

ALPO Central Office Development Update - Number 7 – Endowment Update

February 16, 2021

A recent issue of Time Magazine had on its cover in bold, black numerals “2020” with a red “X” over it and the caption “The Worst Year Ever.” For virtually every one of us, the Covid-19 pandemic has touched our lives in various degrees from personal complications to deep sorrow. It’s also magnified human tragedy that can befalls us even in the best of times. While the pandemic and its associated issues have been serving as a backdrop to everything that we are involved with, the ALPO has continued to endure and even flourish as it has adapted to the current environment of today. The ALPO continues to expand and grow with new sections and programs such as the newly created Exoplanets Section and improvements to current programs such as the Youth Program utilizing social media to reach younger persons curious about astronomy. The ALPO made the best of a bad situation with the cancellation of its annual in-person conference last fall, and held a virtual conference on the online audio and web conferencing platform, Zoom, to rave reviews. The online conference gave many that couldn’t normally travel to such a conference, the experience of seeing ALPO staff and fellow members talking about their current topics in Solar System astronomy. So, the ALPO, thanks to a dedicated and committed volunteer staff, continues to find new ways of reaching people.

This “eye toward the future” continues as well with the ALPO Endowment. Though we didn’t have the gigantic increase in the Endowment last year, that we had in 2019, the ALPO Endowment grew to \$328,582.13 in a mix of earnings and donations totaling \$8,201.07. As stated in last year’s update, there are plans to expand on fundraising and the financial management of the Endowment. While these plans have been delayed somewhat, the mission to go forward will still prevail. As said above, this year has taken a toll on many of our personal lives, the Secretary and Treasurer included. But the ALPO is dedicated to the ultimate goal of creating a physical central office for the ALPO and its aims to eventually achieve that goal. We have a broad vision to preserve our history and data, meet the present needs of our staff and membership with modern means, and to set future goals for the ALPO that will be reached in incremental steps.

The ALPO is very fortunate to have willing and sharing observers, loyal members, and a devoted volunteer staff to meet the needs of our organization. Your patronage of the ALPO through charitable bequests, donations, higher level memberships, regular memberships, and dedicated observations of all sorts, helps to strengthen the ALPO as an organization, both in the present and into the future. Thank you all for your past and continued interest and support!

Best regards,

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