

MSRAL BYLAWS REVISION PROCESS AND RESULTS

The following document is the result of the MSRAL bylaws committee who worked tirelessly to update and revise the bylaws for the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League.

The first two pages represent the notes for the meetings that were held to discuss and propose the changes. The rest of the document represents the revised bylaws. They will be voted upon at the business meeting for the conference on Saturday morning of MSRAL. There will not be time for further revision at that point, it will be presented for a vote at the meeting.

If you have questions about the process or its result, don't hesitate to ask me or Cook Feldman about it.

Sincerely,

Jim Small

**MSRAL BYLAW AMENDING – REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2023 Jan 9, 7 to 9 PM.**

Attendees: Peg Walker, Regional Representative, Mike Gallagher, Secretary-Treasurer, President Jim Small, SLAS, Bylaws Committee & Zoom Host, Bruce McMath, CAAS, President Chris Thode CAAS, Proxy Jim Twellman, ASEM, President Craig Brockmeier BAS, Proxy Lane Pierce, SAS, President Jon Larsen, OAS, President Doug Goodin NEKAAL, Bylaws Committee Cook Feldman, SLAS, Proxy Rick Walker, BASWA, Proxy Phil Osborn, KAOS, and President Eliot Neel, ASNWAR.

PREAMBLE

Only change will be the date upon final vote for ratification at the MSRAL Business Meeting at the convention. Motion to Accept as written: Rick Walker Second: Jon Larsen

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP AND GEOGRAPHY

Narrative read and AL Bylaws Standing Resolution #13 lists the states and boundaries of the region. Recommended to put states in Standing Resolutions so was added to S.R. #8. Motion to Accept as written: Jim Small Second: Jim Twellman

ARTICLE II MSRAL OFFICERS

Section 1 Qualifications Nationally Updated: now standard 18 years for all leadership in the Astronomical League. **Section 3 Terms of Office** were formalized with the removal of "If no convention is held, in a given year, their term shall run until the position is filled." This is covered by the appointing or special election to fill the vacancy. **Section 4 Inactive National Officers** and **Section 5 Simultaneous National Offices** added from National Bylaws. **Section 7 Duties** added "Only MSRAL officers can conduct business at the business meetings. All officer duties were reviewed and a few new added from referring to NCRAL, NWRAL and GLRAL Bylaws. **Section 8 Removal of an Officer** added causation, new National MO Revised Status appointed and elected removal are different. Section 10 Proxy was reworked. **Section 11 Standing Resolutions** new section since there are now Standing Resolutions. Motion to Accept as Amended: Jon Larsen Second: Craig Brockmeister

ARTICLE III MSRAL OFFICERS

Section 1 National Council added to clarify regional participation on the National Council. **Section 2 Standing National Council** the region and committees are considered service sections. Each Meetings were clarified and better defined. Added Virtual Meetings now available. **Section 6 Quorum** explains the three types needed for Executive Council Meeting, Regional Council Meeting and the Convention Business Meeting. **Section 8 Voting** for those with regional officer and president position only casting one vote. Motion to Accept as Amended: Cook Feldman Second: Chris Thode

Due to time, broke at this point and a Motion to Adjourn: Jon Larsen Second: by Chris Thode. All proposals were unanimously approved.

2023 Jan 23, 7 to 9 PM

Attendees: Peg Walker, Regional Representative, Mike Gallagher, Secretary-Treasurer, President Jim Small, SLAS, Bylaws Committee & Zoom Host, Bruce McMath, CAAS, President Chris Thode CAAS, Proxy Jim Twellman, ASEM, President Craig Brockmeier BAS, Proxy Lane Pierce, SAS, President Jon Larsen, OAS, Bylaws Committee Cook Feldman, SLAS, Proxy Rick Walker, BASWA and President John Land, ACT.

