

What is the ALPO Endowment Fund?

The A.L.P.O. (Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers) Endowment Fund was created by the ALPO Board in 1997. Its purpose is to provide support for establishing a future, permanent home for the ALPO. Having such a headquarters would give the ALPO some stability and continuity. This is particularly true of the ALPO's vast observational databases in need of preservation. A base of operations could support our volunteer staff by providing resources and assistance in managing their sections as well as better service to our dues-paying members. A permanent location would encourage development of physical assets such as scientific equipment and other resources that could be utilized by staff as well as members.

How is the ALPO Endowment funded?

In the past, a primary source of funding for the Endowment has been through direct gifts to the ALPO and occasional surpluses from the ALPO treasury. Lately, the ALPO is providing optional, higher level of memberships that will help to build up the ALPO's Endowment Fund. Please see the back panel of this brochure. To build up this fund to the point where it can provide the means toward financing such a project, the ALPO appeals to other sources of additional funding, friends inside and outside our organization.

Is an ALPO headquarters really needed?

Many of our peer astronomical organizations have, for many years, operated with centralized offices and have reaped the benefits of such an arrangement. They have salaried staff that perform the business functions of their organization, archive valuable scientific and historical data, perform public outreach, and provide other services to support staff and members.

The ALPO has observational records extending over 65 years that need to be archived and preserved. Currently, the business functions of the ALPO are limited to the amount of time officers and staff can spend outside of their professional and private lives. Support for volunteer staff is limited since money, resources, and professional personnel are quite limited or even nonexistent.

The ALPO with its mission to promote, stimulate, and coordinate the advancement of Solar System astronomy, would greatly benefit from a central office. A staffed headquarters could meet that mission and guarantee the ALPO's continued contribution of scientific data to the astronomical community, along with its public and educational outreach.



How are contributions made?

Contributions in the form of gifts can be made at any time. Higher levels of membership, purchased or renewed will help fund the Endowment. Payment amounts in excess of regular membership dues or other special materials in return for a membership are tax deductible for U.S. citizens, as the ALPO is a nonprofit corporation under U.S. Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). The ALPO also welcomes charitable bequest. Members and non members can make provisions for the ALPO as part of their estate planning. Please contact the ALPO Secretary/Treasurer for more information about how this can be arranged.



Is an ALPO headquarters achievable?

The answer has to be yes. The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers has been established for well over a half century. We are well respected in both the amateur and professional astronomy communities for our amateur endeavors and high quality observational data. The ALPO has contributed and added to the quality of our knowledge of the Solar System as we know it today. The

legacy of the ALPO must continue and be preserved and improved upon for future generations of amateur and professional astronomers. Your support can insure that this happens and that the mission of the ALPO will never be lost.

Expanded Memberships

[] **Patron** - \$US 250.00 (4 issues (one year) of the *Journal ALPO* with access to both paper and digital versions of the *Journal*. This membership also includes a free lapel pin and free printed back issues of the *Journal* upon request that are still in print.)

[] **Benefactor** - \$US 500.00 (Same as Patron and includes one free book written by an ALPO author.*)

[] **Provider** - \$US 1000.00 (Includes all the benefits associated with the Benefactor membership level and one annual conference registration.**)

[] **Funder** - \$US 2500.00 (Includes all the benefits associated with the Provider membership level.)

[] **Universal** - \$US 10,000.00 (This membership level is a lifetime membership that is achieved through a one time gift or through accumulative giving at the lower levels that when equaling \$10,000 over time, the member would be given a lifetime membership. Includes all the benefits associated with the Funder membership levels including one book a year for life* and paid registration for annual conferences.**)

[] **Donation** - \$US _____ (Does not include any of the benefits of membership.)

*For Benefactor, Provider, and Universal memberships, one free, professionally published book from an ALPO author is offered, valued under \$45 in print, your choice of print or Kindle edition. Consult the ALPO website at <http://www.alpo-astronomy.org> for a choice of book and the ALPO Secretary at matt.will@alpo-astronomy.org for your choice.

**Covers reimbursement for registration only, with a \$100 cap. Does not include conference purchases, field trips, meals, accommodations, or travel expenses to the annual conference.

Please make payment by check or money order, payable (through a U.S. bank and encoded with U.S. standard banking numbers) to "A.L.P.O." Contributions are tax deductible for U.S. citizens, as the ALPO is a nonprofit corporation under U.S. Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: **ALPO Secretary/Treasurer**
P. O. Box 13456
Springfield, IL 62791-3456

You can also contribute online at:
<http://www.astroleague.org/store/index.php>

The ALPO thanks you for supporting its mission through this vision of its future. You are helping to insure the ALPO's existence as a scientific and educational resource for generations to come. Thanks again!

Think of the Possibilities

...an ALPO with a centralized location, a contact point for answering inquiries and providing assistance and resources to staff and members alike...

...an ALPO that can preserve its history and scientific databases...

...an ALPO that has higher visibility in the astronomical community and in public through better outreach, access, and communication...

All this may just be a dream...but it can take shape and become apart of the ALPO's future.

