

## **2025 Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League Business Meeting Minutes**

The 2025 MSRAL convention was planned, organized, and hosted by the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society, and held at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock campus.

Region chair Rick Heschmeyer called the business meeting to order at 8:03 AM. He welcomed all to our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MSRAL's existence in the Astronomical League. He also welcomed guests: Past A.L. President Carroll Iorg (and wife Betty), and Ed Flashpoler from SWRAL. Rick also thanked our host club (CAAS), especially Mike Borrelli and other planning members at CAAS that made this event possible. Rick mentioned that Univ. of Arkansas students were not able to attend due to NASA grant funding issues and gave a Thank You to club members that donated registrations for them but they still were not able to attend. Some few local high school students will be attending in their place.

Rick also addressed the attendance problem somewhat caused by the conflict of the ALCON in 9 days after MSRAL at Bryce Canyon.

Secretary – Treasurer Jim Twellman polled a roll-call of member societies and a head-count of members in order to ensure that we had a quorum as required in our by-laws (minimum 15 members and 3 member societies). Representatives from the following astronomical societies were noted present:

- Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri (ASEM)
- Astronomical Society of Kansas City (ASKC)
- Astronomy Associates of Lawrence (AAL)
- Broken Arrow Sidewalk Astronomers (BASWA)
- Central Arkansas Astronomical Society (CAAS)
- Eastern Missouri Dark Sky Observers (EMDSO)
- Omaha Astronomical Society (OAS)
- Platte Valley Astronomical Observers (PVAO)
- St. Louis Astronomical Society (SLAS)
- Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomers League (NEKAAL)

A head count of 24 was present, less 2 guests = 22 Mid-States members present.

Secretary – Treasurer Twellman then read from the 2024 Business meeting minutes. No changes or amendments were made. A motion to vote to approve the minutes as reported

was made by Cook Feldmann (SLAS) and was seconded by Rick Walker (BASWA). Motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Twellman then gave the Treasury Report. In summary:

Opening Balance	\$7,737.50
Incoming Funds/Revenue	
MSRAL 2024 (50% share)	585.66
Astro League support of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	\$2,700.00
Expenses	
A.L. Rep attendance stipend for ALCON 2024	\$ 400.00
Website Fee (Go Daddy, 1 Year)	167.88
Bank Fees	43.00
75 <sup>th</sup> : Cake	307.47
75 <sup>th</sup> : Pins	334.00
75 <sup>th</sup> : Tote bags	904.59
75 <sup>th</sup> : Certificates	112.79
75 <sup>th</sup> : Acrylic Awards	296.00
Ending Balance as of 6/14/25	\$8,457.43 *

(\* prior to settlement of proceeds/loss from 2025 MSRAL)

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Stacey Thater (ASEM/EMDSO) and was seconded by Jim Small (SLAS). Motion carried. No budget for 2026 was presented and thus not voted on as all are typical annual expenses (Bank Account) as shown and approved in prior years.

The list of deceased MSRAL members was provided in the handouts to all present and reviewed. Changes requested included a spelling error for Marvin Fridley, and additions of 2025 deceased members Joyce Allen (OAS) and Lario Yarino (ASKC).

Committee voting then commenced. Existing Chair Rick Heschmeyer self-nominated to continue as Chair for the next term. No other nominees came forward. Motion to elect Rick was made by Jim Small (SLAS) and seconded by Rick Walker (BASWA). Motion carried.

Cook Feldmann then self-nominated to continue as region Vice-Chair. No other nominees came forward. Motion to elect Rick was made by Jim Small (SLAS) and seconded by Mike Modrcin (OAS). Motion carried

It was then mentioned that it was desired to have both a Secretary as well as a (separate) Treasurer chair, but this was dismissed by Rick as it would require a change in the By-laws first. After no new nominees came forward, current Sec-Treasurer Twellman self-nominated. Motion to elect Jim Twellman was made by Rick Walker (BASWA) and seconded by Cook Feldmann (SLAS). Motion carried

The Regional Representative Chair (to A.L.) was then addressed. Peggy Walker self-nominated to continue. Mike Modrcin also nominated himself. A motion to vote was made by Jim Twellman (ASEM/SLAS) and seconded by Jim Small. Peggy was re-elected by a margin of 8-6.

Regional Chair Peggy Walker then brought several changes to the MSRAL By-Laws up for voting. Summary of changes as follows:

- Multiple minor Changes to Article II. Motion to accept by Mike Borrelli (CAAS), Seconded by Gil Machin (ASKC). Motion carried
- Changes to Article VI, section 3 as required by the A.L. to include the A.L. Treasurer on the MSRAL bank account. This item was motioned to STRIKE this by Jim Twellman (as our present bank [and all known] will not allow this unless this person makes a personal appearance at that bank). Motion was seconded by Stacey Thater. Motion carried. {Further discussion and methodology is needed with A.L. is needed before imposition of compliance can be managed.}
- Article VI, Section 4: was changed to note that NO personal Finances are to be used for MSRAL endeavors or projects without Regional Council approval and remuneration appropriately spelled out in the MSRAL minutes. Motion to accept by Rick Walker and Seconded by Mike Borrelli. Motion carried.
- Article VI, Section 9 was changed to add that New Projects must be brought to the Regional Council for discussion, vote, and adoption. A motion to accept was made by Cook Feldmann and was Seconded by Rick Heschmeyer. Motion carried.

Regional Representative Peggy Walker then discussed that the CONVENTION PLANNING GUIDE is available on the MSRAL.org website under “Documents”. She also requested that clubs send to her any changes in individual club elections of leadership.

ASEM self-nominated to host the 2026 MSRAL and noted that a Kansas club is/should consider co-hosting in 2027. A Kansas club has not hosted since 1985 (Wichita Astronomical Society).

Peggy then mentioned the “DOBSON FEST” that several clubs have been hosting in and around the St Louis area. Riverbend astronomy club in Illinois hosted in 2024. SLAS is hosting in September 2025 and ASEM is hosting in 2026. Peggy requested a current website URL for re-distribution to others. {See below for 2024 and 2025 web sites}

Dobson-Fest 2024 – RBAC <https://riverbendastro.org/dobfest2024/>

<https://riverbendastro.org/DF2024/DobFest%202024%20info%20packet.pdf>

Dobson-Fest <https://slasonline.org/component/content/article/164-dobson-fest?catid=9&highlight=WzlwMjVd&Itemid=101>

Peggy gave a summary of MSRAL member totals, currently at 1,888 members.

Cook Feldmann requested a note that the Regional Committee needs to strongly urge the Astronomical League to publish its annual Financial Reports.

Carrol Iorg mentioned the A.L. REFLECTOR and wanted to note that all our members “should” be receiving “What’s Up With The Astronomical League” emails. Please ensure that your club members’ emails are provided to the A.L. for this purpose.

A motion to adjourn was requested. Mike Modrcin (OAS) made the motion to accept and Betty Iorg (ASKC) seconded. Motion carried and the business meeting was adjourned at 9:02 AM.