



MID-STATES EMITTER MID-STATE FALLER

*Noun: something that emits light, a noise or a substance; to send out;
to give utterance or a voice to.*



MSRAL OFFICERS:

Regional Chair: Rick Heschmeyer

rickheschmeyer@gmail.com

Regional Vice-Chair: Cook Feldman

hfel8913@charter.net

Secretary Treasurer: Jim Twellman

jtwellman@asemonline.org

Regional Representative: Peggy Walker

[BASidewalkastro@yahoo.com](mailto:BA sidewalkastro@yahoo.com)

MSRAL MEMBERS:

Arkansas Oklahoma Astro Soc-AOAS

Astro Soc of E. Missouri-ASEM

Astro Assn of S.E. Missouri-AASEMO

Astro Soc of Kansas City-ASKC

Astro Soc of NW Arkansas-ASNWA

Astro Assoc of Lawrence-AAL

Astro Club of Tulsa-ACT

Bartlesville Astro Soc-BAS

BA Sidewalk Astronomer-BASWA

Central Arkansas Astro Soc-CAAS

Central Missouri Ama Astro-CMAA

Eastern MO Dark Sky Observers-EMDSO

Kansas Astro Observers -KAO

NE Kansas Ama Astro League-NEKAAL

Northeast Nebraska Astro Club-NENEAC

Omaha Astro Soc-OAS

Platte Valley Astro Observers-PVAO

Prairie Astronomy Club-PAC

Springfield Astro Society-SAS

St. Louis Astronomical Society-SLAS

Sugar Creek Astro Soc-SCAS



AstroCon 2025 By Rick Heschmeyer

This year, AstroCon was held in Bryce Canyon City, Utah near the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park. The conference ran from Wednesday June 25 through Saturday June 28, with the Astronomical League Council Meeting taking place on Tuesday, the 24, prior to the start of AstroCon. Nearby, the France Canyon Fire was active and only 20% contained throughout the event. At its closest point the fire came within 6 miles of the park. Depending upon the wind direction, the smoke level varied from moderate to very unhealthy. One day we found ash on our cars as we exited the program, but in the evening the smoke tended to settle into the valleys to give everyone a hint of the dark night skies in and around the park. I can only imagine how truly dark the sky must be when there is not a fire nearby.

The overarching theme of the conference was imaging, with about 2/3 of the presentations and workshops were related to imaging in one way or another. Additionally, each night there were Astrophotography/Digital Imaging sessions not too far from the conference location, Ruby's Inn, and private star parties for AstroCon attendees at Rainbow's Point, inside Bryce Canyon National Park, where more imaging was taking place. The private star party for the first evening of the conference was cancelled due to smoke. The winners of the Astrophotography Contest were announced at the Gala Banquet on Saturday evening. A Visual Observing Contest was also held during the conference with awards given out Saturday night.

There were about 15 vendors set up in the Exhibitor Hall displaying their services and gear. Special shoutouts go to the Salt Lake City Astronomical Society and the Utah Valley Astronomy Club, as well as the 2025 AstroCon Committee, for planning and hosting the event. Despite the challenges of nearby fire, smoke, and rolling power outages due to the fires, the event was very informative and fun.

The conference wrapped up on Saturday night with the Gala Banquet at Ebezener's Barn & Grill with a live concert by The Bryce Canyon Wranglers, followed by dinner and awards.

Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival 2025 (There was smoke from the fires to contend with)

Coinciding with, but separate from, AstroCon 2025, Bryce Canyon National Park held their annual Astronomy Festival from June 26-28. I, along with several other AstroCon 2025 attendees, participated in the evening telescope observing that was open to the public.

The star party took place from 10PM until midnight each night. Even with the nearby France Canyon Fire, the smoke subsided enough for the telescope field to be open all three nights. Nearly 2000 people visited the dozens of telescopes on the field during the festival.

2025 AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD



In 1959, the tenth MSRAL Convention in Tulsa, OK, Mr. S.S. Whitehead, of Wichita, KS was presented with an award for his service the region and his assistance to amateur astronomer. The spirit of that award was formalized into the Amateur of the Year Award at the 1966 Convention to be given at the yearly conventions.

This candidate has been a steady presence in their astronomy club for over 30 years. They've served as treasurer for their club and other organizations.

Year after year, they show-up at star parties, dark-sky festivals, and monthly meetings-helping other connect with the cosmos. Their commitment to outreach is evident in his attainment of AL Basic, Silver, and Master Outreach Awards. This year's winner has presented programs at club meetings and is happy show up for work days or take on projects.

