this session, the Secretary shall, in accordance with Article II, Section 7.c (iii), submit the minutes of any Executive Committee or Council session held since the last national convention.

**b.** Council meetings may be called by the President, by majority vote of the Executive Committee, or by petition of one-fifth (1/5) of the Council members then serving.

**c.** Any member may have business brought before the Council in regular session by petitioning, either orally, by electronic means, or by postal mail, a Council member from the region in which the member resides. If said Council member deems it necessary, the member(s) with business before the Council may then address the group directly, subject to Council approval. Proposals or issues to be brought before the Council or Executive Committee for action between national conventions shall be submitted to the President by mail or by electronic means.

**d.** The Council may hold additional meetings or conduct business virtually or by electronic means. Council members must be notified by electronic means at least one (1) week in advance of any proposed virtual meeting or electronic exchange involving voting unless emergency circumstances require shorter notice.

## **Section 3. Executive Committee Meetings**

**a.** The Executive Committee shall meet at the place of, and during the time of, the scheduled regular session of the Council until such time as a quorum of Council members is present. The presence of three (3) of its members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

**b.** The Executive Committee may hold additional meetings or conduct business virtually or by electronic means if requested by the President or by petition to the President by a majority of the Executive Committee. Executive Committee members must be notified by electronic means at least two (2) days in advance of any proposed virtual meeting or electronic exchange involving voting unless emergency circumstances require shorter notice.

## **Section 4. Rules of Procedure**

The parliamentary rules of procedure for all League meetings shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless different rules of procedure have been established by these Bylaws. The President or a presidential appointee shall serve as parliamentarian for interpretation and administration of these rules.

# **Article IX. Regions and Regional Activities**

## **Section 1. Establishment**

Regions shall be established by the Council in Standing Resolution 13 and shall constitute Standing Committees of the League.

## **Section 2. Regional Council**

A Regional Council shall conduct the business and administer the affairs of each Region and shall perform such other duties as prescribed by itself. Such Council shall consist of the Regional officers, the Regional Representative, the president (or president's proxy) from each member society in the region, and one representative of the Members-at-Large within the Region.

## **Section 3. Regional Officers**

The Regional Officers shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and/or Treasurer. Regional officers may also include the Regional Representative if Regional Bylaws so provide. The Regional Officers shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Regional Council, and with its full authority, on all matters other than the election of Regional officers that may require attention when the Regional Council is not in session.

## **Section 4. Regional Representatives**

a. Each region shall elect a Regional Representative to a three (3) year term on the League Council as provided for in Article III, Section 2, and Article IX, Sections 3 and 5.

## **Section 5. Regional Representation on Council**

Each region shall be represented on Council by the Regional Chair and the Regional Representative upon their election to said positions or upon their appointment to Council membership pursuant to Article IX, Section 13b.

## **Section 6. Simultaneous Offices**

No person may hold the offices of Regional Chair and Regional Representative simultaneously. If a person is elected or appointed to, or succeeds to, a second such position while holding a first, that person will be deemed to have resigned the first office upon commencing the second.

## **Section 7. Regional Elections**

Elections for Regional Officers shall be held in each region every three (3) years unless a shorter period is specified in Regional Bylaws. Elections may be conducted among League members voting at a Regional Convention or designated event of the Region's choosing, or if none is held, among Regional Council members voting at a meeting of the Regional Council. If regional elections are not held for Regional Chair or Regional Representative every three (3) years as required by this section, they may continue to serve until an election is held or until a successor qualifies or is appointed by the President.

## **Section 8. Regional Conventions**

Regional Convention may be held annually in each Region and shall be conducted by one or more societies or groups of members within that Region at a time and place designated by (a) business meeting attendees at a prior Regional Convention, (b) the Regional Council, or (c) a majority vote of the Regional Officers. Regional conventions may also be held virtually.

## **Section 9. Regional Meetings**

A Regional Council Meeting and a Regional Business Meeting may be held annually at the Regional Convention. Provision shall be made for the Regional Council to meet virtually and/or to vote on matters by electronic means if no Regional Convention is held.

## **Section 10. Regional Voting**

In order to pass any resolution, motion, appropriation, or other matter requiring action in a Regional Business Meeting, a Regional Council Meeting, or a meeting of the Regional Officers, a majority vote of the members present shall be necessary except for matters requiring a larger vote as provided for in the Regional Bylaws.

## **Section 11. Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance shall be available to the individual regions according to the rules set forth in Standing Resolution #3.

## **Section 12. Removal**

- a.** An elected Regional Chair or Representative may be removed from office without cause prior to completion of a term of office in accordance with MO Rev Stat 355 § 346 (2021).
- b.** A Regional Chair or Representative appointed by the President may be removed without cause prior to completion of a term of office by the appointing authority, i.e. the President or the Council, upon the giving of written or electronic notice to the appointee.