ARTICLE IV REGIONAL CONVENTION

No major corrections **Section 2 Cancelation** due to exigent circumstances was added, **Section 4 Convention Finances** oversight by Executive Council, profit loss and added the convention reconciliation requirements. Motion to Accept as Amended: Jon Larsen Second: Peggy Hill

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS

Section 2 Nominating Committee function, members and process was streamlined and added **Section 3 Floor Nominations**. Got rid of any mail in balloting and virtual and electronic means can now be used. Motion to Accept as Amended: Jon Larsen Second: by Cook Feldman

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL

Section 1 Fiscal Year for the Astronomical League was listed, added MSRALS fiscal year. **Section 2 Non-Profit Status** narrative was made more concise. **Section 4 Financial National Assistance** was added as they offer relieve for debt and/or funds to pursue growth projects for the region. **Section 5 Regional Financial Assistance** can not be comingled with personal or club bank accounts. **Section 6 Contracts** is Pending as the narrative reads to be more for contract signing for planning ALCons. Peggy will email Chuck

Allen to ask so Motion to postpone: Cook Second: by Jim Twellman will hold until Chuck Allen responds. This article could not be Accepted as Amended and will be done via email.

Proposal to adopt revised Article VI has been postponed pending contact with Chuck Allen, Vice President.

ARTICLE VII BYLAW REVIEW & AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Bylaws Committee was added explaining members and purpose to review every 5 years. **Sections 2 Amendment Submission** and **Section 3 Proposal** were all reworked. **Section 4 Ratification** stated that the Bylaws needed to be sent to the National Executive Secretary for review. Per Chuck Allen that is not proper procedure and once Bylaws are amended and accepted by the regional leadership, ratified at the MSRAL Convention Business Meeting they are done. Motion to Accept as Amended: Jon Larsen Second: Cook Feldman

Peggy explained that the Standing Resolutions are a separate part of the Bylaws and are not included in the amending. They are fluid guidelines and regional policy and are amended at the MSRAL Convention Business Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Chris Thode Second: Jon Larsen

All proposals were unanimously approved.

As soon as the pending Article VI is resolved, there will be an addendum to these minutes.

February 1, 2023 Group Email

Due to scheduling conflicts, the last Bylaws amending meeting would be conducted via group email.

Attendees: Peg Walker, Regional Representative, Mike Gallagher, Secretary-Treasurer, President Jim Small, SLAS, Bylaws Committee & Zoom Host, Bruce McMath, CAAS, President Chris Thode CAAS, Proxy, Jim Twellman, ASEM, President Craig Brockmeier, BAS, Proxy, Lane Pierce, SAS, President, Jon Larsen, OAS, Bylaws Committee, Cook Feldman, SLAS, Proxy, Rick Walker, BASWA, President, John Land, ACT, Proxy, Val Germann, CMAA, President, Rick Heschmeyer, AAL, President, Mark Urwiller, PVAO, President, Doug Goodin, NEKAAL, Proxy, Phil Osborn, KAOS, and President, Gary Fugman, NENEAC.

The last three things to complete are:

Article VI FINANCIAL – Section 6 Contracts was deleted after contacting Chuck Allen and the League's standing of that narrative. It implied the signing of contracts that would involve large dollar amounts would be opening up national through the Regional Chair planning a convention. It would then require any contract signed for over \$500.00, would have to go to the President of the League. The reality is that 1) according to the regional bylaws we worked with, not one has planning the convention as a duty of the Regional Chair thus they should not be signing contracts for a convention in the region, 2) Conventions are planned by the Convention Chair and Vice Chair and all responsibility is on the hosting organization. The Bylaws Committee pulled that section from the Bylaws.

The motion to accept as amended: Rick Walker

A second: Peggy Hill

All 15 attendees voted aye

Article IV REGIONAL CONVENTION – Section 1 This article was already accepted as amended but due to the deletion of the "Contract" section, the Bylaws Committee decided to define the Convention Planning Committee and the Convention Chair and Vice Chair duties to be explained in Standing Resolution #8.

The motion to accept as amended: Jon Larsen

A second: Val Germann

All 15 attendees voted aye

Review Standing resolution #8 All 15 attendees indicated they have read the standing resolution.