Beyond volunteering, this person is also an accomplished observer and imager. They've earned observing awards, including Messier, Lunar, and Planetary programs. Quiet and unassuming, this person is the kind of member every club dreams of—dedicated, skilled, and always willing to help. This Year's Amateur of the Year to Jim Dixon from the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society.

CONGRATULATIONS JIM - WELL DESERVED!

MSRAL 2026

Will be hosted by ASEM on June 26-28, tentatively at St. Charles Community College in St. Peters, MO. The Planning Committee Chair is Don Ladwig with Chuck Simms, Stacy Thater, Jim Twellman, Larry Campbell, Amy White and Liz Kniffen as completing the planning committee. Stay tuned.

MSRAL 2027 IS LOOKING FOR A HOST!

MSRAL 2025

University of AR at Little Rock

June 13th to June 15th

June 13th Friday

3:30-5:30PM Registration

6:00-7:30PM Taco Buffet

- 8:15 -? Tour of RRO & Observing



June 14th Saturday

8:0AM Business Meeting

9:15AM Welcome/Opening Address

9:30AM Darcy Howard and Carl Freyalenhoven
2024 Solar Eclipse Preparations

10:15AM Break

10:30AM Linda Spiker, PhD., Director of NASA
Voyager Project

11:30AM Remote Robotic Telescope at RRO

12:15PM Lunch/AOY Selection Committee Meeting

1:30PM Group Photo

2:00PM Bruce McMath: Quantitative Variable Star
Observers

2:45PM Brian Fields, PhD. Professor of Astronomy,
University of Illinois, Consequences of a Superno-
va Explosion near the Earth

3:45PM Break

4:00PM Eliot Neel

4:45PM Bill Engberg and John Reed: Restoring
and Updating a Homebuilt 24-inch DOB

5:30PM Break

6:00PM Banquet and Awards

6:45PM William I. Hartkopf, PhD.: History of the U.S. Naval Observatory and its 26-inch Alvin-Clark Refractor

- 8:00PM See Restored 24-inch DOB

June 14th Saturday

9:00AM Peggy Walker & Rick Heschmeyer: Youth
Engagement Project

10:00AM Astrophotography Workshop

- 11:00AM Break

11:15AM Astrophotography and Photometry
Workshop

12:15PM Adjourn Conference

MSRAL OFFICERS VOTED BACK IN FOR NEW TERMS



MSRAL Chair Rick Heschmeyer, Vice Chair Cook "Yoda" Feldman and Regional Representative Peggy Walker are waiting before the business meeting for Secretary Treasurer Jim Twellman to arrive

MR. ED

MSRALs adopted member, (for many decades)

Regional Representative, Ed Flashpoler from SWRAL, met Regional Chair Rick Heschmeyer at Little Rock, AR.

His visit was welcomed as always and was particularly key since his B.F.F. of countless years, Jackie Beucher, was going to receive a Lifetime Service Award from the Region. A little birdie told him and he said he would not miss celebrating with Jackie and the Region.

Thank you Ed for helping to get Jackie to the convention, your covert ops were greatly appreciated by the officers.



2025 Mid States Convention, Little Rock, AR June 14, 2025

Hosted by CAAS at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Photo by John Reed of CAAS



THE WEATHER DIDN'T DAMPEN THE CONVENTION



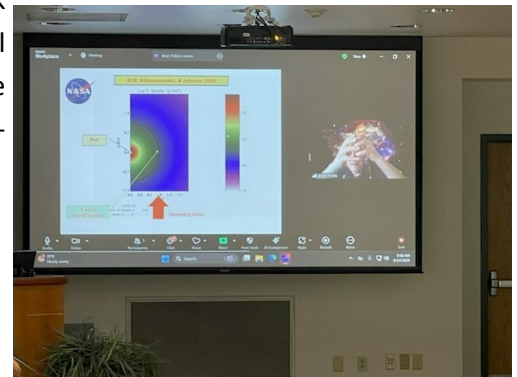
The weekend was projected to be a wet one and many drove in, with rain showers that continued throughout the weekend. Some even drove back home in the same conditions. But there was a great sign for good things to come, I believe Sunday morning? But with all the rain Little Rock



got months before the convention, and all the flooding, wasn't sure if there was some sort of ark constructed going on somewhere.



