

Marshall Martz Memorial Astronomical Association

Martz-Kohl Astronomical Observatory

General Meeting, July 26, 2023

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:34 PM by Vice President Tom Traub, President Corey Swanson not attending.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the June 28, 2023 General Meeting was read by Secretary Walt Pickut. A motion was made to accept the report with the noted correction, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Anderson presented the balance sheet, which indicated that MKO balance remains positive by \$1428.65, and the restricted fund balance is now \$22,468.92. The solar eclipse restricted fund contains \$12,350.50, and the Stem Camp fund stands at \$7470.54, though additional funds remain to be counted. Without additional discussion being requested from the floor, a motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded and unanimously approved.

**Committee business:**

**Executive Committee:** Nothing to report

**Finance Committee:** Laurie Livingston reported that the committee will be meeting in the near future.

**Facilities Committee:** John Anderson reported that a meeting is planned in the near future. Work is continuing on the radio astronomy facility, with connection to the VOIP telephone system due for completion shortly.

**Nominating Committee:** Gary Nelson reported that a meeting will be held shortly. Tom Traub encouraged members to consider personal involvement in the board as a rewarding avenue of service for all members. Openings remain in the slate for nominations.

**Program Committee:** Walter Pickut announced that the August speaker will be Dr. Alexandra Yep, a returning favorite speaker and good friend of the observatory describing her ongoing research on "Cosmic Collisions" on August 16.

**Solar Eclipse Committee:** Tom Traub reported that he had met with the regional EOC Emergency Operations Center to discuss the regional arrangements for the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse will draw an estimated nearly 260,000 people to Chautauqua County alone 200,000 to Western Pennsylvania.

Reported on the concluded STEM Camp, and extremely successful collaboration between Martz-Kohl Observatory and Falconer Central School. Tom congratulated all who were involved and stated that plans already are under consideration for a repeat program next year.

**Technology Committee:** Tom reported on updates of the main image processing software, renewed license for ACP, and astronomy control program. In/

The cooling system for the camera is also being updated with a new cooling pump.

Tom also announced that we are planning to start a mentorship program for new members to learn more about the observatory and participating in our observation and research projects.

**Coming Events:**

- 1.) August 12 and 13, the Perseid meteor shower. The observatory will be open for observing this event.
- 2.) October 14, a partial eclipse of the sun will be visible from the observatory location.
- 3.) **The upcoming Annual Dinner Meeting**, September 27.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved without objection to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Pickut, Secretary