

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY ASSOCIATION
August 17, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President, Allen Davey; Secretary/Treasurer, Alva Hibbs; Directors: Darlene Danko, John Barton

MEMBERS

Barbara Carpenter, Marilyn Davey, Marty Danko

New Interested Members

Roy Moruzzi, Gerry Deshirlia, Earl and Linda Robinson, Mark Dolph, Robert Grover

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Rio Grande County Courthouse Annex. The President called the meeting to order and welcomed the new interested members and attendees.

Since the Association has been inactive for sometime, including the sad loss of two directors, review of minutes from the last meeting were determined to be non-applicable. The President then asked each attendee to introduce themselves, their specific interest in astronomy and the Association, and some information on their backgrounds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Al provide a QuickBooks report starting from the departure of the former Treasurer, Doug Wibbenmeyer, in 2015 to present. The starting balance was \$4,043.86 and currently is \$3,610.61. Primary expenditures have been property taxes, operation of our website www.delnorteobservatory.org and electric service. In that regard, Earl and Linda Robinson reimbursed the Association \$149.32 for use of the Association's electric meter during construction of their new home at 7th and Penasco Streets across from the Observatory and near the bottom of the hill. John proposed, Marty seconded and the Board agreed that the financial report be approved

There was then discussion on Association dues. Al reported that presently the dues were \$25.00 per person or family at the beginning of each year. Students are free and exempted from any dues in order to encourage their membership. He also proposed that any dues paid now be applies to 2019 membership. The Board agreed and the following dues were collected: Darlene and Marty Danko, Allen and Marilyn Davey, Earl and Linda Robinson, Al Hibbs and Bob Grover. Bob also generously provided an additional \$25.00 as a donation to the Association. Al will prepare 2019 membership cards.

OLD BUSINESS

John provided a status on the project to provide remote control and viewing of the Observatory using the internet. He and Al are still making progress with a plan to possibly use mobile data

as the required link. To date John has invested \$157.78 of his own funds in the required equipment. The Association agreed to reimburse him for this at the 12/21/15 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers and Directors. Al proposed, John seconded and the Board agreed that the present slate of Officers and Directors be continued for 2019, as follows:

John Allen Davey, PE	President	Darlene Danko	Director
Vacant	Vice President	Nancy Schrader, RN	Director
Bob Barton	Director	Michael Wisdom	Director
Alva Hibbs, PE	Secretary/Treasurer		

Allen then proposed, Al seconded and Board agreed that Bob Grover be elected as Vice President because of his past several term presidency of the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society and his active daily interest in astronomy. He is currently a “certified” operator of the Observatory and has been issued a key.

Discussion then centered on getting more publicity for the Association with an emphasis on the fact that the San Luis Valley due to low population density and absence of industry has some of the last remaining pristine night skies in the continental U.S. It is important to note that the few other remaining parts of the U.S. with pristine night skies have developed a thriving industry loosely called “astronomical inns.” There are currently only three in the continental U. S. located at Benson, AZ, Sapello, NM, and Chiefland, FL. These “inns” are fully booked during the summer months by serious amateur astronomers and astronomy club conventions. Although the main purpose of the Observatory is for educational purposes and use by local amateur astronomers, we believe that it could help trigger an interest in developing a local “astronomical inn” industry.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Board agreed to have a star party on Friday, 9/7/18 starting at 7:30 p.m. with check-in at the Courthouse Annex. Al will arrange for the e-mail notifications and listings in local publications. Barbara agreed to help in this regard.

Al pointed out that the roll-off-roof would need some maintenance in order to fully open in time for the star party. Bob Grover and Mark Dolph agreed to help on this.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board then thanked Al for the beverages and Barbara for the delicious brownies. There being no further business, the Board agreed to adjourn.

Alva Hibbs, Secretary/Treasurer