Linda Spiker, PhD., Director of NASA Voyager Project joined MSRAL via Zoom



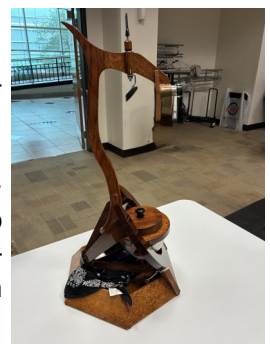
Brian Fields, PhD. Professor of Astronomy, University of Illinois, Consequences of a Supernova Explosion near the Earth also joined MSRAL via Zoom

MORE PRESENTERS

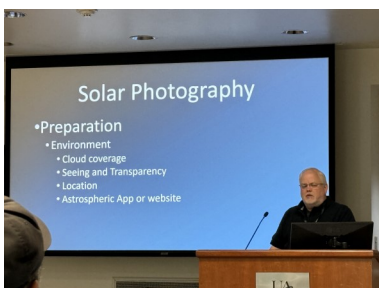


13.1" f4.5 Build

In the afternoon, two presenters brought beautiful telescopes that were constructed with great care and expertise. John Reed is showing off their 13.1 inch F4.5 strut telescope. He shared the history of ATM and the role Russell Porter contributions to the hobby. It was followed up by Eliot Neel who spoke on the Homage to the Russell Porter's Garden Telescope. That scope as well, was impeccably constructed with beautiful wood stain and non traditional design.

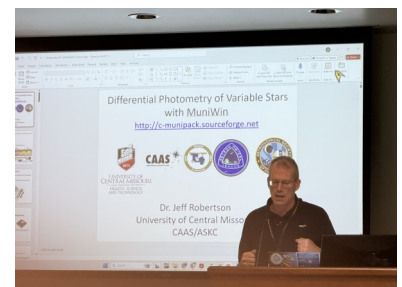


SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS



After the Youth Engagement talk, two speakers were scheduled to discuss imaging and photometry and were told there was no time limit for them as the building was scheduled for the day.

An Astrophotography Workshop followed up by Astrophotography and Photometry Workshop.





WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sunday morning, Peggy Walker the S.T.E.A.M. and Accessible Astronomy Coordinator and Chair Rick Heschmeyer kicked off the day with the answer to the question, Where do we go from here? Answer: We engage the youth in the region.

Peggy opened the session with the history of the Youth League established in 1947, along with the Adult League and how successful it was. She talked about the Youth ALCon she put together for Albuquerque with partnerships from Rob Teeter of Teeter Telescopes, Celestron, eScope Optics and Sidewalk Astronomers to build telescopes for families. Peggy stated it was not allowed to move forward and was cancelled. She stated that she was confused by that since she was brought on board the National Council to do that very thing in 2017.

She tied that into her being put in charge of a committee at ALCon Business Meeting last year that consisted of all the regional officers to generate a status on each region and their personal effort for their future. She sent out a confidential questionnaire, and the main comment was, "We don't need regions". With this mind-set out there, it became paramount to celebrate the Mid-States 75th Anniversary and celebrate all the volunteers and clubs, just in case the region were to disappear.

The Regional Officers had already determined they were not going to let the region go quietly into the night. In fact, since Rick Heschmeyer became the Regional Chair, their plan to reboot MSRAL with a youth coordinator, who would help rally regional youth to help plan, participate in and speak at the annual conventions. This talk was to be the kick off to the concept and plan to accomplish this feat. Chair Heschmeyer started off but was rabbit trailed by comments and the plan never was able to be shared. Prior to the session, Peggy was asked to document every comment, statement, question and concern that was voiced to make sure the officers would review all things mentioned, as they moved forward.

Some points expressed were, What do you do with students in the summer when not at school? Are there funds to allow them time on some of the many remote telescopes? Volunteers in clubs is at an all time low, and that includes parents of the students. Clubs do not offer a very welcoming atmosphere or are to stodgy and old. Current family culture is to drop students off and not be engaged with them in their pursuit of astronomy. What are the potential legalities involved in that with the national issues regarding young people? How can elementary students be included in this endeavor? And the iPhone, gaming distractions only demonstrates a youth's 3 second scroll mentality. Peggy mentioned how she has a list of all the regional observatories and wants to network them and run projects from them.

The back and forth continued until a young man entered the room. Peggy had talked to him on Friday at the registration desk and said we would love to see you at the Sunday morning talk. She saw that the current dialog was in a loop so she walked over to him and asked if he would be open to have us talk to him and ask him questions. He said Yes.

Peggy introduced Keenan Latin a member of CAAS to the podium to get first hand, current culture information to paint the picture of where the youth mind set is these days. He stated he was an imager who often goes on-line to get answers to his questions or problems. He did confirm the 3 minute scroll mentality of his peers. Keenan said, "They are not curious about anything. You have to bring the curiosity to them." Had to get back on schedule and he was thanked for his valuable input and Rick returned to the podium. The session closed and the schedule went on and Peggy told Rick that she had 4 1/2 pages of notes for the officers to review and would get them typed and to the officers ASAP. Several attendees told Peggy that was the most genius maneuver they had ever seen and added it was very pertinent. Good Job.

