

## 2022 National Council Meeting for Year-End 2021

July 27, 2022, 8:00am to 5:00pm

**These are quick notes not actual minutes**

Carroll started the meeting about 9:26 CST and did allow for Zoom participants which I was one.

**REVIEW OF 2021 MINUTES:** I noticed that under “New Business” that a whole conversation and topic I brought up about having Regional Representatives have a coordinator on the Executive Committee was omitted. A discussion last year was a good 5 to 10 minutes as other representatives also felt their job would be better served to have a go-to person on the Executive Board. Chuck Allen said he would review all the job descriptions to see what person this new duty would be assigned to. He said that most likely the Executive Secretary position. This is still in the works. This information was added into the minutes by Chuck, the minutes were accepted with that action being taken.

**RON KRAMER – REFLECTOR:** stated that the expense for the Reflector has gone up from \$52,000 to \$77,000 due to the cost of paper now at 170% increase. Since last meeting we voted in stronger cover paper to make it last for postal mailing, and the addition of 4 pages which will allow for advertisement. Last year it was 93,000 and next year budget projection will be \$100,000. This increase was voted in during the budget portion.

**MITCH GLAZE – LEAGUE SALES:** said the League store is very busy with the huge volume because of the RASC products and that AL is the largest distributor of these products. Here too, the cost is going up due to paper and the international shipping costs are laden with fees, duties that makes the product 2 to 3 times more than the cost of the actual product being shipped. Each country has their own laws and fee structure that it makes it most frustrating, and Mitch asked if there is anyone who can help the store out with some time to vet out these laws and regulations and even more importantly, if you know any postmaster or border claims person, we could use advice on how to ship items much more economically. Listing things as gifts, makes it cheaper and easier for the individual on the other end, but from a company or organization, these items will be left in border claims because of the expense.

**JOHN MARTIN - AL WEBSITE:** the current webmaster and crew are frustrated even though much progress has been made, the Grumple ? software was all custom and the software needs to be redone so that an easy transfer of all data is successful. The completion date is hopefully in the next few months, and there is now an editing team in place keep it current.

**BILL TOMLINSON - ASTRONOMY DAY:** this program is done with the support of Sky and Telescope and there were zero entries. Discussion will continue to see how to re-energize this program or what other options will need to be considered.

**JON GOSS – MEDIA OFFICER:** said he needs help with the Facebook page I suggested that the League should follow all the regional Facebook pages so what they post automatically comes up in the regional feeds. It was also noted that there is a new banner that he designed that is being used for Scott Roberts to do his interviews from ALCon this year.

**AARON CLEVENSON – OBSERVING PROGRAM SUMMARY:** All manuals are updated except for Sky Puppies since they got a grant from NASA and revised it and it is now free for the asking. It costs \$3,500.00 to operate this program but \$1,400.00 comes from donations. He too is having challenges shipping internationally, so they email the certificates since the program managers have been doing postal mail on their own dime. Now with pins those are problematic as well since they are considered as jewelry and that is another mess. He stated that there are 81 programs to date. (2 more will be added later in the meeting). The most popular programs being done are Outreach, Messier, Solar System, anything Lunar.

**CHUCK ALLEN – BYLAWS:** Chuck had said he investigated the Missouri State Laws regarding 501s registered in the state. By doing this, it impacts the bylaws so other corrections need to be made. He had made notions in red, on the third revision which is most likely the last on, two comments were that 1) as far as removal of an officer, if the officer is elected by the region, only the region can remove the officer, ergo, 2) regional officers who are appointed by the president, can be removed by the president. The regional section of the bylaws has already had many changes and additions. Someone asked about the definition and job of the ALCOR which was absent from the current version. The group word smithed the

sentence and what article it would fall under and the council voted to accept all the previous additions and the newly drafted narrative.

**RON KRAMER – SOLAR GLASSES:** Since there are two eclipses, the League has a lab that is generating eclipse glasses since many out there are either not offering proper protection, or being too dark to see anything. Each testing costs \$1,000.00 and they will be certified to the requirements but will not say ISO certified. Jon Goss did the design and we saw how they allowed for someone to put their name on the side and on the other side to log the date. They had the two logos for the two eclipses, and I recommended to place them on the sides. So, they will take that into consideration. These should be done sometime in August. A discussion ensued about how many to order and what the costs and shipping would be. Last year they started with \$100,000 but did \$220,000. With the testing and certification of the material, it would add a little to the cost of the glasses but not to the retail price they were .18 cents and now .21 cents. Ron's publishing company will produce the glasses and receive the orders and ship. They will split the profits with the League. There will also be free shipping for orders over 50 but less than that would need to be included. The council voted to start with 100,000 with the understanding that any additional ones would be added.

