

CONSTITUTION OF THE MID-STATES REGION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

Preamble

As provided by the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Astronomical League, the Mid-states Region in convention assembled this twentieth day of June in the year nineteen hundred and ninety-two do hereby adopt this constitution. This constitution supersedes any previous constitution or By-Laws of the Mid-States Region.

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP AND GEOGRAPHY

Section 1.

The Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League, hereinafter referred to as the MSRAL, shall include all members of clubs or societies located in the states defined as the Mid-States Region by the Astronomical League By-Laws and standing resolutions and members at-large residing in said states.

ARTICLE II OFFICERS

Section 1.

The MSRAL officers shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary- Treasurer.

Section 2.

The terms of the officers shall be for one (1) year or until the close of the Regional Convention immediately thereafter. The term of office shall begin at the close of the convention at which they are elected or, if no convention is held, at the time of election.

Section 3.

An elected Chairperson shall not succeed himself in office more than two (2) times.

Section 4.

Vacancies in any offices other than the Chairperson shall be filled on appointment by the Chairperson and approval of the remaining officer.

Section 5.

Any officer may be removed from his position by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Regional Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) described in Article III, provided that notification of intent to do so, together with the reasons therefore, has been given by mail to said officer and to the Council not less than thirty (30) days prior to such vote.

Section 6.

The duties of the MSRAL Officers shall consist of the following and such other duties as the Council may, from time to time, assign:

- a. **The Chairperson** shall be the chief executive officer of the MRAL, and shall perform such duties as are customarily associated with such an office. He shall preside over the Regional Business and Council meetings, and may call special meetings of the Council or the Executive Committee described in Section 7. He shall appoint a nominating committee chairperson. He

shall prepare an annual report on the state of, and activities within, the MRAL and shall submit it to the League President at or before the National Convention of the League.

He shall serve as a member of the National Council of the League, and endeavor to find a proxy to serve if he is absent.

He shall not exercise any authority, nor execute any contracts or obligations, which exceed the purpose or authority of the Astronomical League, nor which infringe on the autonomy of the Region's individual societies in a confederation.

b. **The Vice Chairperson** shall assist the Chairperson in the discharge of his duties and perform them in the case of the absence, death, disability, resignation, or removal of the Chairperson.

c. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record and preserve the minutes of the Council and Regional Business meetings, and distribute these minutes within **thirty (30) days** following said meetings to the officers and the Regional Representative to the National Council. He shall, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the League, maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of all member societies, patrons and members-at-large within the MSRAL and report annually at the Regional Business meeting.

He shall execute all financial transactions of the MSRAL, and keep proper books of account of such. He shall place the funds in a repository approved by the MSRAL officers and shall present an account of all transactions and of the financial condition of the MSRAL annually at the Regional Business meeting.

He shall prepare an annual financial report and submit it to the League Treasurer by June 30th of each year.

Section 7.

The MSRAL Officers, together with the Regional Representative to the National Council, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Council, hereinafter referred to as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Council, and with its full authority, on matters requiring its action at such times as the Council is not in session.

ARTICLE III COUNCIL

Section 1.

The affairs of the MSRAL shall be administered by a council, consisting of the Regional Officers, the Representative to the National Council, the President or his Proxy of each society, and one representative selected from and by the members-at-large in the MSRAL.

Section 2.

In order 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 larger vote as provided for in this constitution or by common law. The presence of five (5) Council members shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least three (3) societies are represented. Except for those matters designated in this Constitution, the Council may elect to designate its decisions as non-binding, advisory votes or topics scheduled for discussion, pending a final decision by the delegates at large in the Regional Meeting.

Section 3.

The Council shall neither approve nor sanction any actions which conflict with this Constitution or the League constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV REPRESENTATIVE TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1.

The Regional Council shall elect by majority vote a member of the National Council of the League, separate from the Regional Chairman, called the MSRAL Regional Representative (hereinafter abbreviated Region. Rep.). He shall be a member of the MSRAL.

Section 2.

The Region. Rep. shall serve for a term of three (3) years, or until the close of the third successive year's Regional Convention. His term of office shall begin at the close of the convention at which he is elected, or at the close of the election if no convention is held, in a year designated by the National Council.