So stay tuned for the plans and ideas that are being worked on. Regional Council Zoom Meetings will be scheduled so make sure your club president is in attendance and that they are passing down the information to all of you members. Your input is also important so if you have ideas, don't hesitate to contact Rick Heschmeyer at rickheschmeyer@gmail.com

REGIONAL BYLAW RATIFICATION

MSRAL Bylaw updates per Art. VII Sec 4. states there needs to be a Regional Council meeting prior to ratification. That Regional Council Meeting was convened at the end of September. It further states that the Regional Council has 45 days to review all amendment changes with their clubs before ratification. Art. VII, Sec 3 Proposal allows 45 days for any changes, comments that would be addressed by the clubs even as late as (10) days prior to the annual meeting. Only two clubs responded that they reviewed the Bylaws and had no recommendations for any changes. At the ratification part of the MSRAL Business Meeting, there is no allowance for discussion on any changes since the clubs were given from late to September to November 4th to have that discussion. Ratification at the Business Meeting makes the changes official. Please contact club officers if you were not made aware of these changes last fall. The changes are:

Art II: Sec 2. b. was reworted to list the regional hierarchy of officers.

C. was added: only elected Executive Officers can conduct business at any meeting.

PASSED

Purpose: National Bylaws amendment changes.

Art II: Sec 3. added The Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League subscribes to the official Conflict of Interest Policy of the Astronomical League.

PASSED

Purpose: National Bylaws amendment changes.

Art II: Sec 8. 2. Regional Chair was reworted "Acts as CEO"

Purpose: was in original bylaws was accidentally emitted during major revision process two years ago.

Art II: Sec 8. 10. Regional Chair, Sec 8. b 4 Regional Vice Chair, and Sec 8. d 10 Regional Representative all sign student national award candidate submission forms. **PASSED**

Purpose: Is required on all submission forms for additional youth awards —needed to be added since region is pursuing rallying the regional youth.

Art II: Sec 9. b. Any changes in elected officer position should be communicated to the member clubs within 30 days. **PASSED**

Purpose: To keep region up to date on officers.

Art VI: Sec 3 was Tentative: The National treasurer will be added to the bank account and must receive monthly statements as well as year-end balance statements. **RECEDED**

Purpose: National Bylaws amendment changes does not line up with current bank regulations and became difficult to find a bank that would comply to this policy.

Art VI: Sec 4 Personal Finances was reworted to be more specific. No personal finances are to be used for regional endeavors or projects without Regional Council approval and remuneration appropriately spelled out. Thorough minutes must accompany all decisions. **PASSED**

Purpose: previously stated said no "comingling" of funds, but better clarification needed to be spelled out due to National Bylaws amendment changes. Bylaws amendment changes.

Art VI: Sec 9 phrase added at end "and must be brought to the regional council for discussion, vote and adoption. **PASSED**

Purpose: provided clarification of new project topic discussed at previous conventions.

Standing Resolution #3 Repealed due to the dissolution of the IDA. **PASSED**

From here, the Bylaws will have the changes made and the date of revision added and will be posted on the MSRAL.org site and put in the MSRAL.IO Group files. If you currently are not in that discussion group, please join the many conversations that take place in there.



CELEBRATING TOGETHER UNDER THE STARS FOR 75 YEARS AND COUNTING

The Astronomical League had early roots back to the 1939 Cushing, New York World's Fair, and was officially formalized after the second World War on August 30, 1947. The Mid-States Region formed in 1949 and became official in 1950 and joined the League in 1951.

The Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers met in Fayette, MO, at the Morrison Observatory of Central College under the leadership of Dr. Floyd Helton, Gene Waters and Russell Maag. Included in this meeting were members from the Kansas City Astronomy Club (aka Astronomical Society of Kansas City). Photo courtesy from the archives of the Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers.

Some of the names and faces have changed, but the goal is still the same - to come together and share ideas, resources, and encouragement in this hobby of astronomy. Currently, the Mid-States Region contains many members who joined as a young adult and have recounted their great enduring relationships that they still enjoy today.

This year's 75th Anniversary was held at the University of AR at Little Rock, AR on June 13th to 15th, 2025 and was hosted by Central Arkansas Astronomical Society. This is the first convention in 22-years where there was a full complement of officers and convention chair working together, exactly how the region was established as reported in Sky & Telescope articles and convention archive minutes.