## **Section 13. Appointment / Election Assistance**

- a.** A Regional Chair or Representative who, in the view of the Executive Committee, remains inactive for a period of three (3) years will be deemed to have resigned. For purposes of this section, the term “inactive” shall mean that an individual did not participate, in person or by proxy, in live or virtual Council meetings.
- b.** If elections for Regional Chair and/or Regional Representative are not conducted as prescribed by Article IX, Section 7, of these Bylaws, if a Regional Chair or Representative resigns or is deemed to have resigned under Article IX, Section 13.a., above, or if a Regional Chair or Representative position is otherwise vacant, the President may (1) appoint a Regional Chair and/or Representative to serve until the next Regional election and/or (2) direct the League Secretary to assist the Region in soliciting nominations and in financing and conducting elections in that Region.

## **Section 14. Regional Reports**

By June 30 of each year, Regional Chairs shall submit to the League Secretary a report on committee activities and submit to the Treasurer a report on committee finances and projected budget.

# **Article X. Property and Financial**

## **Section 1. Property**

The League may acquire and hold property of any description, real or personal, by gift, purchase, or otherwise.

## **Section 2. Non-Profit Status**

The League shall be a not-for-profit organization in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Donations of material, real or personal, and monetary gifts and contributions may therefore be tax deductible.

### **Section 3. Corporate Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, referred to in these Bylaws as the League, the Council shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all corporate liabilities, dispose of all corporate assets exclusively to such tax-exempt organization(s) operated for educational and/or scientific purposes as the Council may determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the courts of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such organizations or purposes of an educational or scientific nature, as said courts shall determine.

### **Section 4. Mailing Lists**

There shall be no commercial use of the League's mailing list except for League business.

### **Section 5. Contracts**

Only authorized persons may enter contracts for services or otherwise commit the League to financial or other legal obligations. Authorized persons include League officers, Regional Chairs, national convention chairs, and other persons who are authorized by the President, in writing or by electronic means, for specific purposes. Authorized persons, however, may not enter single contracts in any amount exceeding \$1,000, or multiple contracts exceeding \$2,000 in the aggregate relating to any single activity or event, without the prior approval of the President. Any authorized or non-authorized person violating any part of this section will be exceeding the scope of that person's authority and may be held liable for any losses incurred by the League.

### **Section 6. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall be consistent with the tax reporting year and shall be July 1 to June 30.

### **Section 7. Availability of Statements**

Financial statements shall be made available to members upon written request in accordance with state law.

## **Article XI. The Trust Fund**

### **Section 1. Establishment**

A Trust Fund shall exist with funds donated to the Trust Fund or designated by Council to be placed in said Trust Fund. Subject to the terms of any legal trust agreement or the requirements of applicable state law, the following terms shall apply:

### **Section 2. Use of Principal and Earnings**

(a) The Trust Fund principal, by rule, shall remain inviolate, but this rule may be waived under the following conditions: (a) critical functions of the League are endangered, (2) the League cannot pay legal costs or meet legal obligations, and/or (3) expenditure of principal is necessary to preserve the League's non-profit status. A 3/4ths (75%) majority of Council and at least 4 of 5 Trustees must approve waiver of this rule.

(b) Trust Fund earnings may be used or earmarked for use by Council or the Executive Committee if Council is not in session for any purpose consistent with the League's Section 501(c)(3) obligations. Earnings not used or earmarked for use by Council or the Executive Committee within one year after the

end of the fiscal year in which the earnings are realized may be reinvested in Trust Fund principal at the discretion of the Trustees.

### **Section 3. Trustees**

The Trust Fund shall be administered, in a manner consistent with Standing Resolution #1, by five (5) trustees who shall include (a) the League Treasurer who shall serve as Treasurer of the Trust Fund for the duration of the Treasurer's term of office and (b) four (4) additional Trustees appointed by Council for terms designated by Standing Resolution #1. National officers may not hold more than two Trustee positions simultaneously. Council may require Trustees to be bonded.

### **Section 4. Trustee Voting**

All decisions regarding the use or handling of the Trust Fund shall be by majority vote of the Trustees except for decisions regarding expenditure of principal under Section 2 of this Article.

### **Section 5. Removal**

Removal of a Trustee may be initiated by a majority vote of Council. A Trustee may be removed from office, without cause, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council, provided that notice to remove said person shall have been given by mail or electronic means to said person and to Council not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of consideration of removal. Unless otherwise required by law, debate and voting on removal shall take place in executive session, meaning that only Council members as defined in Article III, Section 2, may attend. Voting may take place in person, virtually, or by electronic means.

## **Article XII. Amendments**

### **Section 1. Proposals**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by Council resolution, by Regional Council resolution, by petition of three (3) or more Member Societies, by petition of five (5) or more Patron members, or by petition of five (5) or more Members-at-Large.

