

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

The main items to report for 2018 were as follows:

- 1) **ASEM membership** – after hitting over 100 for most of 2018 we actually slipped from January at **97** to **95** at year end 2018. The lost members were mostly “one-and-done’s”. Probably from the excitement of the 2017 solar eclipse. I expect us to end 2019 above 100.
- 2) **Library Telescope added** – We added 1 additional scope that the St Charles City County Library District (SCCLD) paid us for. That brings the total “Library Scope” inventory in SCCLD to 20 (plus 1 SunSpotter solar + 4 (?) GalileoScope Solar projection scopes).
- 3) **ASEM Astro-calendar** – Just our 3rd year in this venture. We fell a bit short of our goals for an expanded printing of 150 and cleared over \$422 (137 sold), down from \$562 (100 sold) last year. Might scale back next year, else find help with marketing. Printing costs were up this year.
- 4) **C14 + MARS OPPOSITION** – ASEM members took on the Astro League challenge for their Mars Observing program. AfA has contributed to our Astrophotography efforts by adding over \$1000 in imaging gear for the C14 for planetary imaging. We obtained a few nice Mars shots before the dust storm hit.
- 5) **Donated telescope** – ASEM received a nice 6” Orion dob that has become a popular scope to borrow.
- 6) **August PERSEIDS** – we had over 500 people entertained over 2 nights. The night of Aug 11-12 was the best. Due to high, thin clouds on the peak night of 12-13<sup>th</sup>, when only 2<sup>nd</sup>-magnitude and brighter stars could be seen (often only parts of the Big Dipper or Teapot could be seen!), about 200 people attended on the “peak” night and saw very, very few meteors. At least we had telescopes to look at bright planets to reduce the pain some.
- 7) **Las Cumbres Award** – Our member (and SLAS’s) Don Ficken was awarded the Las Cumbres amateur outreach award by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific recognizing his efforts on the local Library Telescope program, as well as his efforts in leading the St Louis ECLIPSE taskforce to get everyone prepared for the 2017 solar eclipse.
- 8) **Other ASEM award winners!** - the Astronomical League had a photo contest co-sponsored with O.P.T., and ASEM had 5 winners! See 4<sup>th</sup> qtr issue of THE REFLECTOR. Last year on this same contest we managed to have 4 winners, so we have somewhat dominated the field (on this particular contest anyway) the past 2 years.
- 9) **Meteorite Collection** – added for Outreach and Education. More to come when we can get a display case for it.