The major hurdle facing the convention process is the ever increasing on-line meetings culture VS hosting in-person meetings and conventions. Although there is a place for that, MSRAL officers still value the coming together like a family reunion every June. In fact, the officers have decided to engage the regional youth with the mission to have them meet each other, present talks and participate in S.T.E.A.M. activities up coming conventions. The best part is, a new officer position, Regional Youth Coordinator will be in charge of a team of youth who will plan their convention.

One thing we know for sure, is that according to Archives on Youth Activities, the Astronomical League had a successful model back at its inception in 1947, where a student league of youth astronomy clubs were connected nationally through, a snail mail newsletter, prepared talks/presentations, observing programs, and attendance at the ALCons. Through this Youth Committee, and its guidance from a coordinator, MSRAL officers will feel confident that there will be good stewards at the ready for the future.

Celebration time after the Saturday night banquet at UALR Meeting Room. Half vanilla with raspberry cream and chocolate with chocolate cream.

From left to right: Jackie Beucher, Betty and Past President, Carroll Iorg, Clare and MSRAL Regional Chair, Rick Heschmeyer.



Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers - Kansas City, Missouri



As stated on page one, Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers and Kansas City Astronomy Club met 75 years ago and hammered out what we have become today. The current MSRAL officers felt it was vital to acknowledge and celebrate the Founding Clubs and the people who have been keeping MSRAL relevant as well as providing a great respite for astro-friend ships through the years.

Along with 75th MSRAL logo totes and pins, acrylic awards and certificates were also issued with Chair Heschmeyer's and Carroll Iorg's signatures.



The awards were designed for the two Founding Clubs the first being, Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers with new logo and was also given a paper certificate. No one from CMAA was present so theirs was sent to them. The second Founding Club awarded was to ASKC their attendees came forward to receive their award.

Photo to right: starting from the Left: Jackie Beucher, Gil and Kathy Machin, Betty and Carroll Iorg and Regional Chair Rick Heschmeyer.



FOUNDING CLUBS RECOGNITION

Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers and Astronomical Society of Kansas City

LEGACY CLUBS RECOGNITION

Saint Louis Astronomical Society and Astronomy Club of Tulsa

The second group of awards were the Legacy Clubs and also went to two clubs. Both immediately started to host a regional meeting very early in the 1950's. The first club who is also a major back bone to this region partnered with the Amateur Astronomical Society of Emerson Electric at their Auditorium and Observatory in September, with the Saint Louis Astronomical Society. So far, SLAS has hosted the most conventions.

The other club was the Tulsa Astronomy Club (aka Astronomy Club of Tulsa-ACT). Since no members were present, award and certificate will be delivered when they start up their meetings again in August.

ACT hosted the 5th convention in 1953 with Wichita Astronomical Society at Grand Lake of the Cherokees, at Grand Lake in Oklahoma. These two clubs would continue to partner for 8 conventions. The early version of Amateur of the Year Award started at this convention.

Photo at left: SLAS members, Larry Campbell, Cook "Yoda" Feldman, Mark Jones, Jim Small and Regional Chair Rick Heschmeyer.





CLUBS WHO SHARE THE VISION

After recognition of the Founding and Legacy clubs, Certificates of Appreciation were given to any club or society that has hosted a regional convention during the 75 years of operation of the Region. A few were not present, and sadly a few of the clubs no longer exist.

The Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri-ASEM, first hosted in 2008 at the St. Charles Community College, Cottleville, MO. They will be hosting MSRAL 2026 next June. The attendees came forward for their certificate. Photo on left: Larry Campbell, Jim Twellman, Stacey Thater and Chair Rick Heschmeyer.

Photo on right, Stacey Thater, Board Director for ASEM, gave President, Chuck Simms, ASEM's certificate at their July meeting.



The Astronomical Society of NW Arkansas hosted their first convention in 1982 which was held at the Jones Center for Families in Springdale, AR.

President, Elliot Neel accepted his club's award. Additionally, he was a presenter at the convention with a talk called, "Homage to the Porter Garden Telescope" that was built in the 1920's by Russell Porter, artist, engineer, architect, cartographer, amateur astronomer and Arctic explorer and founder of Stellafane held annually in Springfield, VT.



Central Arkansas Astronomical Society first hosted in 2015 at the University of AR at Little Rock. It was well attended complete with several vendor tables.

This year's hosting members present from left to right in photo to the left: John Reed, Rocky Tongi, Christ Lahey, Bruce McMath, Carl Freyaldenhoven, Michael Borrelli, Bill Engberg, Jim Dixon who is also MSRAL's 2025 Amateur of the Year Award recipient, and Darcy Howard along with Regional Chair Rick Heschmeyer.