### **Section 2. Voting**

A proposed amendment shall be distributed to each Member Society and to all other members who shall have the number of votes provided for in Article I, Section 3.

### **Section 3. Adoption**

Two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the members shall be required for adoption of a proposed amendment. To be valid, these votes must reach the office of the Executive Secretary within the time specified by the Council in the amendment notice, but in no case later than four (4) months after the distribution date of said amendment.

## **Article XIII. Ratification**

These Bylaws will be ratified upon acceptance by two-thirds (2/3) of all voting members of the League, within four (4) months of its distribution. Upon ratification, these Bylaws shall take effect on September 1,

2023, superseding all previous documents including prior versions of Standing Resolutions #1 through #17, and they shall not be retroactive.

# **Astronomical League Standing Resolutions**

As Amended  
Effective June 24, 2025

## **Standing Resolution #1: Trust Fund Procedures**

Rewritten and approved by Council 7/22/1989, at Cheney, WA; Amended 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; 7/27/2022 at Albuquerque, NM; 7/17/2024 at Overland Park, KS.

The Astronomical League Trust Fund, herein called the ALTF, shall be administered according to the following procedures, subject to the terms of any legal trust agreement and state law:

1. The affairs of the ALTF shall be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of the League Treasurer and four (4) persons elected by the Astronomical League Council. No more than two national officers may serve as Trustees simultaneously. Vacancies arising from retirement or other causes may be filled by Council at any time by electronic balloting or at the next annual meeting following the vacancy.
2. Trustees other than the League Treasurer shall serve for four (4) year terms, to be re-elected by Council or replaced as Council sees fit after each term. Trustees may be removed by Council pursuant to Article XI, Section 5, of the Bylaws. Trustees' terms begin September 1, and Trustees may be removed from office at any time in accordance with the Bylaws under Article II, Section 3.e.
3. The League Treasurer shall serve as ALTF Treasurer and shall maintain ALTF accounts as directed by majority decision of the Trustees. The responsibilities of the ALTF Treasurer are:
  - a. To make prudent investments, based on reliable financial advice, so as to produce maximum income but retaining a sufficient amount in a savings account to meet anticipated annual disbursements.
  - b. Make all disbursements countersigned by another of the Trustees in accordance with paragraph 5.
- d. Submit a written description of the use of ALTF funds to the REFLECTOR according to paragraph 5.
4. Council, or the Astronomical League Executive Committee if Council is not in session, may use all or part of the annual earnings accrued from the principal of the ALTF for the furtherance of League projects consistent with the League's Section 501(c)(3) obligations. Such purposes include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Improved program materials to member societies.
  - b. Materials to promote new and existing member societies.
  - c. Reasonable expenses to increase the effectiveness of member societies and the ALTF.

- d. Support of League award programs.
  - e. Support of critical League publications and media functions.
  - f. The cost of audits of the League Treasury, the ALTF, and League Sales.
5. It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to determine the use of these earnings and to make such uses known to the ALTF Trustees for their comments and suggestions. A majority of both the Executive Committee and the Trustees will determine if the proposed use of the ALTF earnings is proper. In the event of a tie vote, a simple majority of Council members polled by the Executive Committee will approve or disapprove the proposed use of such funds. The ALTF Treasurer shall disperse the funds as directed. The ALTF Treasurer will make sure this allocation of the ALTF earnings receives proper publicity in the REFLECTOR in cooperation with the League President and Publications Chair.
6. The duties of the Trustees are:
- a. To promote the acquisition of funds from both inside and outside the League to increase the principal of the ALTF.
  - b. To assist the Executive Committee in insuring that the very best use of the earnings is being made in pursuit of legitimate League goals.
  - c. To administer the handling or sale of any real property and/or items donated to the ALTF. Items to be sold will be deposited in the ALTF as a part of the principal.
7. The ALTF Treasurer will submit an annual financial report to the Council at the annual convention. If no national convention is held, the ALTF financial report shall be filed with the Council by August 1.
8. The principal will be inviolate except under conditions specified in Article XI, Section 2, of the Bylaws.

## **Standing Resolution #2: Astronomical League Convention Agreement**

Enacted 8/17/1976, at Kutztown PA; Amended 8/17/1976, at Portland OR; 7/30/1983, at Jacksonville, FL; 7/25/1989, at Spokane, WA; 7/14/1992, at San Jose, CA; 7/28/1993, at Madison, WI; 7/1/97, at Copper Mountain, CO; 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; 7/18/2000, at Ventura, CA; 7/27/2022, at Albuquerque, NM; 6/24/2025 at Bryce Canyon, UT.

### **Astronomical League Convention Agreement**

This convention agreement is entered into by and between the Astronomical League (the "League") and the \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Host"), collectively the "Parties," with respect to the conduct of the \_\_\_\_\_ (year) Astronomical League national convention (the "Convention").

