



The Astronomical League

A Federation of Astronomical Societies

Astro Note B1 – Astronomical League Services

Introduction – We are often asked, "What do I (or my club) get for my (our) dues to the League?" This is understandable. We all want value for our money. The Astronomical League offers many services to both individuals and clubs. It is difficult to remember all of them, so this sheet is a convenient reminder.

The Reflector – The League Bylaws specify that, "The League shall produce a publication for distribution on a regular basis to the membership." That publication is our quarterly newsletter The Reflector. It is our major tool for communications, both between officers and members, and between member clubs. It brings news of national and regional activities and highlights local activities that might be of general interest to our membership. If you have items to contribute to the newsletter, contact the editor: editor@astroleague.org.

Publications Committee – Besides overseeing the publication of The Reflector, this committee publishes a variety of pamphlets about amateur astronomy clubs and the Astronomical League and publishes our popular Observing Program Manuals. We are constantly upgrading these manuals and adding new ones. This series currently includes: A Pathway to the Stars, Carbon Stars, Galaxy Groups and Clusters, Globular Clusters, Herschel Objects, Herschel II Objects, Local Galaxy Group, Math for Astronomers, Messier Objects, Meteors, Observer Eclipses, Observation Log Book, Planetary Nebulae, and the Universe Sampler. In cooperation with ALPO, we also publish the Mars Observers Handbook and the Jupiter Handbook. And in conjunction with NASA we publish Sky Puppies. Suggestions for new manuals or improvements to existing ones are always welcome and should be addressed to one of the Observing Program Directors.

Astronomical League Sales – You can order copies of your Observing Manuals plus a variety of T-shirts, jewelry and patches bearing the Astronomical League emblem from League Sales. See the ad in each issue of The Reflector or visit the Astronomical League Sales website at <https://store.astroleague.org/>. You may also write for a price list or ordering information to: Astronomical League Sales, 9201 Ward Parkway, Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64114 or e-mail at leaguesales@astroleague.org.

World Wide Web Homepage – Point your Internet browser to www.astroleague.org and check it out. Besides current information on the League and its activities, we also maintain links to a variety of sources of astronomical information.

Education Committee – Each year the Education Committee helps many clubs begin astronomy education programs through the use of its publication Astronomy Teaching Handbook: a Course Planning Guide. The handbook includes presentation hints, lesson plans and sample exercises which illustrate the basics of astronomy. The Committee has produced a slide set and script, "Introduction to the Universe," to provide clubs with a ready-to-show program to introduce astronomy to the general public. Both items are available from League Sales. For further information, contact Chair: Dr. T. Michael Flick, 1720 Monticello, Ft. Wright, KY 41011. E-mail: flick@xavier.edu

Astronomy Day Coordinator – Astronomy Day is an annual or biannual activity to promote astronomy to the public. Each year, many local clubs set up displays in shopping malls or other public locations to "Bring Astronomy to the People." Our Coordinator assists those clubs with a FREE 75 page web-based planning guide (the Astronomy Day Handbook), answering questions, spreading ideas among participants and administering awards for the best events held during each year's Astronomy Day. Contact: Gary Tomlinson, gtomlins@sbcglobal.net

Book Service – League members can purchase any book in print related to astronomy for a 10% discount. They are not limited to the offerings of a specific publisher or book club. There are no additional "hidden" charges for postage or handling, the Book Service takes care of all of that. Send the name of the book, list price, author, publisher, the name of your League member society, your name and mailing address, phone number, and a check for the list price less 10% to: Marilyn Unruh, (928) 778-2130, marilyn@booknookprescott.com.

Observing Program Division – One of the Astronomical League's prime missions is to develop observing skills in its members. While many of the Observing Program Manuals provide detailed instruction, this division recognizes dedicated efforts by AL members. The list of Observing Programs and Awards is extensive, and more details are available in one of the other Astro Notes of on the web page: <https://www.astroleague.org/observing.html>. For specific questions contact one of the Observing Program Directors or the individual observing Program Coordinators.

Young Astronomer Awards – The National Young Astronomer Award, sponsored by Explore Scientific is a competitive award recognizing the astronomical achievements of high-school-age young astronomers. A national panel of judges examine all entries based on defined criteria. The Three Jack Horkheimer Awards recognize exceptional service to the Astronomical League or a member society by a young astronomer. A

Fourth Horkheimer Journalism Award recognizes young astronomers through age 14. For full details and an entry form for these awards, contact the Astronomical League office at leagueoffice@astroleague.org. Information regarding these awards is also available on the League's website: www.astroleague.org/al/awards/awards.html

Other Recognition Awards – The Astronomical League also recognizes astronomers who have made significant contributions to astronomy, the Astronomical League, and their local astronomy clubs. These awards include: the Mabel Sterns Award for astronomy club newsletter editors, the Webmaster Award for astronomy club webmasters, The Astronomics Sketching Award, and the OPT Imaging Awards Program.

Club Liability Insurance – Many parks, shopping malls and other public venues are requiring proof of insurability before allowing an astronomy club to host a star party or set up an Astronomy Day display. This insurance is not inexpensive, but the Astronomical League has made arrangements for member clubs to obtain \$2 million liability coverage at a competitive rate. Contact the National Office or Executive Secretary for further information.