The first hosting by Omaha Astronomical Society was in 1973, and later partnered with Prairie Astronomical Society. Their convention was hosted at Creighton University in Omaha, NE. Receiving the award are OAS members in the Photo at left: starting left to right: John Johnson, Bill Bond, Mike Modrcin and presenter, Regional Chair Heschmeyer.

The next hosting club was the Prairie Astronomical Society in Nebraska, who hosted their first convention in 1970, which was held at the Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE. They would also partner with OAS for another events. Fellow Nebraskan, Mike Modrcin from Omaha Astronomical Society received it on their behalf.



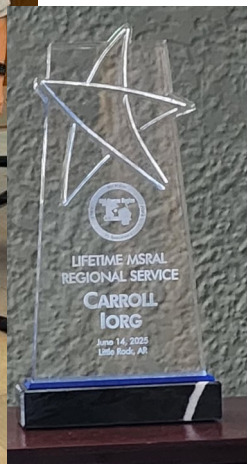
Last but not least, is the Sugar Creek Astronomical Society who hosted in 2018 at Explore Scientific in Springdale, AR. It was at this meeting that MSRAL had a Horkheimer youth recipient named Abigail Bollenbach from the Bartlesville Astronomical Society who still is an astronomy influencer. No one from Sugar Creek Astronomical Society was present so the Regional Representative sent it to Past President, Kent Marts who gave it to the current President, Molly Ussery at their July meeting.

MSRAL's DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Another Regional grouping of awards were given to those who had spent many years volunteering in the Mid-Sates or at the National level or both.



Currently, the only service award MSRAL offers is the Amateur of the Year Award started in the early 50's. In light of the 75th celebration, and based on review of countless archives of National, MSRAL, and various regional club minutes, there were a few names that seemed to be in the limelight for over thirty years.



With a gap in MSRAL minutes from 1975 to 1992, the first recipient stepped in as a regional chair in 1994 to 1996, became Regional Vice Chair in 1999, Regional Chair in 2000 and Convention Chair in 2005, all the while serving as an executive officer either Vice President or President of the Astronomical League.

A Lifetime MSRAL Service Award and Certificate of Appreciation went to Past President, Carroll Iorg.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS!

The second Lifetime MSRAL Service Award and Certificate of Appreciation went to a long standing member of the Astronomical Society of Kansas City. Starting in the 1990's Jackie Beucher served as National Executive Secretary for several years, served as President of ASKC several times, became Regional Chair in 1992, and then served as MSRAL's Secretary-Treasurer for 7-years was replaced in 2019, so she could dedicate more time on National's Board of Trustees.



The main project that she worked on in the 90's that the Astronomical League is still a benefactor, was receiving all the data and information of the clubs and individual members from former Executive Secretary, Janet Stevens. All memberships were entered into the MS Access Data Base software which was the genesis of the current files used by Mitch Glaze today. Along with a few others, this team received the League's Service Award for all their hard work. Great Woman, Great Legacy.



OUR UNSUNG HEREOS—BEHIND THE SCENE VOLUNTEERS

There are three other well deserving people who are more behind the scenes and they too, are members of the Region's largest astronomy club, the Astronomical Society of Kansas City. The first recipient was the previous manager of the League store for approximately 25 years. During that time, Denise Moser, set up this vital facet of the Astronomical League with products and merchandise. She was recently appointed as the League Historian and has started to organize documents, files, all the archives, including Regional archives and documentation at the League headquarters in Kansas City.

The second recipient is a faithful worker at the office as well and works the store merchandise tables at Alcons and maintains club membership records, hard files, etc. They have been volunteering for 10 years, so congratulations to Mike Stokes. Mike's fellow a co-worker who demonstrates the same work ethic on-site for five years is none other than Judith Riley. Their selfless dedication may often impede their personal time, but they take what they do very seriously and it shows.

The store manager commented that there is no way anything can be accomplished without these two and they indeed are the unsung heroes of the National Office. Since Mike and Judith were preparing shipping store merchandise and booth equipment for Bryce Canyon, they were not able to have time to attend the Convention in Little Rock, AR.

At the banquet, Carroll Iorg received all their certificates with new MSRAL logo pins and totes and delivered them on behave of the MSRAL Region.

Meriam Webster defines dedication as: self-sacrificing, devotion and loyalty. If the dictionary had photos, there would be these three.

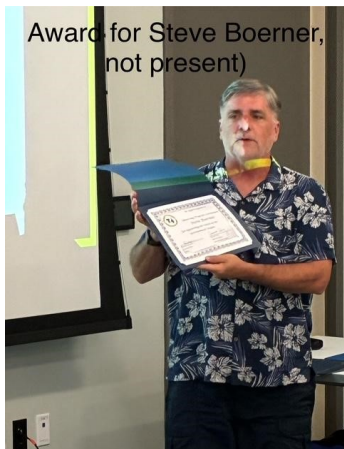
Photos: Left: Denise Moser, Center: Mike Stokes and Right: Judith Riley all from ASKC.



