

**Marshall Martz Memorial Astronomical Association
General Meeting Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

President Corey Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. President Swanson welcomed members attending remotely via Zoom.

Secretary's Report: Walt Pickut. Walt read the minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting. Josh Campbell moved the minutes be approved as read, seconded by Phil Evans. Unanimously approved without objection or correction.

Treasurers Report: John Anderson. John presented the balance sheet to date which revealed that MKO is currently running a positive balance in the amount of \$1,935.53. Restricted funds have increased by \$2,000, the value of a new donation made in the (restricted) Elizabeth Anderson fund, now totaling \$3,879.73. John also reported that we had just completed purchase of 11,425 solar glasses for \$2,513.50 (\$0.22 per unit). Walt Pickut moved the Treasurer's report be accepted as read, seconded by Brian Ceci. Report unanimously approved without objection or correction.

Finance Committee Report: Laurie Livingston. The first meeting of the year will be January 8 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Facilities Committee Report: John Anderson. The radio astronomy room, now mostly completed, is being set up with radio equipment. The storage room is near completion with more storage space available. The library is now being cleaned up and reorganized. The office area has also been reorganized, the file cabinets becoming more accessible and file cabinet keys have now been purchased. Temporary equipment storage in the small classroom will soon be reorganized and redistributed to their permanent locations. Walt Pickut expressed the appreciation of the Rotary Club of Jamestown on receipt of 30 redundant books from the library to be distributed in Rotary Club's "Laundromat Library" Literacy Program for the use and enjoyment of the general public throughout the community.

Richard Carlson, (long time and revered charter member of MKO) is also donating books to our library expanding our holdings beyond the 630 books already in the library.

Program Committee Report: Walt Pickut. The program committee has almost completed the speaker program for all of 2024. Future possibilities also include Dr. David Toot, of Alfred University, a solar astronomer who had once arranged for transfer of the Kohl scope to Alfred before Dr. Kohl redirected it to us.

Solar Eclipse Committee: Tom Traub. Public awareness about the eclipse is on the rise, and MKO is becoming widely recognized as a source of information and expertise. Committee meeting is slated for mid-January to finalize plans and logistics, including planning for possibly vast overcrowding of our facility, advising people to watch the eclipse at home. We will collaborate with Dr. Darren Williams on live feed and video recordings of the eclipse. Eclipse glasses sales continue.

Educational Outreach Committee: Tom Traub.

1. Public training in use of telescopes is one of the Educational Outreach Committee's priorities. Exoplanet transits are currently under study by MKO.
2. Laurie Livingston reported that the summer STEM camp project, while not designed as a profit center, is slated to be financially self-sustaining on an ongoing basis. The next camp is scheduled for the third week in July, 2024.
3. Asteroid occultation studies are still underway. These studies are open for members to participate in along with learning how to use our telescope systems.
4. ACP software and technology is still under development.
5. Tom reminded everyone that there is an ISO safety certification for eclipse glasses and strongly advised anyone interested in glasses to be sure the ones that use meet those standards. By solar eclipse glasses from MKO to be safe.

Technology Committee: Tom Traub. Software and hardware integration and coordination remain challenging and are still under development. Technology committee meeting is slated for mid-January.

Media Relations Committee: Andy Felong. Laurie Livingston relayed Andy's message. The library telescope program publicity has been very successful. He is placing ads for Kate LaRue's upcoming presentation, continuing to update the website on a regular basis. In the last 28 days our website received 5000 views, 500 of them unique visitors, and about 28,000 views in 2023. Facebook now has 2600 followers, about 20,000 unique views and shares. Social media has been extremely productive for MKO thanks to Andy's remarkable work.

Unfinished Business: None reported.

New Business: None reported

Correspondence:

President Corey Swanson reported that a previous visitor to MKO, Alta Martinson, had recently passed away. Her obituary invited friends and family to make a memorial contribution to MKO to reflect Alta's delight with the kindness and private tour she had once experienced at the observatory. To date a \$25 and a \$50 contribution have been received. Thank you cards will be sent to the donors. This kindness will also be reported in the newsletter.

For the Good of the Association: The Members Only section of the website is password protected. The password changes annually, without date due on January 8 of 2024 members will be notified of the new password in the newsletter

The Jamestown Post Journal has contacted MKO for an article, "Fun Facts about the Eclipse," which Andy and Tom working on

An astronomy student from C. D. Hilton High School in Woodbridge Virginia requested information concerning marts-kohl observatory for a school project. Andy has replied.

Upcoming Events:

1. Doors Open Jamestown, February 3, 2024, 10 AM to 4 PM. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for volunteers. 220 people from the community had participated last year and more are expected this year.
2. A group from Cassadaga, a homeschooling group, and girl and boy scout groups are being scheduled for next year.

The next in general and Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for January 24, 2024 at 6:30 and 7:30 respectively.

There being no further business to discuss President Corey Swanson wished everybody a Merry Christmas and happy new year called for a motion to adjourn. Tom Traub moved to adjourn, seconded by John Anderson. Unanimously approved without opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter W Pickut
Secretary