The close of the email voting was 9:00pm, February 3, 2023. A quorum was met for all three meetings.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE MID-STATES REGION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (draft 2/13/2023)

These Bylaws of the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League were first adopted at the convention assembled June 10, 2023, as provided by the National Constitution and Bylaws of the Astronomical League. This constitution supersedes any previous constitution or Bylaws of the Mid-States Region.

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP AND GEOGRAPHY

Section 1. Defined:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX: Sec 1)

The Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League was formed under the Astronomical League Bylaws and Standing Resolution #13 and shall be referred to as the MSRAL, which includes all members of clubs or societies, Patron Members, Members-at-Large and Youth Members-at-Large who reside in said States.

ARTICLE II MSRAL OFFICERS

Section 1. Qualifications:

(AL Bylaws: Art. III. Sec. 3)

Any person from a society's membership roster is eligible to serve on any Astronomical League committees, hold regional or national office and must be in good standing and at least 18 years of age.

Section 2. Defined:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 3)

The Executive Regional Officers shall consist of the Regional Chair, Regional Vice Chair, Regional Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Representative to the National Council. The Executive Council shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Regional Council with its full authority on matters other than the election of Regional Officers which require its attention when the Regional Council is unable to meet.

Section 3. Term of Office:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 6)

The terms of the office shall be:

- a. Regional Chair shall serve a two (2) year term and may serve an additional term, not to exceed four consecutive years. A minimum of (1) year break is required before being elected after two consecutive terms.
- b. Regional Vice Chair shall serve a one (1) year term and may succeed themselves.
- c. Secretary-Treasurer shall serve a one (1) year term and may succeed themselves.
- d. Regional Representative shall serve a three (3) year term and may succeed themselves. In the case where no convention is held in a year, one can be seated, 1) by election of the Regional Council via special or virtual Business Meeting, 2) by appointment by the Regional Chair, or 3) by the President of the Astronomical League.

Section 4. Inactive National Officers:

(AL Bylaws: Art IX. Sec. 13)

A Regional Chair or Representative who, in the view of the National Executive Committee, does not participate in live or virtual National Council meetings, live or virtual Regional meetings, or is not an active member of an Astronomical League committee for a period of three (3) years, will be deemed to have resigned and will be considered "inactive." The President may (1) appoint a Regional Chair and/or Representative to serve until the next regional election and/or (2) direct the Regional Council to solicit a replacement by appointment or election process.

Section 5. Simultaneous Offices:

(AL Bylaws: Art. II Sec. 5, Art. IX. Sec. 6)

No person may hold the offices of Regional Chair and Regional Representative simultaneously. If a person is elected or appointed to, or succeeds to, a second such position while holding a first, that person will be deemed to have resigned the first office upon commencing the second.

Section 6. Voting Rights:

(AL Bylaws: Art. II. Sec. 6b.)

The Regional Chair and Regional Representative each hold a seat on the National Council and are entitled to one (1) vote each at any National Business Meetings virtual or in person.

Section 7. Duties:

The duties of the Executive Regional Officers shall consist of the following and such other duties as the Council may, assign.

a. The Regional Chair: is the chief executive officer of the MSRAL and shall not exercise any authority, or execute any contracts or obligations, which exceed the purpose or authority of the Astronomical League which infringe on the autonomy of the Region's individual societies. They shall:

1. Represent the region with a seat at the National Council. (AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 5)
2. Be a member of the Executive and Regional Councils and plan the agenda for, and preside over the Regional Business, Regional Council and Executive Council Meetings.
3. Attend the yearly National Business Council Meeting before the ALCons in person or via electronic means or may assign a proxy. (See Art II. Sec. 10)
4. Prepare the year end regional report consisting of club reports, financial statement, business meeting minutes and submits to the National Secretary. (AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 14)
5. Help solicit future MSRAL Convention hosts.
6. Assign a proxy for the Regional Representative if necessary. (See Art II. Sec. 10)
7. Appoint a webmaster when deemed necessary.
8. Maintain MSRAL correspondence and expenses generated by this office and forwards to the Secretary-Treasurer for record-keeping purposes.
9. Welcome new clubs who join the region by email or phone, to inform of upcoming events and shares contact information of the Executive Council Members and copy of the bylaws.

b. The Regional Vice Chair: assists the Chair in the discharge of their duties and performs same in the absence, death, disability, resignation, or removal of the Chair. Including:

1. Be a member of the Executive and Regional Councils.
2. Chair the Nominating Committee.
3. Perform other duties as directed by the Regional Chair.

c. The Regional Secretary-Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the MSRAL.

