

# ALPO Central Office Development Update - Number 5 – Endowment Update

February 18, 2019

The Year 2018 was notable with the passing of the last founding Board member, John E. Westfall. John's membership with the ALPO dated back to 1953. In the early 1960s John began a long tenure on the ALPO's staff, helping to manage Lunar Section with various observing projects. John also stepped in to shoulder the responsibilities of editing the *Journal of the ALPO* and directing ALPO operations in 1985, for our then ailing founder Walter H. Haas. Later on, John, through the help of his wife Elizabeth, transitioned the ALPO into nonprofit status, to promote long term stability with the ALPO. Many tributes to John, both written and conveyed with monetary contributions in John's name, were most welcomed by the ALPO.

One of the initiatives started through the Westfalls was the ALPO Endowment. As you well know, the purpose for the ALPO Endowment is to one day utilize funding that can provide support for a central headquarters or office for the ALPO. In issue Vol. 40, No. 2, April 1998, of the *Journal of the ALPO*, Journal Editor and Board Member John Westfall announced that the Endowment had been created to eventually fund a central headquarters for the ALPO. Seed money was provided through a \$5000 grant from the Wilbur S. and Sarah J. Smith Foundation of Columbia, South Carolina, thanks to the help of longtime ALPO member James H. Phillips, (current acting assistant coordinator for the Lunar Domes Program). Since that initial seeding, the ALPO Endowment has grown many fold. The latest addition to the Endowment comes by way of a charitable bequest that John himself left, after his death, last year. The John E. Westfall Charitable Remainder Trust has bestowed to the ALPO \$117,540.42. This, on top of contributions from other ALPO members in the past year has increased the size of the ALPO Endowment to \$237,295.78. Although the Endowment fund is still far from its goal, it has increased significantly over the last few years, and with this, a seriousness among many that the goal of a central office is achievable.

Charitable bequests come in many forms depending on the type and how they are administered. Consult with an attorney or a financial institution such as a bank or financial services company if you are considering bequeathing funds to other organizations. If you want to consider this act of giving for the ALPO, we would be most grateful. For more information, check out our expanded memberships page on the ALPO website. Go to [www.alpo-astronomy.org](http://www.alpo-astronomy.org), click on the "expanded memberships" near the bottom of the main page, to the left, and then click on this link, "[Making a Charitable Bequest to the ALPO](#)" on the expanded memberships page.

Of course, a charitable bequest is just one form of giving to the ALPO. Standalone donations to the ALPO Endowment are always welcome and can be made at any time. Donations, never too small, can be made at any time either sending a check to the ALPO, by way of our Springfield, Illinois postal address given below or online on the [Astronomical League website](#). Whatever option you choose, contributions through expanded memberships, charitable bequests, or donations, all are greatly appreciated! The ALPO thanks you for your support in whatever capacity you participate in, as observers, readers of our literature, or contributing in various other ways to strengthen our mission.

Best regards,

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