

**Minutes of SARA Board Meeting
19 June 2006, Green Bank WV**

Members present: Charles Osborne, president; Paul Shuch, Vice president; Tom Crowley, Treasurer; Hal Braschwitz, Secretary; Directors, Jim Brown, Dave Fields, John Mannonne, Bruce Randall and Kerry Smith along with Director at Large Ed Cole. Absent were Gordon Meldrum, Director; Jeff Lichtman, Director Emeritus and Hamdi Mani, Director at Large. Guests included former SARA Presidents Chuck Forster and Mike Gingell.

The meeting was called to order by president Charles Osborne at 7:30 PM.

Treasurer, Tom Crowley gave a report indicating that we were in good financial shape with about \$8,500 in cash and \$3,000 in an interest bearing CD.

A motion was made and passed to have the Treasurer explore using a PayPal account to allow persons to pay dues with that facility. He was authorized to implement such an action if he found it to be reasonable and would notify the Board if and when such action is taken. Osborne told the group the cost is about 2.9%, or the same as a credit card transaction. The group discussed it and decided its not worth worrying about passing the cost of the transaction thru to the user. This motion passed with 9 yea votes and one abstention.

Tom Crowley made a motion that SARA provide funding in the amount of about \$4,500 for the Navigator Program. This covered the cost of 20 Itty Bitty Telescopes (IBTs). It is expected that NRAO will receive funding to purchase some of the Navigator telescopes from us for their use. This will reduce our cash outlay for this program. This motion was passed unanimously.

Tom Crowley made a motion with a second by Charles Osborne that all SARA membership dues become due and payable on June 15th of each year . In the transition year memberships expiring in the three months prior to June 15th will be extended gratis to June 15th. Memberships expiring three months after June 15th will be moved back to June 15th. All other membership expirations will be billed one half the expected rate to bring them into synchronism with the new system. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Shuch with a second by Ed Cole moved that we establish a life membership at a rate of twenty times the e-mail delivery rate. The motion passed with nine yea votes and one nay vote. Chuck Forster paid for his life membership during the meeting moments later.

Chuck Forster made a presentation to having he and Jeff Lichtman revitalize and update the SARA Mentor and Beginners' online info program. The consensus of the group was to approve implementing such a program.

A motion was made to have a student grant application form appear on the website in PDF form. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Shuch moved with a second by John Mannonne that we amend the By laws to change Article II, section 2 part b to read Student member: Those who are enrolled in school and age 22 or younger. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Shuch also moved with a second by John Mannone that we amend the Bylaws to add section 6 Article IV to read "Any student, as defined in Article II , Section 2, part (b) of these Bylaws, who publishes an article in the SARA Journal or Conference Proceedings, or who presents a paper at the Annual SARA Conference, will be granted a gratis one year Student Membership with electronic Journal delivery." The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Shuch made a motion with a second by Tom Crowley that if a student provides an article for the SARA Journal or makes a presentation at the annual Conference they will be awarded a one year SARA e-mail membership. This motion would be made retroactive to the 2006 Conference. The motion passed unanimously, conferring a years membership on student presenters: Shanni Prutchi and Tyler Moore.

After a lengthy discussion it was the consensus of the Board that the Conference Chairman, SARA President and Treasurer be authorized to set dates for the annual conference along with the associated fees.

Paul Shuch moved with a second by Bruce Randall that we pay QSL.net \$100 for this year's use of their web server. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Crowley made a motion with a second by Jim Brown that the SARA Journal be completed by the Journal mid month. If this doesn't occur the President has the responsibility to have the SARA Board take immediate action to insure the Journal's timely completion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Mannonne made a report on his assignment as an ambassador to non US SARA members.

This was followed by a discussion on a potpourri of subjects about which no action was taken.

Ed Cole volunteered to assist Kerry Smith with the documentation of the Itty Bitty Telescope used in the navigator program.

If necessary an after Christmas conference call was suggested at the pleasure of the President.

With no further business being brought forward the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Hal Braschwitz, Secretary