

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of January 24, 2014 E-Board Meeting

Officers Present:

President	Ron Hranac	Vice President	Lisa Judd
Secretary	Dena McClung	Treasurer	Brad Gilman

Board Members Present:

Johnny Barela	Jack Eastman	Joe Gafford
Chuck Habenicht	Digby Kirby	Dan Wray
Ron Pearson, Immediate Past President		

Absent: Scott Leach Ed Scholes

Observatory Representative:

Aaron Reid

Other Members and Guests:

Hugh Davidson, Volunteer Coordinator	Darrell Dodge, Website Administrator	
David Shouldice	Dennis Cochran	Eileen Barela

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 7:30 p.m.

The Previous Meeting's Minutes were read, amended and approved.

Chamberlin Business: Ed Scholes plans to take inventory on January 30. A new chalkboard and laptop shelf have been installed on the main floor. The new parking situation at Olin Hall was deemed to be adequate. It was noted that DU personnel had filled in a "historic" hole in the wood floor by mistake; Aaron is going to look into that.

Treasurer's Report: Brad reported that he has transferred more than \$6,000 in membership renewals from Paypal to the General Fund. When it was reported that members (including at least one person in attendance) are getting renewal notices from magazines that are paid through DAS membership, Brad advised he sends those remittances quarterly. The donations that are coming in along with membership renewals will have to be transferred from the General Fund to the designated funds. Brad estimated that he spends 20 hours per month on DAS business. Ron Hranac asked Brad to write a summary of his duties to be used in the club's search for a new treasurer. Darrell reported that members who do not renew are culled from the database around April 1.

2014 Elections: Enough nominations have been received to fill all positions except for that of Treasurer. Dan agreed to approach Frank Mancini about that vacancy.

Outreach: International Sun Day is scheduled for Sunday, June 22, 2014. Cathie Havens has already scheduled it for S&S Optika, and Dena will call John Anderson about participating at Chamberlin. International Observe the Moon Night is scheduled for September 6, 2014. Since that falls four days before a full moon, the board considered holding an event but opted instead to put the word out in the newsletter. Sorin has begun working on arrangements for a DAS table at Starfest (May 2-4, 2014) and Denver Comic Con (June 13-15, 2014). In addition, participation in a discussion panel and

sidewalk astronomy may be added. Ron Hranac instructed Dena to work up a 1/3 sheet handout with Sorin, and Ron Pearson to get a printing quote.

Since 2014's two lunar eclipses occur after midnight (April 15 and October 8), events at Chamberlin were not considered to be appropriate. Dena agreed to ask Jeff Tropeano about arranging a Google Hangout (online virtual star party with streaming video) if a volunteer would like to broadcast the event. An alternative would be to recommend that people go to other websites that would be hosting the event as well.

The year's partial solar eclipse will occur late in the afternoon on Thursday October 23. The board discussed having events at Chamberlin, the DMNS, and S&S Optika. It was decided that Public Night for that date will be canceled and replaced by a free event on the lawn. It will require solar telescopes and solar viewing glasses, along with volunteers.

Castlewood Canyon State Park will begin offering their monthly Astronomy Night in April.

Dark Sky Site: Since the DSS lease is up in three years, a discussion ensued about how to secure the property for a longer period. Concerns were expressed about the owner's advanced age and uncertainty about the wishes of his children. Darrell agreed to talk to the owner about extending the lease another five years. The option of trying to purchase the property was also discussed, resulting in three possible options: Extending the lease to an 8-year total; Leasing with an option to buy; and Purchasing the property. Darrell, Ron Hranac and Joe will discuss the situation offline and bring a recommendation back to the board.

SWOT Analysis: Ron Hranac wants the E-board to continue adding goals from the list created.

Merchandise Sales: The board is in favor of selling DAS merchandise (mugs, pins, etc.) at meetings and Open House events. It was agreed that a vendor job would be listed in the Job Jar, and merchandise would be advertised in *The Observer*.

Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship Fund: It was agreed that the board needs to ensure that Tim Pimental is sending emails advertising the availability of the scholarship. The question was raised about the possibility of increasing the amount offered, but it was noted that the VNH bylaws limit disbursements to the amount of interest earned by the funds. The goal has been to grow the endowment. It was agreed that a notice about the scholarship will be published in *The Observer*.

Membership Benefits: The name tags that have been made available to all members were originally intended to just be for volunteers. Darrell agreed to look into creating a link on Paypal for new members instead of sending out automated welcome e-mails, and can set up a welcome page on the DAS website. Digby offered to make phone calls to all new members, and agreed to take on the role of Membership Chairperson. Dena agreed to send him the names and phone numbers of new members. The question of price breaks for members in financial hardship was raised, as well as students who are over the age of 23. It was agreed that DAS membership prices are already very reasonable, so no changes will be made.

Old Business

Spring Banquet: Lisa reported that the contract with Embassy Suites has been signed and a speaker has been confirmed. Darrell will set up a Paypal link for online ticket purchases. We will be using the hotel's sound system. Digby will transport the DAS screen and projector to the hotel. The price was set at \$25 per person.

Social Media: Jeff Tropeano has recommended that a message be posted on the DAS Facebook group advising that the group page will be closed down, and that members of the page go to the public DAS page and “like” it to receive updates and news there. He would like to make Google Plus and Google Hangout available to members. They are used by many astronomers, who conduct webinars online. This would facilitate live webcasts which could also be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. He recommends that we maintain our communications on Yahoo.

Program and Committee Updates via ListServe: Ron Hranac requested that board members help streamline the meetings by conducting non-actionable business and providing updates on the Yahoo ListServe.

AstroCon 2017: Lisa reported that no vendors have yet responded to the invitation.

New Business

Board Education and Effectiveness: These online training courses, including best practices, have been made available by the Colorado Secretary of State and are recommended for officers of non-profit organizations. Ron Pearson uploaded the first two modules to the files section of the DAS E-board Yahoo listserve, and Ron Hranac requested that all officers read them.

Telescope Computer Failure: Due to the failure of the laptop attached to the 20”, that unit needs to be replaced and have Sky software version 6 loaded on it. An inventory of all club PCs and their locations (including those in locked storage) needs to be completed. The inoperative laptop will be removed from the current inventory. Dena agreed to take that laptop to a local recycling facility at no charge.

Awards/Recognition: Ron Hranac would like to continue the tradition of presenting plaques for appreciation of service to outgoing officers. A **motion was made and passed** to establish such awards and have them presented at the DAS spring banquet annually. Ron Hranac will procure them.

Speakers: Lisa reported that she has speakers lined up for meetings through the Spring Banquet in March and is working on others for the remainder of the year.

Post Office Box: Due to the need for an address for DAS business resulting from Brad's decision to not run for the treasurer position, Dena suggested that a post office box be rented at the facility close to Chamberlin on Buchtel Boulevard. A **motion was made and passed** to approve that action. Dena will make those arrangements.

Next Meeting: The next e-board meeting will be held on Friday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and passed at 9:41 p.m.