1. The Parties agree that the Host has been authorized by the League Council to organize and conduct, on behalf of the League, the Convention.
2. The Parties agree and understand that the dates of the Convention, the Convention venue(s), all contracts with hotels, venues, and other providers, and any significant speaker fees or costs must be approved in advance by the League.
3. The League agrees that, if requested, it will advance funds not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) as a loan to the Host for initial actions of the Convention.

4. The League will promote the Convention in Reflector, on the League's website, in What's Up with the Astronomical League, in League and League region social media, and during live-streamed programming hosted or co-hosted by the League.

5. The League agrees that, if needed, the League will provide Ticket Tailor or similar services for online registration and can process mail-in registrations through the League national office, both at its own cost.

6. The League agrees that, if needed, it will aid in the creation of a Convention logo.

7. The Host agrees to provide the following:

a. Adequate and suitable space for meetings of at least 250 people.

b. Adequate and suitable space for the League Council Meeting attended by up to thirty (30) people and provision that the meeting may begin as early as the day prior to the convention and may last until midnight.

c. Adequate and suitable space for the League Business Meeting which shall be part of the regular program schedule and which shall (1) be acceptable to the ad hoc committee called for in paragraph 17 of this Agreement and (2) not in conflict with other speakers or workshops.

d. A large, suitable space for vendors and/or exhibits that can be secured when not staffed and whose contents will be under the control of the League and/or the Host.

e. Necessary and adequate audiovisual and public address equipment to be operated by the Host or its contractor.

f. A registration/information desk to be operated throughout the Convention by Host-procured volunteers.

g. Adequate and suitable housing for attendees.

h. Facility for both online or mail-in registrations if not arranged by the League as provided in paragraph 5 of this Agreement.

i. A convention logo that does not contain copyrighted or trademarked art, logos, or images.

j. Assurance that all speakers will be advised not to incorporate copyrighted material in their presentations without required attribution or permission of the copyright or trademark holder.

8. The Host agrees to promote the Convention in its publications, on its website, and on its social media if available.

9. The Host agrees to provide the League with a brief post-Convention summary. The summary shall consist of a copy of the Convention program and a one or two-page Convention summary to include attendance figures and interesting events not otherwise reflected in the Convention program. This summary shall be submitted to the League Secretary and to the League Historian withing sixty (60) days after the closing of the Convention.

10. The Host agrees to obtain event liability insurance of at least one-million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the Convention and shall add the Astronomical League, Inc. as a named insured on such policy. Venues may also require addition as named insureds.

11. The Host agrees that it will not arrange or provide transportation during the Convention unless said transportation is secured by written agreement with a licensed and insured commercial or public transportation provider.

12. The Host agrees that all financial transactions related to the Convention shall be handled through a separate checking account to be opened by the League or the Host and that funds in that account shall not be commingled with other League or Host funds.

13. The Host agrees to provide a detailed financial accounting of all Convention receipts and expenses to the League Treasurer within thirty (30) days after the closing of the Convention.

14. Registration fees will be determined by the Host with the approval of the ad hoc committee called for in paragraph 17 of this Agreement.

15. The net profits of the Convention, after repayment of any loan made under paragraph 3 above, shall be distributed as follows: forty (40) percent to the Host society; twenty (20) percent to the Host region; forty (40) percent to the League. In the event of a joint convention sponsored by another organization and the League, a different distribution of net profits may be negotiated with the approval of the Executive Committee. Any losses incurred by the convention shall be shared in the same proportion, i.e. forty (40) percent by the Host and sixty (60) percent by the League.

16. Participation in the Convention by other organizations must be approved by the ad hoc committee called for in paragraph 17 of this Agreement.

17. Pursuant to Article VI, Section 6 and Article II, Section 8.a.(x) of the League Bylaws and Standing Resolution 21, a Convention Planning Committee shall have the right to advise the Host with respect to the operation and planning of the Convention and to review and approve major expenditures associated with the Convention. The committee shall consist of the League President and the following additional members: \_\_\_\_\_

This Convention Agreement is entered into by and between the undersigned authorized representatives of the Host and the League on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Host)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Astronomical League, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Standing Resolution #3: Guidelines for Regional Assistance**

Enacted 8/9/1977, at Boulder, CO; Amended 8/4/1990, at St. Louis, MO; 8/16/1991, at Amherst, MA

1. Whereas a modest, regular source of income is necessary to enable Regions to develop and conduct programs on behalf of the League, and Whereas, active Regions can, and do, affect membership growth, provide personal help to members and individuals, and foster communication across and between the various structural levels of the League, therefore there will be a line item in the League's annual budget for regional financial assistance.

2. Regions must submit their requests to the Treasurer.

3. Each Region submitting a request shall:

- a. Include a financial report, stating at least income, expenditures, and cash balance, for the preceding fiscal year.
  - b. Include a proposed program(s) and budget.
  - c. Agree to provide at least twenty-five (25%) percent of the proposed expenditure.
4. Requests will be reviewed by a Presidentially appointed screening committee including the League Treasurer. The committee will recommend to the Council action on each request submitted.