**JACKIE BEUCHER – HORKHEIMER AWARD PROGRAM:** the Library Telescope was folded into this program and the family is looking at going back to the original plan of basic sponsorship this will be discussed and revisited sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August.

**CARROLL IORG – ENDOWMENTS:** mentioned that the League is in the process of receiving a large gift and the treasurer mentioned that the IRS looks at funds this large and wants to see them being used for things that the non-for-profit stand for verses in an account somewhere. Carroll asked if there were any ideas. I mentioned the remote scope and virtual observing network we talked about for the Mid-States on the July 12<sup>th</sup> phone call. I said we talked about helping the smaller clubs via meetings, but also have it where they could gather people and then use the scope as their session. It would also work for students who need or want to do surveys, and that Lake Geneva, with the Yerkes have students run the scope and then they will swell print the image for the blind students to feel. Carroll's eyes got big, and there were others who said they liked that idea. Chuck Allen asked me to put it in writing to submit to the Executive Committee.

**AARON CLEVENSAN – NEW OBSERVING PROGRAMS:** He recommended one called the Solar Neighborhood which deals with stars 10 parsecs from the sun which includes about 170 from a potential of 250 and this goes from pole to pole. This offers 3 levels of awards 1) 10 objects from naked eye observations, 2) binocular 30 objects and 3) telescopic observations of 100 objects. This includes a pin. This was approved and accepted for adoption. The second one is for a new program from an astronomer called Jack Bennett, aka the Bennett Program that will offer objects like Messier for the southern observers. This allows for the international membership to attain a Master Observer Award by substituting this for a Messier or Herschel list. This program was also accepted by the council.

**CHUCK ALLEN – FUTURE ALCONS:** ALCon 2023 is booked for Baton Rouge, LA from July 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> which includes a trip to the Lycos Interferometer. The Convention Chair is Steven Tilley who gave a presentation. ALCon 2024 is a joint meeting with RASC since for six years they have been asking for a partnership conference to be held in Toronto, Canada which will be June 28 to 30 and include their Independence Day July 1<sup>st</sup>. ALCon 2025 will be in Bryce Canyon had a presentation on that and it will be Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June, June 28th. Cincinnati, OH is discussing ALCon 2026.

**BILL DILLION – TREASURER'S REPORT:** he reviewed the fiscal budget from 2021 expenses and presented the 2022 budget. With the increases in a few items like the Reflector and shipping, budget increases were made to the 2023 budget to accommodate for these. The council voted in favor of the 2023 budget.

**BILL DILLION – TRUST FUND:** Terry Mann's term as trustee expired and was reelected for another term. Jackie Beucher did not renew her term due to her personal schedule. A replacement needed to be considered for John Wagoner who passed away. So, a volunteer was asked for, and Aaron Clevenson stepped forward to finish the last two-year term for John. He was voted in as well by the Council.

**JON GOSS – ELECTION RESULTS:** John read the regional winners of the Library Telescope and the Omaha Astronomical Society received the one for the Mid States Region.

Since all three candidates ran unopposed, Carroll Iorg, was reelected as President, Chuck Allen as Vice President, and Maynard Pittendreigh as Executive Secretary. He continued to say that MAL and Patron votes totaled 28 last year and this year were 31, with last year societies being 48 and this year only 46 societies voted.

**CARROLL IORG – HONORARY MEMBER NOMINATIONS:** Carroll asked for nominations I asked if David Levy was already a recipient. They had to refer to the list and he was not. He asked for other names, I added John Cotton who was pivotal in the Junior Astronomy Societies and Clubs in the 70's. I had just interviewed him for my article he has many professional astronomers to his credit from his involvement with them. And I also put Jackie Beucher in the mix because of her near 30 years in the leadership of the League. Carroll agreed that all three people will receive the honorary membership.

Meeting ending an hour early!

Submitted by Peggy Walker

Regional Representative