

2020 Mid-States Regional Convention Minutes – June 13, 2020 – via Zoom

The 2020 meeting of the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League was held via Zoom meeting, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The hosting club was to have been the Broken Arrow Sidewalk Astronomer club. The business meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM on June 13, 2020. The meeting was presided over by Peggy Walker. A roll call of the clubs and people present was done. We had 9 clubs represented with 21 people. This was a quorum.

Minutes – Jackie Beucher read the minutes of the 2019 business meeting. There were no corrections. Cook Feldman made the motion to accept the minutes; Rick Walker seconded the motion. We voted and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jackie Beucher then presented the Treasurer's Report. Cook Feldman made a motion to accept the report; Jim Twellman seconded the motion. We voted and the treasurer's report was approved.

Regional Representative Report - Jim Small – reported that it was an excellent ALCON in Florida last summer. Having it at the Kennedy Space Center, followed by a cruise to the Bahamas was excellent. The trip ended with the launch of a Falcon rocket from Kennedy.

Mid-States Historian/Webmaster – Jim Small – reported that the website had been upgraded, and he has tried to keep it updated, but would appreciate help from others on keeping it current.

Deceased Members – Only one person in the region was reported as passing away this past year – in 2019, Lee Halbeck of St. Louis.

Election of Officers:

Regional Representative – Jim Small's term was up, and he didn't want to run again. Peggy Walker was nominated by Cook Feldman; seconded by Jackie Beucher. She was elected by a majority vote.

Secretary-Treasurer – (one year term) – Jackie Beucher announced she did not want to run again. Jerelyn Ramirez, President of Kansas Astronomical Observers was nominated by Carroll Iorg. Cook Feldman seconded it, and she was elected by a majority vote.

Future Conventions – The 2020 convention was cancelled for this year, but probably will be held in 2021. Peggy Walker is Chair of that event to be held by the Broken Arrow Sidewalk Astronomers.

Old Business – Betty Iorg made the motion that the MSRAL continue our membership to the International Dark Sky Association at the \$250 level. And that was done after the last meeting.

New Business:

Peggy Walker brought up the regional By-Laws and their need to be updated. She asked for volunteers for this committee, and Edward Swain, Carroll Iorg, Jerelyn Ramirez volunteered. They will work on this and get changes done no later than April, 2021, for approval and voting.

We discussed the MSRAL WEBSITE. It needs to be updated with all the current information, which Jim Small is working on with the new upgraded website.

Peggy talked about the MSRAL 2020 Registration Website and asked people's opinion about it. She offered to have that be used for future conferences so that hosting clubs won't have to start from scratch and the ease of use. Peggy also mentioned she had generated a new MSRAL website to be the hub for communication. Several members wanted the link to view it and she wanted to update it before sharing it with the group to be discussed at a later date.

We also determined we have a Facebook page, which the Sugar Creek club originated. Carroll will get in touch with him regarding changing the moderators to Jim Twellman and Peggy Walker so it can be activated.

We then discussed the possibility of regional quarterly meetings via Zoom. There would be many benefits for all the clubs in sharing information on outreach, speakers, etc. Peggy will coordinate these.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rick Walker; seconded by James Small. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 12:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted; Jackie Beucher, MSRAL Secretary-Treasurer, June 13, 2020 (corrected and approved 6-26-21)