As Secretary they shall:

1. Operate as point of contact for the up-to-date list of all member societies presidents and ALCors, patron members, Members-At-Large and Youth Members-At-Large within the region.
2. Records all minutes for the Executive Council, Regional Council, Convention Business Meeting, Nominating Committee, and any other meetings.
3. Distributes the minutes within thirty (30) days following any meeting to the Regional Chair for distribution.
4. Ensures a quorum is present at meetings by taking a roll call.
5. Maintains officer terms of office for the Nominating Committee for yearly election.
6. Prepares copy of minutes for review and acceptance at yearly business meeting and makes corrections as needed.
7. Prepares election ballot for yearly Business Meeting if necessary.
8. Maintains the MSRAL Convention - Amateur of the Year list, Deceased MSRAL members list, and minutes for record keeping purposes.

As Treasurer they shall:

1. Places the funds in a repository approved by the MSRAL officers.
2. Executes all financial transactions of the MSRAL.
3. Keeps proper books of account of all transactions.
4. Refers any extraordinary expenses that fall outside of normal budget for review of the Executive Council.
5. Prepares a year-end report of MSRAL budget to present and review for acceptance at yearly Convention Business Meeting and makes corrections as needed.
6. Issues seed money to Convention Planning Committee if requested.
7. Prepares the year-end financial report and submits it to the Astronomical League Treasurer by June 30th of each year.

d. The Regional Representative: is the liaison to the National Council they shall:

1. Represent the region with a seat at the National Council. (AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 5)
2. Be a member of the Executive and Regional Councils, and the Nominating Committee.
3. Correspond with existing member clubs regarding national and regional business and activities.

4. Keep Regional Executive Council informed of club membership status.
5. Take notes from National Convention Business Meeting and sends to presidents and ALCors for distribution to their club membership.
6. May help solicit future MSRAL Convention hosts.
7. Assist the Regional Officers as needed or directed by the Chair.
8. May succeed the Region Chair.
9. Is a member of the National Nominating Committee lead by the Vice-President.

Section 8. Removal of an Elected Officer:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 12)

- a. Removal can be pursued, if for whatever reason, an officer is unable or unwilling to perform the essential duties of their office effectively.
- b. A Regional Officer can be removed from office prior to completion of their term only through the same mechanism that put them in that position per Missouri Revised Status, being the state of the Astronomical League's incorporation.
- c. Nationally appointed officers either Regional Chair or Representative can be removed per the Astronomical League's bylaws.

Section 9. Vacancy:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 13.b)

In case of a vacancy of an office due to removal, illness or other circumstances beyond any one's control, 1) the Regional Council will pursue a replacement, or if deemed necessary, 2) the President shall appoint a Regional Chair or Representative.

Section 10. Proxy:

(AL Bylaws: Art. III. Sec. 7)

The Regional Chair may assign a proxy for an absent Regional Representative with a written statement designating the substitution and signed by the respective Council before the proxy may be seated at a meeting.

- a. A proxy signed by the person needing the proxy, identifies the person to whom the proxy is given, and states the scope of voting authority.
- b. A copy of the proxy notice must be emailed to the Regional Secretary before any vote may be cast at 1) a Regional Council Meeting or 2) emailed to the League Secretary before any vote may be cast on behalf of the Region at a League Council or League Business meeting.
- c. A proxy may not be assigned by a proxy holder.