## **Standing Resolution #4: Financial Management**

Enacted 8/9/1977, at Boulder, CO; Amended 8/15/1979, at Portland, OR; 7/2/1980, at Dallas, TX; 7/14/1992, at San Jose, CA; 7/27/2022 at Albuquerque, NM.

1. Audit - The President shall appoint a committee which shall be empowered to audit all of the accounts of the Astronomical League, including the League Treasury, League Sales, the League Trust Fund, all League Regions, and League service organizations and committees maintaining property or financial accounts. The committee shall issue a report to Council at the annual convention covering the general treasury and covering all other accounts at least each three (3) years or by petition by the number of members required to initiate a Bylaws change.

2. Service Organizations - In order to provide services to League members, the following Service Organizations are authorized:

- The Sales Service
- The Subscription Service
- The Educational Materials Committee
- The Program Materials Committee
- The Publications Committee

Each Service Organization is authorized to set up its own bank account for the transaction of business. The numbers and locations of such accounts will be on file with the Treasurer, who will be authorized to withdraw funds from or close any such account. Each Service Organization and Committee shall submit an annual report of its financial transactions to the League Treasurer in addition to other reports, if requested. The summary of the annual report of each Service Organization or Committee shall be included in the Treasurer's annual financial report.

3. Investment Income - It shall be the policy of the Astronomical League to maintain the minimum amount of money required for the efficient transactions of business in non-interest-bearing accounts.

4. Regions - Each Region shall submit an annual financial report to the League Treasurer by June 30, the end of the League's fiscal year. The report shall include balances at the beginning and end of the period, income and expenditures. This report shall be included in the Treasurer's annual financial report.

5. Budget - Expenditures from each line item in the budget shall be approved by the appropriate officer or committee chair before being paid by the Treasurer. Authority to exceed the budgeted line item must be secured from the President before expenditures are authorized or made. Authority to exceed the authorized budget must be secured from Council. It is the usual practice to pay for all out-of-pocket expenses approved by an officer or committee chair under the budget upon submission of receipts, but in the case of major approved expenditures or extenuating circumstances, the bill may be submitted directly to the Treasurer for payment or expense advances, not to exceed one hundred (\$100.00) dollars. A full accounting of all advances is required.

## **Standing Resolution #5: The Astronomical League Award**

Enacted 8/9/1977, at Boulder, CO; Amended 8/15/1979, at Portland, OR; 7/30/1983, at Jacksonville, FL; 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; 7/17/2024, at Overland Park, KS; 6/24/2025 at Bryce Canyon, UT.

1. The Astronomical League Award is presented to any person(s), either amateur or professional, who has made worthwhile contributions to the science of astronomy on a national or international level. This award shall not be presented to any current officer of the League (until they are out of office for one year) or to any current member of the award committee.
2. The award committee shall consist of the current president and the two most recent past presidents who are living and able to participate in committee deliberations. The award recipient must receive no negative votes.
3. Nominations must be made in writing to the League President and contain the nominator's affiliation with the League (not necessary to receive the award) and the reasons the nominee should be considered for the award. It must be received at least four (4) months before the national convention. Announcements shall be made annually.
4. The award need not be given every year. It may be given to more than one person, and more than one award may be given in a year. The award may be posthumous.
5. The award shall be presented at the banquet held at the national convention, or if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or presented at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.
6. The receipt of nomination shall be acknowledged by the League President. Nominations which are deemed to be qualified need not be acted upon in the year in which they are received but may be held for future consideration.
7. No reasons will be furnished for not making the award to any person nor will the proceedings of the presidents' committee be made public.
8. The committee may consider candidates of its own choosing.
9. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the award.

## **Standing Resolution #6: Long Range Planning Committee**

Rewritten and accepted 8/6/1991, at Amherst, MA; Amended 7/17/2024 at Overland Park, KS.

Recognizing that the Astronomical League has limited resources and expertise and that the League cannot address effectively all issues facing amateur astronomy, a standing committee is established as follows:

1. The committee's name is the Long-Range Planning Committee.
2. The committee members are:

- a. the five officers of the League
- b. the five trustees of the Astronomical League Trust Fund
- c. the immediate past President of the League
- d. additional members appointed by the President, so long as the total membership does not exceed 15.

No committee member may cast more than one (1) vote in committee affairs.

3. The President will chair the committee.

4. The committee will continually review the Mission Statement and identify critical issues of the League for relevance to amateur astronomy and to the League as a federation of societies. When necessary, the committee will recommend to Council changes to either the Mission Statement or to the issues which are critical to the success of that mission.

5. The committee will report annually to Council with any recommendations for addressing the issues identified as critical.

