

General Meeting of the Marshall Martz Memorial Astronomical Association

Martz-Kohl Observatory

June 28, 2023

President Corey Swanson called the meeting to order by at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes of the previous general meeting, May 24, 2023, as recorded by President Corey Swanson were read by secretary, Walter Pickut. After a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. In discussion, Gary Nelson corrected the pod dome delivery as June 18, and Laurie Livingston added Chase Putnam to Mary Putnam in acknowledging their financial contribution. The minutes as amended were then unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Reported by Treasurer John Anderson. He noted that at the present time income is exceeding expenses and an adjustment within the spending plan of \$8000 was made to reflect new spending, specifically reflecting solar glasses transactions with BOCES as explained. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved the treasurers report as presented without further discussion.

Finance Committee: Reported by Laurie Livingston.

- MKO has now ordered 29,000 solar eclipse glasses, primarily for resale, 26,500 to BOCES which will submit a payment of \$19,875 to MKO.
- Give Big Chautauqua, a previous 24-hour fundraiser, for a total of \$2,198. The goal was \$3000. This money was specifically designated for the MKO Space Camp. One donation was given in honor of Marshall and Mary Martz and another was in honor of Gary and Nancy Nelson. Eleven members donated, six non-members donated, including two donors who have never given before.
- President Swanson thanked and congratulated all committee members who worked on the project.

Facilities Committee: Reported by John Anderson.

- The Sky Shed has been moved to a safe location behind the Observatory, a deck or platform is being designed to accommodate it.
- The Radio Astronomy room construction is well underway, though some structurally significant rain-damaged wood needs to be replaced in the process.
- Debris from the fire pit (now deactivated) has been moved to a less notable and safer section of the property.
- Red lights have been installed for safety purposes on the stairway leading to Roll-off Roof facility.

Nominating Committee: Reported by Gary Nelson. An invitation was made for members desiring to join the Board of Directors at the next scheduled election to contact Gary. The names of board members not up for reelection were reviewed.

Strategic Planning Committee: Reported by Laurie Livingston. Nothing to report.

Program Committee: Reported by Walt Pickut.

- Speaker for July 19 will be Doctor Warren Marcus, PhD, a NASA Solar System Ambassador. The title will be “The James Webb and Hubble Space Telescopes: What We Have Learned so Far.”
- Doctor Alexandra Yap is due for a return visit on August 16 as our Special Guest Speaker describing her most recent astronomical research.
- President Swanson thanked Gary Nelson for his excellent presentation delivered on the previous week concerning telescopes, the construction and their optics, including hands-on demonstrations and a lengthy and lively Q & A session.

Solar Eclipse Committee: Reported by Tom Traub.

- Speaking engagements are planned for Warren County Pennsylvania including the request from Penn State Behrend University to do an Astronomy Day presentation with the planetarium on September 23 at 10 AM until 1 p.m.
- Also, Tom will do an eclipse presentation at the Warren County Chamber of Commerce and the Warren Women’s Club.
- Falconer New York Library, for July 11 or August 1, requested a 30-minute speaker but time will be unavailable and asked for a volunteer to accept that invitation.

Educational Outreach Committee: Tom Traub reporting.

- Kennedy Free Library book reading will be held on July 13 which John Anderson will do.
- July 14, The Relief Zone will be at the Observatory, under the direction of Marie Plumb who is looking for help with that, including 50 students and eight adults.
- The Space STEM Camp is well underway, with 26 students enrolled.
- Corey Swanson noted invitations from Boy Scout camp Merz for three Wednesday nights with 5 to 10 campers each night to work on their Astronomy Merit Badges on July 19, July 26, and August 2. Corey discussed the logistic and scheduling difficulties involved and is awaiting a reply from the scoutmaster.

Technology Committee: reported by Tom Traub.

- We have an opportunity to upgrade the imager on the 16-inch scope for occultation.
- Renewal of our ACP license is needed for scheduling control of the 24-inch scope.

Bylaws Committee: reported by Laurie Livingston. Nothing to report

Public and Media Relations Committee: Andy Felong reporting. Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business: Nothing to report

New Business: Nothing to report

Correspondence: None reported

For the Good of the Association: Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services will meet on July 18 at 6:30 PM at the Emergency Operations Center in Mayville regarding the upcoming solar eclipse and the attending traffic, public safety, and other logistical strains that are expected to accompany the event. Tom Traub will attend to represent MKO.

The next Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 p.m. and the General Membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. will be held on Wednesday, July 26.

President Swanson entertained a movement for adjournment, the movement was made, seconded, and unanimously approved without objection.

Adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter W. Pickut

Secretary