MORE REASONS MSRAL HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL FOR 75 YEARS AND COUNTING



Scott Kranz from Astronomical Society of Kansas City was awarded at his club meeting for Master Imaging, Comet, Meteor, Messier, Sun spotter, Observing Programs.



Steve Boerner, Member-At-Large, for managing Astronomy Before the Telescope, Spectroscopy and Radio Astronomy. Steve not present at club meeting.



Dan Crowson from Astronomical Society of Eastern MO, for Foundations of Imaging Program.

The Omaha Astronomical Society received an award for the genesis of the observing programs by creating the Messier Observing Program for their 45 students back in 1963.

The first coordinator Brad Young from Astronomy Club of Tulsa who manages Alternate Constellations, Solar Eclipse and Earth Orbiting Satellites was not present so his will be delivered to him at their August club meeting.



Kathy Machin also from the Astronomical Society of Kansas City oversees the Dark Nebula and the Southern Skies Observing Programs.



Cook "Yoda" Feldman, Regional Vice Chair, from St. Louis Astronomical Society for Oversight of the MSRAL Bylaws, Convention Planning Guide and development of a regional budget for future projects.



Mike Modrcin from Omaha Astronomical Society was awarded for his National position of Astronomy Day Coordinator.



Robert Togni from Central Arkansas Astronomical Society manages the Carbon Star, authored the Variable Star and Variable Star Binocular programs. He also proposed and wrote the Lunar Evolution Observing Program.

2025 AstroCon Council Meeting Notes—Rick Heschmeyer

After quorum was determined Chuck announced a few new appointments. Dave Walden will chair a new convention planning committee, Willie Rainwater will be assisting with The Reflector as the new Ad Manager, and Denise Mose has been appointed as the new AL Historian.

Financial Report

Since Mike Coucke, the treasurer was not there, Chuck proceeded into the Financial Report. Overall financial health is good, in spite of the \$45K loss from the 2024 AICon, which was offset by a temporary use of Trust Fund interest. The all-digital Reflector issue in March saw a \$25K savings instantly and a new publishing contract for the Reflector is projected to save an additional \$24K over the next 2 years. In addition, an unexpected additional \$75K from the Nye bequest was received.

Interest from the Trust Fund is estimated at \$40K.

Proposed budget for 25/26 was reviewed and approved.

League Sales update-Mitch Glaze and Mike Stoakes (contract services) will both be getting a 20% increase for 25/26 as will Judith Riley (AL employee)

Awards/GSP/AL Live Update

Terri Mann noted 55 nominations for Awards as well as updated the status of both the Global Star Parties and AL Live online events hosted by Explore Scientific.

Half of this year's Youth Award Winners were in attendance at the convention and a couple actually made presentations at the event.

New Items

Reviewed a proposal from Donald Lubowich to create an AL Award Program for "Music and Astronomy Under the Stars". It was decided that this kind of activity could be covered under the current outreach award program and the decision was to not proceed.

The Reflector

Discussed the changeover to Walsworth as the new publisher and again noted the savings the League will see. It was also mentioned that our old publisher came back to us with a counter offer, but the new contract with Walworth had already been signed.

Discussed adding Willie Rainwater as Ad Manager.

Also discussed that since the all-digital March issue several members have requested digital only going forward, which will add additional savings to the Reflector's bottom line.

Trust Fund Elections

Two open positions-Aaron Clevenson replacement needed for balance of term to avoid having 3 officers serving on the Trustee Board-Don Knabb elected.

Tim Hunter term expires 2025, new 4 year term. John Goss elected.

Continuing terms- Mike Coucke for the duration of his service as Treasurer, Terry Mann (expires 2026) Jim Fox (expires 2027)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATIONAL BYLAWS AND STANDING RESOLUTIONS 2025

Bylaws Committee- The vote on the 2024 Bylaws is still being tabulated and is expected to be reported by end of July/mid-August.

The following motions are made by Jim Fox as chair and on behalf of the Bylaws Revision Committee. **Additions are in green; deletions are in red, purposes are in brown.** Bylaws changes must be approved by Council and then submitted to the membership for approval in the May 2026 ballot. If so approved, the Bylaws changes would become effective on September 1, 2026. Standing Resolutions must be approved by Council in open session at the national convention.

