

CONSTITUTION of the SOUTH PLAINS ASTRONOMY CLUB

(June 2020 Revision)

Article I – Name of the Organization

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be the South Plains Astronomy Club.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1 – The Club shall provide an opportunity for all persons interested in astronomy and related subjects to communicate their ideas, experiences, problems and interests.

Section 2 – The Club shall promote activities, instruction and research in astronomy and related subjects for Club Members and the public.

Section 3 – The Club shall maintain a library and property depository for members in good standing to use and study.

Article III – Membership

Section 1 – There shall be three classifications of membership:

- a. Regular membership
- b. Junior membership
- c. Honorary membership

Section 2 – The qualifications and privileges of membership shall be stated in the By-Laws.

Article IV – Officers and Executive Board

Section 1 – The Officers of the Club shall consist of the following:

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Librarian
- f. Chairperson of Junior Activities

Section 2 – The Officers shall be elected for a term of one year with the exception of the Chairperson of Junior Activities, who shall be appointed by the Executive Board to serve a like term.

Section 3 – The election of Officers shall take place at the first regular meeting of each calendar year.

Section 4 – Newly elected Officers shall assume office at the regular meeting following election or appointment.

Section 5 – The Officers named in Section 1 of this Article shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 6 – The duties and responsibilities of the Officers and Executive Board shall be stated in the By-Laws.

Section 7 – In the event of resignation, disability, or death of an Officer to serve, other than the President, the President shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term of said officer.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 – Regular monthly meetings shall be held at a time and location specified by a majority of the membership at any regular meeting.

Section 2 – Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Board.

Article VI – Amendments

Section 1 – Proposed amendments to this constitution may be submitted to the Secretary in writing at any regular meeting of the Club. Such proposed amendments must be signed by at least three active members. The Secretary shall read the proposed amendment under the heading of “new business,” and shall notify all active members not present. After such notice the proposed amendment shall become part of this constitution if, at the next regular meeting, it is approved by a two-thirds majority of the active members present and voting.

Article VII – Assets

Section 1 – No part of the net earnings of the Club shall incur to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members or other private persons nor shall the South Plains Astronomy Club carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended or the corresponding revisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law or (b) by an organization constitution to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Section 2 – Upon dissolution of the Club any assets of the Club remaining thereafter shall be conveyed to such organizations then existent dedicated to the perpetuation of objectives similar to those of the Club, or the Astronomical League, so long as whichever organization is selected by the Club at the time of dissolution shall be exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended

or under such successive provisions of the code as may be in effect at the time of the Club's dissolution.

BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTH PLAINS ASTRONOMY CLUB

(June 2020 Revision)

Article I – Membership

Section 1 – Any person interested in astronomy may apply for membership to the treasurer or indirectly through the aid of an active member. Said applicant shall be granted membership upon approval of the Executive Board and payment of dues.

Section 2 – Membership shall be classified as follows:

- a. Regular Member – Any person eighteen years of age or older shall be entitled to one vote in all elections.
- b. Junior Member – Any person under eighteen years of age shall be eligible. Each shall be entitled to vote only in the Junior Section elections and activities.
- c. Honorary Member – Conferred in recognition of outstanding service to the Club or in the field of astronomy. Unless holding other membership classification as stated in this Section, an Honorary Member shall be entitled to vote and need not participate actively in the affairs of the Club.

Section 3 - On the day that a member's dues become delinquent, the Treasurer shall notify the member concerning the delinquency; if said dues have not been paid by 31 days after the date that the member's dues became delinquent, the Treasurer shall drop the member from the list of membership in the Club.

Section 4 – Any member may be expelled from the Club upon recommendation of the Executive Board, and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at a regular meeting.

Section 5 – Reinstatement of a member dropped for non-payment of dues or fines shall be accomplished by the payment of current and delinquent dues.

Article II – Dues

Section 1 – Dues for the membership classification shall be paid in advance as follows:

- a. Regular membership – basic yearly fee plus any cost resulting from the provisions of any contract made with any publications, if such is in effect.
- b. Junior membership - basic yearly fee plus any cost resulting from the provisions of any contract made with any publications, if such is in effect.
- c. Honorary membership – no dues required.

Section 2 – Annual dues shall be collected by the Treasurer during the period from the date of the April meeting through the date of the May meeting in the same year; unpaid dues shall be considered delinquent after the end of this period.

