

ALPO Central Office Development Update - Number 9 – Endowment Update

February 17, 2023

The ALPO Endowment experienced another growth spurt in 2022. A charitable bequest of \$100,000.00 from the Derald D. Nye Estate along with other much appreciated donations and increases in expanded ALPO memberships, has brought the ALPO Endowment up to a total of \$435,206.97.

In late 2021, the ALPO Endowment Board of Trustees was formed, as described in Update – Number 8, released last year. A few months later, with guidance from Trustee Ron May, a press release, the first of its kind in the history of the organization, circulated to many media outlets and other interested parties on January 31, 2022. Favorable feedback was received from many quarters concerning the ALPO's desired goal for a central office, some day.

While the ALPO Endowment continues to grow, the ALPO Endowment Board of Trustees have had some insightful meetings in 2022. There were six in all, with some being held as joint meetings with the ALPO Board of Directors. Many issues have been discussed and critically examined at these meetings being hosted in a video conference format. Topics ranged from better clarity in the mission statement for the central office concept to improved investing strategies for Endowment funds. Policy development in key areas of ALPO activities were debated including media engagement, guidance for social media, and professional advisement of various kinds. With a growing endowment, proposals were made that, while the central focus would still be to finance a central office, a portion of the funds generated from the Endowment could support and enhance growth of current ALPO operations, thus giving the organization more stability than it now has.

The year 2023 now looks brighter as we forge ahead, better defining the issues mentioned above and finding solutions that will work for the ALPO. Of course, people are our greatest resource, and implementing these solutions will only happen if others get involved. The ALPO is off to a great start with its Endowment. We have a very diverse organization with many talented people contributing to and managing our observational sections and programs, and many others involved to our multi-faceted operations that go beyond these sections and programs to make the ALPO whole. Though the ALPO has been a leading organization in Solar System astronomy for a very long time, I am optimistic that the ALPO can be a greater organization than it is now. Our purpose and vision is clear and the pathways to go forward lie before us. The basic constructs and dedicated individuals are all that is needed to travel onward.

Best regards,

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