Section 11. Standing Resolutions:

(AL Bylaws: Art. III. Sec. 7)

- a. The activities of MSRAL shall be defined by Standing Resolutions.
- b. No Standing Resolution shall be adopted that conflicts with these bylaws.
- c. Standing Resolutions shall be passed by the majority of members present at yearly MSRAL Convention or by virtual meeting.

ARTICLE III COUNCILS AND MEETINGS

Section 1. National Council:

(AL Bylaws: Art. II. Sec. 1 & Art III. Sec. 2)

The Astronomical League's business is conducted by a National Council which includes the National Executive Officers, (aka Executive Committee), Past Presidents, Regional Chairs and Representatives, other non-elected officers.

Section 2. Standing National Council:

(AL Bylaws: Art. VII. Sec. 1)

The Astronomical League's Regions and their committees and councils are considered service sections that are created by operations of the Astronomical League's Bylaws and Standing Resolutions.

Executive or Regional Council members only have one (1) vote, and can designate decisions as non-binding, advisory votes, topics needing further discussion, or pending a final decision by the MSRAL membership at the Regional Meeting. Neither Councils can approve or sanction any actions which conflict with the MSRAL Bylaws or the Astronomical League's Bylaws.

Section 3. Regional Executive Council Meetings:

(AL Bylaws: Art. II. Sec. 2)

An executive council or regional council meeting can be called by, the Regional Representative, Regional Chair, by petition of a majority of either the Regional Council, the Executive Council or the membership at large, and may be conducted in person, by email, or by virtual means whenever deemed necessary.

Section 4. Regional Council Meetings:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 2)

All business affairs shall be administered by the Regional Council that consists of the regional executive council and presidents or their proxies, at the annual business meeting which takes place during the MSRAL Convention set by the Convention Planning Committee with the approval of the Executive Council.

Other Regional Business Meetings of the MSRAL can be held throughout the year by electronic means as the Regional Officers deem necessary. Electronic options can be utilized for any meeting, if available, if the committee members are notified by electronic means at least two (2) days in advance of any proposed meeting.

Section 5. Meeting Process:

(AL Bylaws: Art. VIII, Sec. 4)

Parliamentary rules of procedure for all League meetings shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise specified and will include an agenda as the standard of meeting protocol.

Section 6. Quorum:

- a. An Executive Council Meeting must have a quorum of three (3) council members, with a minimum of three (3) societies present. To pass any motion requiring action in a council session, a majority vote of the members present shall be necessary, except for matters requiring a large vote as designated in these Bylaws.
- b. A Regional Council Meeting shall have a 2/5ths quorum of club presidents or proxy to conduct any business and all decisions are adopted by majority vote of members present. (AL By Laws: Art. III. Sec. 4)
- c. At the yearly Convention Business Meeting, fifteen (15) members of the MSRAL shall constitute a quorum, with at least three (3) member societies present. Only MSRAL members may vote, with all decisions conducted by majority vote.

Section 7. Voting:

(AL Bylaws: Art. III. Sec. 6)

No person may cast more than one (1) vote at the Regional Council even if that person holds a Regional Officer position and club president position.

ARTICLE IV REGIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1. MSRAL Convention:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 8)

A regional convention shall be held annually in the MSRAL hosted by one or more societies or groups of members and shall form a Convention Planning Committee.

Section 2. Cancellation:

(AL Bylaws: Art. VI. Sec. 1)

A MSRAL Conventions may be canceled for reasons of pandemic or other exigent circumstances.

Section 3. MSRAL Business Meeting:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 9)

See Article III Section 4.

Section 4. Convention Finances:

- a. The registration fees for the MSRAL Convention will be established by the MSRAL Convention Planning

Committee and reviewed by the Regional Executive Council to ensure costs fall in range of previous conventions.

- b. Upon completion of the convention, the MSRAL will receive 50% of all profits or be liable for 50% of all losses from the convention along with the hosting society.
- c. After the close of a MSRAL Convention financial statement, seed money, if requested, and half of the profits should be sent to the Region Secretary-Treasurer by June 30th. In lieu of final accounting, estimates may be used. All final accounting should be completed by July 31st.

