

ALPO Central Office Development Update - Number 8 – Endowment Update

February 15, 2022

Last year, 2021 held promise for improvement in many aspects of life. So too, it was for the ALPO. The ALPO Endowment improved in a number of areas concerning not just with growth but management as well.

In following through with the ALPO's plan to better manage its Endowment, the ALPO Board of Directors completed the formation of the new ALPO Endowment Trust Fund Board of Trustees. This separate board of trustees is being created in accordance to ALPO Bylaws and our own standing rules. The ALPO Endowment Trust Fund Board of Trustees has been empowered to manage of the Endowment with oversight from the ALPO Board of Directors. Having a separate board involved with investing issues helps the ALPO Board of Directors to focus more broadly on all aspects of ALPO management.

The ALPO Board of Trustees are composed of the following members:

John Bedsole, a business valuation and tax professional with the firm Kalifeh Bedsole Adams in Mobile, AL. Mr. Bedsole earned his BS in Commerce and Business Administration in 2002 and an MA in Economics from UNC Chapel Hill in 2003. He has been an ALPO member for fourteen years.

Matthew Benton, CEO of Mentora Education Group based in Washington, DC, and Istanbul, Turkey, and Director of Foreign Languages at Bahcesehir College in Turkey. Mr. Benton earned his BA in History in 2004 from Armstrong Atlantic State University and his MA in Applied Linguistics from Georgia State University in 2009, and has been involved with ALPO since the early 1990s.

Jacqueline 'Jackie' Beucher, who serves as treasurer for the Trust Fund of the Astronomical League, an umbrella organization comprising over two hundred and forty local amateur astronomical societies across the United States, and as vice chair of the Missouri chapter of the International Dark Sky Association. Ms. Beucher holds a BS degree in Business Administration from Avila University.

Larry Hardy, chairman of the board for the Prairie Education Research Co-operative, the clinical trial division of Prairie Cardiovascular, and a member of the Board of Directors for Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants. Mr. Hardy earned an AA degree from Springfield College and a BS degree in molecular biology from the University of Illinois. Additionally, he is a vice president with Morgan Stanley in Springfield, Illinois.

Ronald May, a retired business executive with over forty years of experience in corporate marketing and communications, who also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Jose Museum of Art in the early 2000s. Mr. May earned his BA in US History from California State University, Northridge, and an MBA in Business Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

All the elected trustees were selected by the ALPO Board of Directors for their backgrounds in finance, investing, management, and institutional promotion. This group of distinguished individuals will help to grow the ALPO Endowment and better shape the propose and growth of the Endowment toward its established goal for supporting an ALPO central office in the not-too-distant future.

The ALPO Endowment continues to grow thanks to the kind-heartedness of many ALPO members. Our Endowment is now, currently at an assessed value of \$316,781.23. Though donations were down compared to last year, this year holds promise as there is the expectation on a significant boost in the Endowment's value through a charitable bequest that will be finalized soon. This boost will help the

Endowment and its goal, to eventually establish a central office for the ALPO and draw attention to the seriousness in this endeavor.

Best regards,

Matthew Will
Secretary and Treasurer
Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO)
PO Box 13456
Springfield, IL 62791-3456 USA
Email addresses: matt.will@alpo-astronomy.org or matthew.will@att.net