Section 3.

The Region. Rep. may be removed from office by, and vacancies filled by, the same method as for the MSRAL Officers.

Section 4.

The Region. Rep. shall attend, or in cooperation with the Regional Chairman assign a Proxy to attend, all National Council meetings which occur during his term of office.

Section 5.

The Region. Rep shall welcome all new member clubs of the MSRAL and correspond with existing member clubs regarding regional business and activities. He shall keep the other members of the executive committee and the member clubs informed of all changes in club membership status.

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS

Section 1.

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 in a given year, by the Council.

Section 2.

The Chairperson shall appoint a nominating committee chairman, not to be the Chairperson himself. The nominating committee shall select, from among the MSRAL membership, one or more candidates for each office and, in the designated years, for Region. Rep., and the committee chairperson shall issue a report to the MSRAL Chairperson at least thirty (30) days prior to the Regional Convention or the lapse of one (1) year following the previous convention. Additional nominations may also be made by any MSRAL member to the committee chairperson, and provision shall be made at the aforementioned Business Meeting for Nominations from the floor.

Section 3.

Elections for each office shall be conducted separately in the following order: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations for each office shall not close until the results of the previous election have been announced, unless there is no more than one nominee for each office. No person shall be nominated or elected without their consent. If no majority is obtained on the first ballot, a single secondary ballot shall decide the election.

ARTICLE VI REGIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1.

A Regional Convention shall be held annually in the MSRAL, hosted by one or more societies or groups of members within the MSRAL, at a time and place selected by the MSRAL Convention of prior year(s), or by the Regional Council when in session, or by the MSRAL Officers. The MSRAL will receive 50% of all profits or be liable for 50% of all losses from Regional Conventions.

Section 2.

The registration fees for MSRAL Conventions will be established by the host society or group on approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

In the event that a National Convention of the League is being hosted by an MSRAL group or society in a given year, the MSRAL Convention or Council of prior year(s) may elect to consider the MSRAL Convention of that year as being concurrent with it.

Section 4.

Provision shall be made in the schedule of the MSRAL Convention for the Regional Business and Council meetings, described in Article VII.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1.

The Regional Business Meeting of the MSRAL shall be held annually at the place and time of the MSRAL Convention. The exact time will be fixed by the host(s) with the approval of the Executive Committee. Fifteen (15) members of the MSRAL shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least three (3) member societies are present. Only MSRAL members may vote. All decisions will be by majority vote.

Section 2.

The Council shall meet in regular session preceding the Regional Business Meeting among scheduled convention activities.

Section 3.

The Council or its Executive Committee may hold additional meetings or conduct business by mail, by telephone, or other electronic means, as called by the Chairperson or by petition to him of a majority of either the Council or the Executive Committee.

Section 4.

The parliamentary authority for operation of all MSRAL meetings shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise specified in the By-Laws.

Section 5.

A detailed statement of the Regional convention's receipts and expenses will be provided to the MSRAL Secretary-Treasurer within ninety (90) days of the close of the convention.

ARTICLE VIM FINANCIAL

Section 1.

The MSRAL is a subsidiary of the Astronomical League, and thus can obtain property or accept tax deductible contributions when and only when the same are undertaken or accepted on behalf of, and transferred to the auspices of, the parent body. In the event of the dissolution of either the MSRAL (by redrawing of Regional boundaries) or the Astronomical League, the MSRAL shall transfer all net assets to accounts of the Astronomical League for disposal by the National Council.

Section 2.

In order to facilitate the operation of MSRAL, or the operation of a convention, or aid in retiring debts incurred by the MSRAL, the Region may request financial assistance from the national treasury by the method established in a League Standing Resolution by the National Council.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a Regional Business Meeting, the Council, a member society, or by petition of three (3) or more members-at-large.

Section 2.

A proposed amendment shall be voted upon at the Regional Business Meeting or, if no convention is held within a year of it's proposal, by mail ballot to the member societies and other members of the MRAL. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members voting will be necessary to adopt a proposed amendment.