



# Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc.

## NEWS BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 1973

Volume 3, Number 1

### A Letter From the President

Dear fellow member,

A busy year has passed since I assumed the office of President of the Society. It has been for me, and I trust for you also, a rewarding one. As you have seen fit to re-elect me to that office for the year 1973, I want to take a moment to thank you for this honor, and to make a brief progress report on the activities of the L.A.A.S. during the year just completed.

Our observatory construction project has continued through 1972 thanks to the help volunteered by many of you, and to your financial support in the form of Star Member dues and participation in the telescope raffle and other fund-raising activities. It's my sincere hope that we will be able to complete this project and see our observatory go into operation during the year ahead. Given the same support and interest accorded the project during the past year, there seems little doubt that this goal will be accomplished.

Another important long-range effort has to do with the W.A.A. convention we're slated to host here in the summer of 1974. Mr. Ed Johnston is the chairman of the hard-working Convention Planning Committee, and by the time of this year's convention in San Diego in August, he will have a detailed report on our effort for the following year. I'd like to say now that the responsibility for hosting a convention is awesome, and that Ed and the other members of his committee will be needing the help of all of us if the 1974 Los Angeles convention is to succeed.

Not all of 1972 was spent in just looking ahead, of course! A full program of monthly meetings and star parties was presented by the Society in 1972. A number of distinguished professional astronomers were featured as speakers at Society meetings: Dr. John Russell and Dr. Gibson Reaves of U.S.C., and Dr. Halton Arp of Hale Observatories are names that come to mind immediately. In addition, members of our own Society presented a number of excellent programs. These included Tom Cragg, of Hale Observatories and newly-elected Vice-President of the Society, our outgoing Vice-President Doug Duncan, Thomas Cave of the Cave Optical Co., and others.

One especially worthwhile event of the past twelve months, to my way of thinking, was our public star party, held last September at the Cheviot Hills Playground in West Los Angeles. It not only provided the public with a chance to view the moon and planets with quality telescopes, but it generated good publicity for the Society and a number of new memberships as well. I would like to have the Society sponsor one or two similar functions during the coming year.

A project currently in the works which will probably interest you is a new membership roster, to be completed and mailed to you with one of our news bulletins in the spring of this year. At present Mike Simmons, Jerry Bilodeau, and our newly-elected Secretary, Wanda Giblin, are in process of putting our membership file onto cards that can be accepted by data-processing equipment. This will enable us to be more efficient in our mailings and in keeping records up-to-date. We'll print the new roster as soon as this computer file is completed.

I want to say thanks to those outgoing officers and members of the Board of Directors who have worked long and hard in the interest of our Society during the past year, and to extend a welcome to the newly-elected officers and directors with whom I'll have the privilege of working during the coming months. Finally, my thanks to you, the members, for your interest and support in the L.A.A.S. With the invaluable help of the other officers and the Board, I'll try during 1973 to make the Society what you want it to be: the best possible organization to foster our own interest in and enjoyment of astronomy.

I hope to see you at the banquet this coming Sunday night.

Sincerely yours,

Art Johnson, *President*

### OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR 1973

Officers:	Arthur W. Johnson, Jr.	<i>President</i>	Board Members:	Gerald Bilodeau
	Thomas Cragg	<i>Vice-President</i>		Lewis Chilton
	Wanda Giblin	<i>Secretary</i>		Mary Cragg
	Walter Deutsch	<i>Treasurer</i>		David Gilmore
				Norman Muir
Alternate Board Members:	1st. James Scarborough			Ronald McKnight
	2nd. Steven Kufeld and David Sovereign ( <i>tie vote</i> )			Michael Simmons
				Theodore Sobelman

\*The seat of the outgoing President is vacant.

List submitted by Norman James,  
*Chairman, Elections Committee*

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ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC., SET FOR JANUARY 14

We're printing this in large type because we want YOU to be sure to attend this year's banquet! It is being held this coming Sunday evening, January 14, at Les Freres Taix Restaurant, 1911 West Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles. Cocktails for those who wish at 5 p.m. (no host) . . . Dinner served at 6:30. Featured speaker will be Dr. George Abell, chairman of the Department of Astronomy at U.C.L.A. Also featured will be door prizes, merit awards, etc. TICKETS COST \$4.50 and WILL BE ON SALE AT THE DOOR for those who haven't yet purchased them. Not only will the program and entertainment be extraordinary, but you will find the cuisine delicious and memorable. See you there this Sunday evening!

A Proposed Constitutional Amendment and Change in By-Laws

As you all know, in July of 1972 we adopted our new constitution. During the time the constitution committee was drafting this document and their work was being reviewed by the Board of Directors, an attempt was made to write a document that would be applicable in all instances.

After our election in December 1972, we became aware of an inconsistency in the constitution that resulted in our Board of Directors having one less member than it should. The problem is that our outgoing president was re-elected to a second term and our constitution does not provide for that case.

This problem was discussed at the board meeting on January 2, 1973, and at that meeting it was resolved that Article V, Section 1. of the constitution be amended to read:

The Board of Directors shall consist of sixteen (16) members as follows: the four (4) elected officers, the retiring president, eight (8) members (nine (9) if the outgoing president is an incoming officer), and three (3) alternate members who shall be elected by a majority of the voting membership in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws, and shall serve for a term of one (1) year.

At this same meeting it was noted that the Board of Directors has had some trouble in the past in achieving a quorum at some of the meetings. It was the feeling of the Board that since the voting membership elected the members to represent them at the business meetings, something should be done to ensure attendance by all the Board members. It was for this reason that the Board resolved to amend Article V of the By-Laws by adding a new section (Section 3) which will read:

Any Board member who shall miss three (3) consecutive Board meetings without sufficient good reason shall be dismissed from the Board and that seat shall be declared vacant.

In order to fill the vacancy that would thus occur, the Board resolved to amend Article VII of the By-Laws by adding a new section (Section 5) which will read:

Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled by the highest ranking alternate Board member, and a special election shall be held to elect a new alternate Board member.

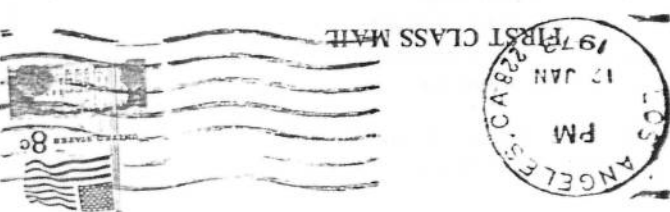
This notice is given in order to conform with the provision in our current constitution that the constitution and By-Laws may be amended by the voting membership only after proper notice is given. Notice is hereby given that the above named proposed amendments to the constitution and By-Laws will be voted upon at the February general meeting of the Society. It is hoped that all voting members will be present at that meeting so that they may participate in the adoption of these needed amendments.

In regards to the Constitution and By-Laws, I am working on the final draft which will be used as a master for printing. I hope to complete this draft in the near future so that copies can be made available to all the members.

Gerald A. Bilodeau, Secretary

DATES ON THE L.A.A.S. Calendar...Banquet, Sunday, January 14. STAR MEMBER MEETING at Palms Recreation Center, Monday, January 15. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Monday, January 29, Griffith Observatory, 7:30 p.m.

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