

Astronomical League Council Meeting Notes – July 17, 2024

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

Astronomical League Council Meeting
July 17, 2024
Kansas City, MO

Roll call of attendees, in room and online via zoom.

AL Treasury will contribute \$240 to promote AL video and FB page. Metrics of success will be determined. Scott Roberts will manage program for AL.

AL Budget - Bill Dillon - see handout.

AL is interested in accepting a donation of solar filters of various sizes. These would be made available to clubs on demand. Method of distribution is main problem. Astronomical League Sales can handle the distribution of 507 filters.

Charter Members is originally the Member-at-large program. MAL program is currently available.

Website needs to be updated to include regional clubs and contact information.

AL should create a Director of regional activities to help regional officers to administer their region. Committee should report back by August 10. Peggy Walker is interim chair.

Peggy Walker will Contact all regions about coordinating activities on a national level.

Aaron Cleavenger will act as advisor based on experience with Observing Programs.

AL Sales will be updating online store. Their report was submitted.

AL Reflector Managing editor Ron Cramer is stepping down. New editor has not been determined.

AL is once more seeking ways to reduce printing costs of Reflector.

Aaron Cleavenger reported on Observing Programs. 65 programs are currently being offered.

Astronomy Day Awards and other awards will be presented at Banquet.

Proposed amendments to By-laws and standing resolutions were discussed and approved.

Western Amateur Astronomers is not a region of the Astronomical League.

New AL Officers for 2024

Pres: Chuck Allen
VP: Terry Mann
Secretary: TBA
Treasurer: Michael Coucke

MARS region Bank account was closed due to inactivity. Funds were reverted to Astronomical League. \$2800. Problem was caused by disconnect in communications. Current MARS officers need to step in and "lead." MARS region needs to open a new bank account to protect the funds.

ALCon 2024 is only 160 attendees. Expenses are skyrocketing, especially food costs, service charges and taxes at full service hotels.

Alcon 2024 will lose money. Due to low attendance and high overhead costs. Future conventions need to reconsider locating at community colleges and junior colleges.

Streaming convention events had become popular. Thanks to Scott Roberts and Explore Scientific for supporting streaming activities.

Future Alcon

2025 Bryce Canyon

2026 Cincinnati

2027 Colorado Springs

\$1 million in AL Trust Fund. Large income on investments could be used to fund AL projects. Legacy funds continue to come in.

League needs to continue to grow the Trust Fund principle, as well as make good use of interest income.

Regional checking accounts belong to the Astronomical League. The League treasurer is also a signatory on regional Bank accounts.

Possible mini-convention in Hawaii in 2025.

No new proposals for AL Observings Programs in 2024-5. Exoplanet transit is being considered.

One time certificates, in cooperation with NASA, including a transit event, and the Corona Borealis nova event, request \$600 in funds for pins and certificates.

Aaron Clevenson reelected for another term as Trust Fund trustee.

Bill Dillon, AL treasurer, proposes new budget for 2024-5. \$192,652.00. Budget was approved.

Presentation on Bryce Canyon in 2025. Same place as 2011. Same week as Bryce Canyon Astronomy festival. Volunteers needed. Website will be online by August 1, 2024, for registration

Sky Puppy program, originally funded with NASA funds, will probably need additional funding in next year.

Alan Dyer was awarded the Honorary Membership Award.

By Ed Flaspoebler

SWRAL Regional Representative