

# NCRAL blotter

## Monthly Tidbits from NCRAL Officers, A.L. Representative, and Appointees

[Alan Sheidler](#), PAC, Chairman

[Bill Davidson](#), RAC, Vice Chairman

[Roy Gustafson](#), PAC, Secretary-Treasurer

[John Attewell](#), RAC, Regional Rep. to the A.L.

[Carl Wenning](#), TCAA, *Northern Lights* Editor

[Jeffrey Setzer](#), NCSF, NCRAL Webmaster

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- ★ NCRAL's elected leadership (Sheidler, Davidson, Gustafson, and Attewell; assisted by Wenning) have continued working on amendment proposals for the Region's bylaws. These efforts are being undertaken to bring the Region's bylaws into alignment with the Astronomical League's recently-revised bylaws, and to increase accuracy and clarity. Multiple amendment proposals have been approved by the elected leadership and are now available for inspection by affiliates. Time will be given for a "listening session" during the NCRAL 2024 business meeting. The draft amendments will then be revised in light of what is learned. Voting on amendments will take place on an affiliate-by-affiliate basis after the convention. [The working document can be retrieved by clicking here.](#)
- ★ The Spring 2024 issue of NCRAL's [Northern Lights newsletter](#) (to be released shortly) contains information about the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadlines for awards and grant applications, and NCRAL 2024 to be held in De Pere, WI, May 17-18. The newsletter will be disseminated on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please share this *critically important issue* with the members of your affiliate. The Region's newsletter is a great resource of information for club members and a major benefit of belonging to the Astronomical League.
- ★ Has your affiliate ever made use of the [NCRAL Speakers Bureau](#)? If so, our leadership would like to know about it and whether we should continue adding names and contact. Please let NCRAL Chair [Alan Sheidler](#) have your responses in regard to these two points.
- ★ Early in the year, many clubs have elections for officers. If there are new officers in your affiliate, please let NCRAL Chair Al Sheidler know. Also, please check that contact information as well as your Facebook and website hyperlinks so we can keep our NCRAL [affiliates web page](#) current.
- ★ Does your affiliate's newsletter and website have links to the [NCRAL website](#) and [Facebook page](#)? Lots of Regional benefits get overlooked because affiliate members don't know about them. Spread the "good news" of NCRAL by sharing this information with your affiliate membership today.
- ★ NCRAL is looking for convention hosts for 2025 and beyond. If your astronomy club has never hosted a Regional convention, please realize that hosting can be fun and has many benefits, including indemnification for unanticipated losses and a 50-50 share of the profits. Assistance is also available through our recently updated **Convention Planning Guidelines** on our [NCRAL Conventions](#) web page.

- ★ If your affiliate will be hosting a 2024 Regional event such as a star party, now is the time to have your information updated on the [NCRAL Events web page](#). Please send your information to webmaster [Jeffrey Setzer](#) for inclusion.
- ★ Would you like to use NCRAL's logo to show your club's affiliation with the Region on your website or newsletter? Use the copy shown here. Higher resolution versions are available from our **Northern Lights** newsletter editor.
- ★ If you haven't already signed up to receive NCRAL's Northern Lights newsletter, be sure that you do. The Spring 2024 issue will come out in the next few days, and you might miss it if you are not subscribed. Did you know that only about 500 of our Region's 2,300 members receive this newsletter? That's less than one-quarter of the membership! When one adds his or her email address to the NCRAL member database, he or she will receive direct notifications about the availability of *Northern Lights*. In addition, subscribers receive important and timely announcements about Regional conventions, elections, star parties, and so forth. Only blind addressing (Bcc:) will be used with this email list so that others will not see subscribers' email addresses. Email addresses will never be shared with or sold to outside entities. No one will add your email address to this list for you, so you'll need to do it yourself. Sign-up takes only about a minute. Resubscribe if you recently changed your email address and are not receiving our notifications. You'll need to provide your name, email address, and astronomy club affiliation (or indicate A.L. membership-at-large) and let us know if you hold specific positions within your club. Go to the following case-sensitive URL to add your information to our database at <https://tinyurl.com/NCRAL> today, so you won't miss important future communications.

