



What's Up With the Astronomical League February 2026

A periodic publication emailed to all League Members

Volume 19 Number 1

February 10, 2026

Compiled and edited by
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Immed. Past President

In this Issue...

- **NCRL Eastern Iowa Cosmic Conference, May 15-17**
- **ALCon 2026, August 12-15**
- **A.L. Live, March 6**
- **2026 League Awards with submission dates**

North Central Region of the
Astronomical League



DoubleTree
Convention Complex
Downtown
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



May 15-17
<https://www.ncral2026.org>



The 2026 Astronomical League Conference

ALCON 2026

C I N C I N N A T I

Join us August 12th -15th 2026 as
ALCON returns to the Great Lakes Region
for the first time in 27 years.

ALCON 2026 is being hosted by the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, one of the nation's oldest and largest amateur societies.

Speakers, roundtables and workshops are currently being planned for this event, along with the annual Star-b-que, as well as happy hours, time for exploring the city and many other fun and engaging activities.



Marriott Rivercenter, Covington KY

The ALCON will be held in Covington Kentucky at the Marriott Rivercenter; a hotel that looks out across the Ohio

river into downtown Cincinnati. This is a great venue which provides access to many amenities and is within walking and shuttle distance of downtown Cincinnati via the historic Roebling Suspension Bridge.

Come visit Cincinnati for the entire week and join us for ALCON 2026!

Registration begins soon at:

ALCON2026.org



CINCINNATI
ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY

March 6, 2026 7:00PM EST



John Goss

*"In Celebration of
Global Astronomy Month:
Projects and Activities
from your
ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE"*



*with
host*

Terry Mann

also

**Chuck Allen,
Don Knabb,
Bryan Simpson,
Scott Roberts,
and David Levy**

Projects & Activities

- Navigating the Night Sky
- Lunar Explorations
- Binocular Double Stars
- Binocular Open Clusters
- In the Footsteps of Galileo
- Solar System Tasks

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



Astronomical.League

**ALCon 2026:
hosted by the Cincinnati Astronomical Society at the
Marriott RiverCenter, Covington, KY, August 12–15, 2026**



ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

Awards



For complete details: www.astroleague.org/astronomical-league-awards/

| Award | Brief Description | Eligibility | Entry Deadline |
|--|---|---|----------------|
| Mabel Sterns Newsletter Editor | Recognizes the important work of a newsletter editor of an AL club. | Newsletter editor of an AL club. | March 31 |
| Webmaster | Recognizes the important work of a webmaster of an AL club. | Webmaster of an AL club. | March 31 |
| GR Wright Service | Honors volunteers for their service to the Astronomical League. | Any volunteer of the AL. | March 31 |
| Peltier | Recognizes amateur astronomers who contribute work of lasting significance. | Any amateur astronomer. | March 31 |
| Williamina Fleming Imaging | Encourage female imagers to pursue imaging and to display their finest work. Imaging sections: Deep field, wide-field, and solar system. | Female imagers, at least 19 years of age, who are members of the AL. | March 31 |
| Sketching | Recognizes the remarkable work of sketchers depicting what appears in the eyepiece. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. | Any member of the AL. | March 31 |
| Astronomy Day | Encourage AL clubs to actively engage the public on either one of the two Astronomy Days each year. | Any organized amateur astronomical society. | March 31 |
| National Young Astronomer | Young astronomers, who have conducted either exemplary astronomy research, observing, or academic scholarship, or who have developed innovations in equipment design, are recognized. | US citizen 14-19 years of age and not enrolled in more than 1 college course. | March 31 |
| Horkheimer/Smith Youth Service | A young person is recognized for his or her astronomy related service to the club and community. | 19 years of age or younger who are AL members. | March 31 |
| Horkheimer/D'Auria Youth Service | A young person is recognized for his or her astronomy related service to the club and community. | 19 years of age or younger who are AL members. | March 31 |
| Horkheimer/Parker Youth Imaging | Young people are recognized for their remarkable astronomical images. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. | 19 years of age or younger who are AL members. | March 31 |
| Horkheimer/O'Meara Youth Journalism | Young people are recognized for their writing skills by submitting a well-composed essay on a science related topic. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. | Anyone 8-14 years of age. | March 31 |