

# Astronomical League Council Meeting Notes – July 27, 2023

*Submitted by Edward P. Flaspoebler, Jr., SWRAL Region Representative*

AL Council Meeting Notes 20230726 Baton Rouge

AL web page is up. Woefully out of date. Please send club and officer updates. Also bouncing email.

Please spread the word about AL Live online events. Events are archived on FB page.

New bylaws have been finalized, approved and published. Printed copies are available. Posted online. Bylaws committee will be continued as standing committee to make updates as necessary. Proposed changes will be presented at the annual council meeting.

President's award. 2 awards per year at presidents discretion.

AL Bylaws revised to require convention agreement for hosting clubs.

AL revenue dropped over last year due to billing issues with REFLECTOR. A new billing editor has been appointed.

Regions need authorization in bylaws to open bank accounts on behalf of the AL. Treasurer will send authorization on AL letterhead for SWRAL to open new bank account. Possible bylaws change required.

AL clubs need to be aware of child protection issues when holding public events.

Remember the AL in your will.

As AL grows, admin and historical archives are harder to manage. Active Historian is needed. Documents should be scanned as they are created. Regional officer should be involved.

John Martin is New AL Website Editor. Old website was Drupal platform. New Website is Wordpress. Website is online, but updates, i.e. club data, are ongoing.

## Special Awards

- Gary Tomlinson Astronomy Day Coordinator is retiring.
- John Martin for emnew Website
- Marilyn Unhuh for AL book service.
- Tallahassee AS for library telescope program.
- NAPIERVILL AS 50th year anniversary.

AL is now a recommended provider of Eclipse Glasses. Finding safe glasses is tricky. Distribution: Bulk sales are available through League Sales. 40 cents apiece in boxes of 2500.

Attendance is low at recent ALCON for many reasons. Hybred meetings with Zoom access is imperative. Our competitors are already doing it. We need a quality product that will be appealing online.

AL Trust Fund has received large bequests from various individuals. Long term planning for use of funds in Trust Fund is imperative. Public outreach through both clubs and League itself is major initiative. Trust Fund

has \$200k invested in interest bearing CDs. Interest can be used for outreach. Trust Fund should not be used for operating expenses.

Long Range Planning Committee is a standing committee per AL bylaws

Horkheimer award is discontinued due to lack of funding by Horkheimer family. Several existing awards could be consolidated to trim number of awards given. Horkheimer name will be retained for two more years. Trust Fund could be used to fund awards as appropriate.

Award structure will be reviewed in near future. Award structure will be retained for the next year.

Bylaws will be changed to consider a zoom meeting the same as an in person meeting.

AL will allow the Executive Committee to explore ways to work with Science Head and similar organizations to support STEM Initiatives. This is primarily a local club initiative.

Alcon 2023 will earn a deficit. High speaker costs (\$20,000) and low turnout (146)

Future Conventions

- Alcon 2024 has been moved from Toronto to KC
- Alcon 2025 will be in Bryce Canyon
- Alcon 2026 Cincinnati (?)

Solar Eclipse Observing Certificates and Pins.

Membership dues will increase 20% for all membership classes with the exception of the MAL Charter members that were grandfathered in 1999 (never to be increased) and Lifetime Memberships.

AL Budget is out of balance in part due to loss of income due to unbilled REFLECTOR advertising.

In addition, the AL operating expenses exceed revenue income due to a number of rising costs. Examples include producing and mailing the Reflector magazine, increased contract labor cost, and a number of other expense increases.

Budget was passed with adjustments as recommended by Council.

By Ed Flaspoebler  
SWRAL Regional Representative