Section 3 – These dues may be changed for subsequent years by a majority vote of the club provided that previous notice of the proposed change has been submitted in writing to the active membership of the Club.

Section 4 – Regular Members and Junior Members shall be entitled to publications and subscription privileges as determined by the Executive Board, and approved by two-thirds majority of voting members.

Article III – Duties of Officers

Section 1 – The President shall be the chief officer of the Club. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and of the Club. The President shall introduce the speakers at meetings of the Club and shall have such duties as usually devolve upon the President of a Club or organization similar to this.

Section 2 – The Vice-President shall be Program Chairperson for regular Club meetings and Coordinator of Activities engaged in by the Club and its members. The Vice-President shall also act in the place of the President in the event of his absence, resignation, disability, or death.

Section 3 – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Club, and of all Executive Board Meetings and special committee meetings. In the absence of the Secretary the President shall designate a temporary Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a Directory of Membership. The Secretary shall notify the members of the Executive Board of the time and place of meetings of the Board and do such other things as are herein provided.

Section 4 – The Treasurer shall keep account of the fiscal affairs of the Club. The Treasurer shall receive all of its moneys, and shall deposit them in such manner and in such banks as the Executive Board shall from time to time designate, and shall withdraw the moneys in such manner as the Executive Board shall prescribe, and in general shall have charge of and be responsible for all of the Club's funds, financial records and reports.

Section 5 – The Librarian shall be responsible for all books, pamphlets, periodicals and other such written material property. The Librarian shall be responsible for the lending of such materials and shall carry out the library policies set forth by the Executive Board. The Librarian shall also be responsible for the optical equipment and all other properties which may be purchased by, or donated to, the Club.

Section 6 – The Chairperson of Junior Activities shall oversee, advise and coordinate the functioning of the Junior Section of the Club and all Junior Activities. The Chairperson of Junior Activities shall be directly responsible to the Executive Board and shall make necessary recommendations for expenditure of funds for Junior Activities.

Section 7 – From time to time as the President may deem it necessary the President may appoint temporary assistants to other officers or persons to head and form special committees.

Article IV – Duties of the Executive Board

Section 1 – The Executive Board shall be the directors and managers of the Club. It shall have general charge of the property, affairs and funds of the Club. It shall exclude from membership any person who, in its judgement, may be undesirable or who may be detrimental to the Club. The Executive Board shall also be responsible for the functioning of the Junior Section.

Section 2 – The Executive Board shall set the time and frequency of its meetings.

Section 3 – Two-thirds of the Executive Board shall be considered a majority.

Article V – Quorum and Majority

Section 1 – Six active members in good standing and the presiding officer of the Club shall constitute a Quorum at any regular meeting.

Section 2 – Unless otherwise noted in the Constitution or By-Laws of this Club, a majority of those present and voting shall be required to transact business under the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws. The presiding officer shall have the privilege of voting in the event of a tie vote.

Article VI – Junior Section

Section 1 – Persons specified in Section 2b of Article I in the By-Laws shall constitute the Junior Section of the Club.

Section 2 – The Junior Section of the Club shall be under the direct supervision of the Chairperson of Junior Activities, who shall be charged with the management of the affairs of the Junior Section.

Section 3 - The Chairperson of Junior Activities shall preside over meetings of the Junior Section and will seek input from the members of the Junior Section regarding activities of that group. However, decisions regarding activities of the Junior Section will be made by the Chairperson of Junior Activities with the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4 – It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson of Junior Activities to ensure that all members of the Junior Section are meaningfully engaged in activities of the Junior Section regardless of their age.

Section 5 – With the approval of the Chairperson of Junior Activities and the Executive Board, the Junior Section may choose to hold separate meetings in addition to the regular Club meetings.

Article VII – Order of Business at Regular Meetings

- Section 1 – 1st – Meeting called to order
2nd – Reading of minutes of the last meeting
3rd – Business reports
4th – Unfinished business
5th – New business
6th – Announcement of events and introduction of New Members and Visitors
7th – Adjournment of Business Meeting
8th – Special program and activities

Section 2 – The Business portion of the regular meeting shall be limited to thirty minutes.

Article VIII – Amendments

Section 1 – Amendments to the By-Laws shall be made by the same procedure as outlined in Article VI of the Constitution.