Section 5. Schedule Conflict:

In the event that a National Convention of the Astronomical League is being hosted by a MSRAL group or society in a given year, the MSRAL Convention Planning Committee may elect to consider making it the MSRAL Convention of that year.

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS

Section 1: Elections:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 7)

Elections for Regional Officers shall be conducted at the yearly MSRAL Convention Business Meeting whether in person or by electronic means. The order of elections shall be Regional Chair, Regional Representative, Regional Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. Nominating Committee:

- a. The Regional Vice Chair heads the Nominating Committee that consists of all Executive Council officers, club presidents, ALCors and independent members. The committee sends out a notice of expiring terms of officers to club presidents and ALCors with the bylaws job descriptions to pursue potential candidates.
- b. The committee can also go through the MSRAL membership rosters to develop a working list of possible candidates who shall be contacted three (3) months prior to the MSRAL Convention. Candidates will be contacted by the committee to review the position along with their availability.
- c. The Regional Vice Chair gives the list of potential candidates to the Regional Chair thirty (30) days prior of the MSRAL Business Meeting elections to include secret ballots (if necessary) at the yearly Convention Business Meeting.

Section 3. Floor Nominations:

Nominations are welcomed from the floor during the election section of the Regional Business Meeting. No person shall be nominated or elected without their consent. Nominations for each office shall remain open until the results of the previous officer election has been announced unless there is no more than one nominee for each office.

Section 4. Election of Officers:

(AL Bylaws Art. IX. Sec. 10)

The MSRAL Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Regional Business Meeting of the MSRAL, or if none is held that year, by the Regional Council.

Section 5. Majority Vote:

To pass any resolution, motion, or other matters requiring action shall be passed by a majority vote of the membership present.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL

Section 1. Fiscal Year:

(AL Bylaws: Art. X. Sec. 6)

The fiscal year for the Astronomical League is July 1 to June 30, therefore the MSRAL fiscal year shall run from June 1 to May 31.

Section 2: Non-Profit Status:

(AL Bylaws: Art. X. Sec. 2)

The Astronomical League is a not-for-profit organization in accordance with Section 501 c (3) of the U.S. Internal

Revenue Code. Donations of material, real or personal, monetary gifts and contributions may be considered tax deductible. As the MSRAL is a subsidiary of the Astronomical League and can obtain property or accept tax deductible contributions.

Section 3. Dissolution:

In the event of the dissolution of either the MSRAL or the Astronomical League, or by redrawing of regional boundaries, the MSRAL shall transfer all net assets to accounts of the Astronomical League for disposal by the National Council.

Section 4. Financial National Assistance:

(AL Bylaws: Art. IX. Sec. 11)

The Region may request financial assistance by the method established in the Astronomical League's Standing Resolution #3, to the National Committee for the following: 1) to facilitate the normal operation of MSRAL, 2) to aid in the operation of a Regional Convention, 3) assist in retiring debts incurred by the MSRAL, or 4) special projects or activities planned to grow the region.

Section 5. Regional Financial Assistance:

No regional funds shall be co-mingled with personal funds, in personal bank accounts, or club bank accounts.

Section 6. Treasurer Report:

See Article II: Section 7, Treasurer #5 & #7

Section 7. New Projects:

Any suggested project, award or donation outside of the current MSRAL budget are considered extraordinary and must be reviewed and voted on by the Executive Council before adoption.

ARTICLE VII BYLAW REVIEW & AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Bylaws Committee:

A bylaws committee will be assembled every five (5) years that will consist of the Regional Executive Council, club presidents, ALCors and any other individuals from the region. A regular review will ensure the operation of the MSRAL is still represented in the bylaws and resolutions, and that MSRAL Bylaws are in agreement and compliance to the National Bylaws.

Section 2. Amendment Submission:

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by a Regional Council Member, three (3) or more member societies, or three (3) or more Members-at-Large, by submitting the proposed changes in writing to the Regional Executive Council and Secretary-Treasurer at least 90 days before the annual Regional Business Meeting.