## **Standing Resolution #7: Commercial Use of the Astronomical League Mailing List**

Enacted 8/15/1979, at Portland, OR; Amended 8/12/1981, at Kutztown, PA; and 7/28/1993, at Madison, WI.

**Repealed**, Kansas City, MO, August 2005. There is no commercial use of the League mailing list except for League business.

## **Standing Resolution #8: Repealed**

Enacted 8/15/1979, at Portland, OR; Amended 7/2/1980, at Dallas, TX.

**Repealed**, 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA.

## **Standing Resolution #9: Dues**

Enacted 8/15/1979, at Portland, OR; Amended 8/12/1981, at Kutztown, PA; 7/30/1983, at Jacksonville, FL; 8/8/1986, at Baltimore, MD; 7/25/1989, at Spokane, WA; 7/24/1996, at Rockford, IL; 7/1/1997, at Copper Mountain, CO; 7/21/1998, at French Lick, IN; 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; 8/11/2005, at Kansas City, MO; 7/27/2022, at Albuquerque, NM; and 7/17/2024 at Overland Park, KS.

Dues of the various membership classes shall be:

**Member Society** - Ten dollars (\$10.00) plus a per-member fee to be determined from time-to-time by the Council. During the fiscal year in which a society joins the League, the dues called for in this Standing Resolution shall be prorated semiannually and the per-member fee called for in this Standing Resolution shall be prorated quarterly.

**Membership-at-Large** – Forty-eight dollars (\$48.00) (U. S. members) and sixty dollars (\$60.00) (non-U.S. members) plus the addition thereto of the cost of a group subscription to a major astronomy publication. Members-at-Large who entered the program before April 1, 1999, and wish to retain their membership-at-large can continue to do so under the membership-at-large policies in effect on March 31, 1999. These Charter membership-at-large dues are ten (\$10.00) dollars (U.S. members), twenty (\$20.00) dollars (non-U.S. members) plus the addition thereto of the cost of a group subscription to a major astronomy publication.

**Youth Member-at-Large** – Twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) (U.S. members only) plus the addition thereto of the cost of a group subscription to a major astronomy publication.

**Affiliate** – Seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).

**Patron** – Seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) plus the addition thereto of the cost of a group subscription to a major astronomy magazine.

**Lifetime** – Five hundred dollars (\$500).

**Honorary** – Zero dollars (\$0.00).

**International Member Society** – Dues shall consist only of a per-member fee to be determined from time to time by the Council. No dues shall be charged during the first year of membership.

**Termination.** Any member society that is six months overdue in dues payments shall be notified that the League will be unable to extend benefits to the society's members if dues remain overdue nine months after the original due date. The notice shall emphasize the benefits of membership and our desire to retain the society as a member and shall avoid the use of negative terms such as "termination."

## **Standing Resolution #10: Commercial Exhibitors**

Enacted 7/2/1980, at Dallas, TX; Amended 1983, at Jacksonville, FL; 7/14/1992, at San Jose, CA

Many astronomy suppliers and commercial firms support the development of the science through their Supporting Memberships in the League. In order to encourage additional support and recognize the efforts of these commercial members:

1. Current Supporting Members are permitted by the Bylaws to exhibit products and services at all Astronomical League conventions.
2. Recognized dealers for these Commercial Members may represent them at all League conventions and may display and/or sell the products of our Commercial Members.
3. All exhibits and associated commercial activity will be regulated by the convention committee or League Executive Committee.
4. Door prizes or awards may be made by commercial firms, subject to acceptance by the convention committee or League Executive Committee.
5. Supporting members will not be charged an exhibit fee. All others will be charged a fee. Both may be required to pay a share of expenses incurred by the convention committee to provide exhibit space as agreed upon in advance.

6. Astronomical League committees, member societies and other organizations co-sponsoring joint conventions may have commercial exhibits or conduct associated activities. No fees will be charged.

7. "Swap shops", authorized and regulated by the convention committee, may be conducted. Attendance is limited to official exhibitors, Astronomical League members and convention attendees acting in a non-commercial capacity.

## **Standing Resolution #11: The Leslie C. Peltier Award**

Enacted 7/2/1980 at Dallas, TX; Amended 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA.

The League shall present an annual Leslie C. Peltier Award to an amateur astronomer who contributed to astronomy observations of lasting significance.

1. A three (3) person Peltier Award Committee shall be established, which shall execute the nomination and selection process, and shall be responsible for the design and sponsorship of the representative plaque.
2. Nominations shall be sent to the committee chair, who will forward the name(s) to the committee members for their selection by simple majority vote. The committee chair shall maintain a permanent list of nominees not selected for consideration in future years.
3. Dates for the implementation of this process shall be set by the committee. The award shall be presented at the banquet of the annual convention or, if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or presented at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.
4. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the award.

