

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE  
LA CROSSE AREA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
APPROVED 12/3/08  
REVISED 3/3/10

**PREAMBLE**

We the undersigned, desiring to secure the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons interested in amateur astronomy; to promote the science of astronomy; to encourage and coordinate activities of amateur astronomical societies; to foster observational and computational work, and craftsmanship in various fields of astronomy; to correlate amateur activities with professional research, do hereby organize and constitute ourselves the La Crosse Area Astronomical Society, a non profit organization.

**ARTICLE I**

**Name:**

The name of the association shall be the La Crosse Area Astronomical Society, also know as the LCAAS.

**ARTICLE II**

**Membership:**

Any person with a sincere interest in astronomy may be admitted to membership. *Membership is granted upon payment of and shall continue for as long as dues are paid.* A member may be *expelled* from membership *for cause* by 2/3 vote of members after being given at least 14 days notice prior to the meeting.

**ARTICLE III**

**Officers:**

The officers of the La Crosse Area Astronomical Society shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer). All eligible candidates shall be selected from the regular, paid up membership.

**Section I**

The officers of the group shall be elected for a term of one year and shall serve from the conclusion of the meeting at which they are elected until the conclusion of the meeting at which new officers are next elected.

**Section II**

Voting shall be by written ballot, if contested, at an annual election during the first meeting in the month of January.

**Section III**

Vacancies occurring between elections shall be filled by special election at the regular meeting following the meeting in which the resignation or withdrawal is announced. Duties of the

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office meanwhile reside with the President or an interim appointee, or otherwise at the discretion of the executive board.

**Section IV**

Officers may be removed by a 2/3 majority vote of the membership.

**ARTICLE IV**

Duties of Officers:

**Section I; President:**

Shall preside at all business meetings. He shall be chairman of the steering committee. Shall extra business meetings be required, temporarily fill vacancies, and appoint committees not otherwise provided for. Shall be ex-officio member of all committees. Shall perform all other duties normally required by the office of president.

**Section II; Vice President:**

Shall preside in the absence, or inability of the President to preside, or at the pleasure of the President (he may be assigned some additional duties, such as coordinating committee activities; heading educational activities; instrumental committee chairman, etc.)

**Section III; Secretary:**

Shall keep the minutes of the executive board meetings. Shall maintain an up to date roster of members. Shall correspond with other Astronomical Societies and individuals regarding club and regional business and astronomical information.

**Section IV; Treasurer:**

Shall keep an accurate account of all financial transaction of the organization:

To receive and receipt dues money from members.

To account for and bank receipts properly.

To pay all bills justly accrued by the organization.

To send Society dues annually to the Astronomical League Treasurer, on receipt of statement.

To keep books in order for annual audit.

(Note; if the group is small, the duties of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined in one office.)

**Section V; Committees and Boards:**

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A Board of Directors consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one member at large will meet annually. The Board may appoint and delegate responsibilities to any committees as may be deemed necessary for proper organizational functions.

The Board of Directors is empowered to act on administrative business of the Society in the intervals between regular meetings. A quorum shall consist of 2/3's of the members of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE V**

**Meetings:**

To be held monthly at a date and time as determined by the membership. Observing sessions can be considered a meeting.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Amendments:**

This constitution (and/or accompanying by-laws) may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present at any regular meeting provided that the proposed amendment was printed in a bulletin or letter and sent to member one month prior to the meeting at which the action is to be taken.

**ARTICLE VII**

**Definitions:**

**Quorum:** A quorum shall consist of those members present at a regular meeting of the Society.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Additions to the Constitution:**

**Section I**

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered *as specified in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

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**Section II**

No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaigning on behalf of any candidate for public office *as specified in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

**Section III**

In the event of the dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed to organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.