Section 3. Proposal:

The Regional Secretary-Treasurer shall send the proposed amendments out to the presidents and ALCors of the member clubs for review. Comments shall be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Chair within 45 days of receipt. The Executive Council shall review the comments and suggestions and only incorporate such changes as the proponents have agreed to and will be sent to the member clubs at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 4. Ratification:

A Regional Council meeting must convene to conduct the final Bylaws review before the membership vote at the yearly Business Meeting and must have a quorum in attendance per Art. III. Sec. 6b. The proposed amendment or revised Bylaws shall be voted upon at the Regional Business Meeting or, if no conference is held within the year of its proposal, voting can be conducted by electronic means. A majority vote of all members present is required for voting for amendment adoption or Bylaws revision and updates.

Section 5. Adoption & Update:

Once a proposed amendment is reviewed and accepted by the regional membership, changes will be added to

the Bylaws within (2) two weeks of adoption and the revision date changed to reflect the Bylaws update.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Standing Resolutions #1 to #6 were reconstructed from historical regional documents and MSRAL Minutes from 1993 to 2011.

STANDING RESOLUTION #1 "Amateur of the Year" Award Fayette, MO (no date) 1966

At the tenth MSRAL Convention, on June 20 – 21, 1959 at the University of Tulsa, OK, Mr. S.S. Whitehead, of Wichita, KS, was presented with an award for his service to the region and his assistance to amateur astronomers. (1959 Bulletin - AKA Reflector). This award was formalized into the Amateur of the Year Award at the 1966 Convention to be given at the yearly conventions. The first AOY Award was given to Russell, Maag of Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers in 1967.

The previous winner is the AOY Selection Committee Chair for the following year. They shall send the selection letter containing criteria to the MSRAL Convention Committee. Due to the confidential nature of this award, the submission needs to be returned to the AOY Chair. The MSRAL Convention Committee sends the letters to all the club ALCors who request nomination submissions from the membership with nominees not being informed of their submission. Clubs and societies are not obligated to submit names of their members.

Criteria will include those who provided education, outreach, service to a club or society at their local level and any projects, activities or outreach they conduct at the state, regional, national, or international levels. What extraordinary action did they take and what positive outcomes resulted? Clubs are encouraged to submit one (1) candidate per year that will be retained and be considered for an additional year and if not selected may be resubmitted by the nominating club in future years.

The AOY Award is once in a lifetime so previous recipients are not eligible.

Any candidate submitted needs to be encouraged to attend the convention but if situations warrant where they will not be able to attend, the club president, ALCor or other club member shall receive it on their behalf.

The selection committee consists of past AOY recipients in attendance at the yearly MSRAL Convention who meet at the lunch break in their own meeting room at the convention. Determination is decided during this meeting by a majority vote and a certificate is generated by an AOY Committee Member. The Chair will draft notes from their submission letter to include in the talk prior to issuing the award at the banquet on Saturday night.

If last year's recipient is unable to chair the Amateur of the Year Committee, the most current awardee will act as the committee chair.

STANDING RESOLUTION #2 Regional Representative Term of Office Lincoln, NE, June 12, 1993

The Regional Representative of the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League will serve for a term of three (3) years instead of the current two (2) year term.

STANDING RESOLUTION #3 Yearly International Dark Sky Donation per IDA: Feb 1994

A \$200.00 yearly donation is to be made to the International Dark Sky Association and will be renewed at the Regional Business Meeting at the yearly conventions. **Amendment #1: Special MSRAL Business Meeting August 25, 2007, at the University of MO at Kansas City.** Due to the cancellation of the MSRAL in Omaha a special business meeting was convened in Kansas City and the IDA donation was increased by \$50.00 making it a yearly \$250.00.

STANDING RESOLUTION #4 Regional Representative Stipend Tulsa, OK, June 21, 2003

The Mid-States Region will issue a yearly stipend to the Regional Representative to attend the Astronomical League's Business Meeting at the yearly ALCon. The stipend will be for \$200.00 to help defray the cost for attending. **Amendment #1: MSRAL 2016: Columbia, MO** It was moved and seconded, and motion carried to increase the Regional Representative's stipend to \$400.00.