## **Standing Resolution #12: The G. R. "Bob" Wright League Service Award**

Enacted 7/31/1984, at Waukesha, WI; Amended 7/14/1992, at San Jose, CA; 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; and 7/27/2022, at Albuquerque, NM.

1. Purpose - To honor current or past League volunteers for service to the Astronomical League.
2. Award winners will be selected by the President. The Award shall consist of a plaque to be presented at the banquet of the annual convention or, or if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.
3. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the award.

## **Standing Resolution #13: Regions**

Adopted by Council at Amherst, MA, 8/6/1991, with the proviso that the Western Region is not established until the societies therein meet to formally organize as a Region; Amended 7/28/1994, at Kansas City, MO; 7/17/2024 at Overland Park, KS.

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 1, of the Bylaws, the following Regions are established:

- Great Lakes -- the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and lower Michigan.
- Mountain Astronomical Research Section -- the states of Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming.
- Mid-East -- the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and southern New Jersey below Interstate 195 plus the S.T.A.R. Astronomy Society.
- Mid-States -- the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and northern Oklahoma above 35° 40' N.
- North Central -- the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and upper Michigan.
- North East -- the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and northern New Jersey above Interstate 195 plus the Astronomical Society of Toms River.
- North West -- the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.
- South East -- the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- South West -- the states of New Mexico, Texas, and southern Oklahoma below 35° 40' N.
- Western -- the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada.
- International -- clubs outside of the United States

## **Standing Resolution #14: The Jack Horkheimer Awards**

Enacted 7/21/1998, at French Lick, IN.; Amended 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; 7/27/2022 at Albuquerque, NM; 7/17.2024 at Overland Park, KS.

1. The League shall present annual Jack Horkheimer Awards as follows:

- a. Horkheimer/Smith and Horkheimer/D'Auria Service Awards to League members under the age of 19 and still enrolled in high school or equivalent on the application deadline for outstanding service to the League or League member societies or to public education in astronomy.
- b. Horkheimer/Parker Imaging Awards to League members under the age of 19 and still enrolled in high school or equivalent on the application for outstanding astronomical imaging.
- c. Horkheimer/O'Meara Journalism Awards to League members between the ages of 8 and 14 and still enrolled in high school or equivalent on the application for outstanding writing on a science-related topic.

2. The Awards shall be chaired by the League Vice-President who shall (a) solicit award nominations and (b) recruit a panel of judges from at least three regions to evaluate nominees.

3. The Awards shall consist of plaques and cash prizes donated by the award sponsor, the Jack Horkheimer Foundation. One or more awards may include expense-paid trips to the League's national convention if provided for in annual award announcements.

4. The Awards shall be presented at the banquet of the annual convention or, if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.

5. The Committee Chair shall maintain a list of nominees who are not selected and shall submit those nominees for consideration in future years, if still eligible.

6. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the award.

7. First-place winners of a Horkheimer Award (Smith, D'Auria, Parker, or O'Meara) are ineligible to receive that same award again. (Note: A youth who wins a Smith or D'Auria Award can compete for the service awards again but cannot receive first place in the same service award again, e.g. a Smith winner can win D'Auria the following year and vice-versa.

## **Standing Resolution #15: The Mabel Sterns Award**

Enacted 7/21/1998, at French Lick, IN; Amended 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; 7/17/2024 at Overland Park, KS.

1. The League shall present an annual Mabel Sterns Award for outstanding editing of a League-society newsletter. Newsletters from League-member institutions, such as planetariums, museums, and event boards, are not eligible.

2. The Award shall be chaired by the League Vice-President who shall (a) solicit award nominations and (b) recruit, from among journalism professionals and League members, a panel of judges to evaluate nominees.

3. The Award shall consist of a plaque to be presented at the banquet of the annual convention or, or if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.

4. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the award.

5. First-place winners of the Mabel Sterns Award are ineligible to receive the award again for a period of ten (10) years.

## **Standing Resolution #16: The National Young Astronomer Award**

Award approved by Council in 1992; Standing Resolution Enacted 7/21/1998, at French Lick, IN; Amended 7/13/1999, at Cheney, WA; 7/27/2022, at Albuquerque, NM; 7/17/2024, at Overland Park, KS..

1. The League shall present an annual National Young Astronomer Award ("NYAA").

2. The Award shall be chaired by the League Vice-President who shall solicit nominees, publicize the award, and recruit qualified judges.

3. NYAA shall recognize outstanding work by amateur astronomers of high school age in the areas of research, public education, academic scholarship in astronomy or science, observing, imaging, telescope or equipment design or construction, publications and writing, local club activities, and regional and national organizational activities.

3. To be eligible, candidates must be (a) either enrolled in high school on the award deadline or 14 to 19 years of age and not enrolled in college on the award deadline and (b) one of the following: (I) a U.S.

citizen, (ii) a resident of the United States or its territories or possessions, or (iii) enrolled in a secondary school in the United States or its territories or possessions. Candidates are not required to be members of an astronomy club or of the Astronomical League to enter. Prior first place winners are not eligible.