MOTION 1

PASSED

The committee moves that Council recommend to the membership an amendment to Article II, Officers, Section 8 (b) and (c), of the Bylaws to read:

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. **Consent shall be given absent the assertion of disqualifying objections to the appointee (e.g. nepotism, lack of qualifications for the office, lack of eligibility for the office, and factors affecting the reputation of the League).**

c. If two or more executive offices other than the President must be filled under Section 5b of this Article, **or if appointment of a single executive office cannot be resolved pursuant to paragraph b of this Section,** the unfilled offices shall be filled by the full Council.

Purpose: This change prevents EC members from disapproving of officer appointments for purely personal or trivial reasons. It also provides a mechanism for appointing an officer if the Executive Committee is unable to resolve an appointment dispute.

MOTION 2

PASSED

The committee moves that Council recommend to the membership an amendment to Article VII, Committees, Section 4(a), of the Bylaws to read:

a. Members of Standing Committees may be appointed or removed by majority vote of Council **or of the Executive Committee if Council is not in session** unless other procedures are established in the Bylaws or Standing Resolutions that created the Standing Committees. **Although League Regions are standing committees, Regional Chairs and Representatives who have been elected by members within their regions (i.e. not appointed) can only be removed in accordance with Missouri law.**

Purpose: This motion clarifies that Regional Chairs and Representatives who have been elected by members in their regions (i.e. not appointed) can only be removed in accordance with Missouri law.



MOTION 3**PASSED**

The committee moves that Council recommend to the membership an amendment to Article X, Property and Financial, Section 5, sentences 3 and 4, of the Bylaws to read as follows:

Authorized persons, however, may **not sign hotel or venue contracts or any 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 **exceed** the scope of that person's authority and may be held liable for any losses incurred by the League.

Purpose: This change prevents any person from exposing the League to hotel or venue contract liability without the approval of the President.

MOTION 4**PASSED**

The committee moves that Council recommend to the membership an amendment to Article XI, The Trust Fund, Section 2, to change subparts (2) and (3) of said Section to subparts (b) and (c). **Purpose: This change corrects an outline format error.**

MOTION 5**PASSED**

The committee moves that Council recommend to the membership an amendment to Article XII, Amendments, Section 2, of the Bylaws to add the following sentence: 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. **Council may include recommended action with the proposed amendment.**

Purpose: allows Council to endorse recommended Amendments that are submitted to the membership for approval.

MOTION 6**NOT PASSED (CURRENT WORDING MORE FLEXIBLE)**

The Committee moves that Council amend Standing Resolution 3, Guidelines for Regional Assistance, as follows:

1. Whereas a modest source of income is **occasionally** necessary to enable regions to develop and conduct **special events** or programs, ...

2. Regions may request regional assistance once in any ten (10) year period subject to the limitations that (a) only one regional request will be granted in any one year and (b) Council deems that sufficient funds are available.

3. Regions must submit their requests to the Treasurer **at least three (3) months before the annual Council meeting at which consideration is desired.**

4-5. [Last two numbered paragraphs are unchanged and will be re-numbered.]

Purpose: This change limits regional assistance to one request in any ten (10) year period, and to one grant per year, if Council determines that sufficient funds are available.

MOTION 7**PASSED**

The committee moves that Council amend Standing Resolution 5, The Astronomical League Award, paragraphs 3 and 8, as follows: **Amended 6/24/2025, at Bryce Canyon National Park, UT.**

3. Nominations must be made in writing **to the League President.**
Executive Secretary



6. The receipt of nomination shall be acknowledged by the **League President. Executive Secretary**. 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.

8. The committee may **consider candidates of its own choosing. Nominate additional names.**



Purpose: This change requires that award nominations go to the head of the AL Award Committee like the handling of Peltier Award nominations.

MOTION 8

POSTPONED TO ASTROCON 25

The committee moves that Council adopt a new Standing Resolution #21, Event Insurance, as follows:

Standing Resolution #21: Event Insurance Adopted by Council 6/24/2025, at Bryce Canyon National Park, UT.

1. Event insurance covering the League shall be obtained for (a) all conventions and star parties hosted, co-hosted, and/or conducted by the League and its regions, and (b) other events designated by the Executive Committee.

2. Event insurance called for in this Standing Resolution shall, if required, cover additional parties to include League member societies and host venues.

Purpose: This change requires that all conventions and significant events conducted by the League and its regions be covered by Event Insurance.

FUTURE ALCONS

2026

WILL BE HELD AT CINCINNATI MARRIOTT RIVER CENTER ON AUGUST 12–16, 2026 WITH A ROOM RATE OF 189 WITH FREE SHUTTLES TO BANKS DISTRICT, REDS, AQUARIUM.

2027

POTENTIALLY IN COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO.

2028