STANDING RESOLUTION #5 Multiple AOY Recipients Columbia, MO, March 7, 2009

The MSRAL will be able to present multiple regional AOY Awards if the potential for multiple recipients, based upon the recommendation(s) of the Amateur of the Year Committee.

STANDING RESOLUTION #6 Convention Seed Money No Date:???? 2010

The hosting convention club or clubs may request seed money for deposits to start MSRAL Convention planning from the Regional Treasurer for \$400.00. This money is to be repaid after the convention is held and finances are reconciled. **Amendment #1: MSRAL 2011 Ozark, AR May 21, 2011:** The seed money amount was

changed to \$750.00.

STANDING RESOLUTION #7 Annual Regional Reports

November 17, 2022

Complied by the Regional Chair, with help from the Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Representative and consists of pertinent information on the region. It includes and is not limited to, list and contact information of MSRAL officers, year term ends, financial July 1 balance to June 30 balance, bank location, club information, star party number of attendees, IDA Chapters and sites, communication network, programs, awards. It gives the overall state of the region.

The 12-month club report (since not all clubs have the same year-end calendar for reporting) should cover activities starting from last convention to current year convention and includes but is not limited to, name of officers, membership number, outreach activities and other information on IDA Chapters and/or activities and dark sky place if applicable. This information is requested by the Regional Chair and compiled for their annual report submission due by June 30 to the National Secretary.

STANDING RESOLUTION #8 Convention Planning Committee

January 28, 2023

The Regional Convention Planning Committee shall be formed by the hosting club/society located within the Mid-States Region as defined by the Astronomical League and charged with the responsibility for the Annual MSRAL Convention. This may include but will not be limited to selection of date(s), duration, location, promotion and agenda.

This excludes the agenda for the required Annual Business Meeting which is the responsibility of the Regional Executive Council. The Regional Convention Planning Committee will set aside a sufficient amount of time for the Region to conduct business.

The Regional Convention Planning Committee shall provide a place and time for the current year Amateur of the Year selection committee to complete the selection process as prescribed in Standing Resolution #1.

The Regional Convention Planning Committee shall have the authority to request, in writing, funds from the Regional Secretary-Treasurer in an amount not to exceed \$750 to cover a portion of the initial startup costs for the annual MSRAL Convention. These funds must be reimbursed to the MSRAL Secretary-Treasurer once the convention has been concluded.

The Regional Convention Planning Committee (CPC) and its members are the agents of the club(s) or individuals who have assumed the responsibility of hosting the annual Regional Convention under section 1 Article IV of the Regional Bylaws. The CPC and its members have no authority to obligate the Region or the League under any contract or obligation associated with convention planning. The CPC should not represent or imply that they are acting on behalf of the Mid-States Region or the Astronomical League when contracting for goods or services related to the convention.

STANDING RESOLUTION #9 ALCOR Duties A. L. Bylaws Art. I. Sec 8 & A.L. Bylaws Art. X. Sec. 4

To maximize the benefits of League membership, the League encourages each member society to designate an Astronomical League Correspondent ("ALCor"). Their duties may include: provision of society membership roster updates to the League's National Office, ideally on a quarterly basis, (Please note that The League's mailing list shall be used for League business only and not for commercial use), receipt and transmission to society members and officers of all communications from the League including, but not limited to, notices, announcements, and ballots for national election, Regional Representative reports and information, and communication of society questions, concerns, suggestion, and requests to the League.

STANDING RESOLUTION #10 Regional Chair Stipend

TBD

The Mid-States Region will issue a yearly stipend to the Regional Chair to attend the Astronomical League's Business Meeting at the yearly ALCon. The stipend will be for \$400.00 to help defray some of the cost for attending.

STANDING RESOLUTION # MSRAL Virtual/Remote Observing Committee

TBD