4. The NYAA chair shall promote the award nationally, publicize award winners, and solicit award prizes which shall include, at a minimum, (a) a plaque for each of the top three winners and (b) an all-expenses paid trip to the national convention for the first place and second place winners. The award shall be presented at the banquet of the annual convention or, if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.

5. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the award.

6. First-place winners of the National Young Astronomer Award are ineligible to receive the award again.

## **Standing Resolution #17: The Jack Horkheimer Planetary Imaging Award: Repealed**

Enacted 7/18/2000, at Ventura, CA; Repealed 7/8/2003, at Nashville, TN.

## **Standing Resolution #18: The Webmaster Award**

Enacted 7/27/2022, at Albuquerque, NM; Amended 7/17/2024, at Overland Park, KS.

1. The League shall present an annual Webmaster Award for outstanding creation and maintenance of a League-society or region webpage. Webmasters from League-member institutions, such as planetariums, museums, and event boards, are not eligible.

2. The Award shall be chaired by the League Vice-President who shall (a) solicit award nominations and (b) recruit, from among skilled webmasters, a panel of judges to evaluate nominees.

3. The Award shall consist of a plaque to be presented at the banquet of the annual convention or, if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.

4. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards, to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the awards.

5. First-place winners of the Webmaster Award are ineligible to receive the award again for a period of ten (10) years.

## **Standing Resolution #19: The Sketching Award**

Enacted 7/27/2022, at Albuquerque, NM; Amended 7/17/2024, at Overland Park, KS.

1. The League shall present an annual Sketching Award for an outstanding sketch of an astronomical object. All League members are eligible.

2. The Award shall be chaired by the League Vice-President who shall (a) solicit award nominations and (b) recruit, from among past Sketching Award winners or other skilled amateur astronomers, a panel of judges to evaluate nominees.
3. The Award shall consist of a plaque to be presented at the banquet of the annual convention or, or if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.
4. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards, to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the awards.
5. First place winners of the Sketching Award are ineligible to receive the award again for a period of three (3) years.

## **Standing Resolution #20: The Williamina Fleming Imaging Awards**

Enacted 7/27/2022, at Albuquerque, NM; Amended 7/17/2024, at Overland Park, KS.

1. The League shall present annual Williamina Fleming Imaging Awards to astrophotographers who are (a) female League members, (b) at least 18 years of age, and (c) not deemed to be professional astrophotographers as defined in award rules.
2. The Awards shall be chaired by the League Vice-President who shall (a) solicit award nominations and (b) recruit, from among past astrophotography award winners and recognized astrophotographers a panel of judges to evaluate nominees.
3. The Awards may include, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, recognition of overall excellence and/or recognition of excellence in specific categories of astrophotography.
4. The Award shall consist of a plaque or plaques to be presented at the banquet of the annual convention, or, if no banquet is held, at the largest gathering of League members at the convention. If no convention is held, the award may be presented virtually or at a subsequent convention at the discretion of the President.
5. Award committees shall report award winners, and the justification for their awards, to the Reflector Editor, League Webmaster, and League Publicity Chair within 30 days of the presentation of the awards.
6. First place winners of a category in the Williamina Fleming Imaging Award competition are ineligible to receive an award in that category for a period of three (3) years.

## **Standing Resolution #21: Convention Planning Committee**

Enacted 6/24/2025 at Bryce Canyon, UT

Recognizing that (1) the Astronomical League's convention hosts need advice and approval authority throughout the convention planning process and (2) a committee to provide such advice and approval is required by Article VI, Section 6, and Article II, Section 7.a.(x) of the League's Bylaws, a standing committee is established as follows:

1. The committee's name shall be the Convention Planning Committee.

2. The committee's members shall be a Chair appointed by the League President, the League President, the League Treasurer, and additional members to be appointed by the League President of the Committee Chair.

3. The committee shall be charged with the following functions:

- a. Securing future invitations to host conventions and accumulating invitations for consideration by Council.
- b. Establishing written guidelines and checklists for use by convention hosts or potential hosts.
- c. Approving the location and timing of League Council and Business meetings at conventions.
- d. Approving proposed convention registration fees to be charged by the host.
- e. Approving major convention expenditures of up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000), not to exceed a total of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in the aggregate, without Council approval.
- f. Approving the participation of other organizations in the convention.
- g. Advising convention hosts throughout the planning and conduct of conventions.
- h. Assuring compliance with the event insurance requirements of Standing Resolution 2.

4. The committee shall report annually to Council and include in such report (a) a financial summary of the previous year's convention, (b) factors that contributed to profits or losses in the previous year's convention, (c) recommended changes in the manner of conduct of future conventions, and (d) recommended changes in the location of future conventions.