



The Astronomical League

A New Associated Society of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

THE Astronomical League, established in 1946, is a federation of amateur astronomical societies. At present it numbers 77 clubs comprising more than 4000 members. Included in this membership are a few junior organizations, but many of the larger groups maintain junior membership in addition to the regular membership. Members-at-large are individuals living in communities that have no organized society; there are 20 such members, some outside the United States.

The aims and purposes of the League, as stated in the by-laws, are (i) to promote the science of astronomy; (ii) to encourage and coordinate activities of amateur astronomical societies; (iii) to foster observational and computational work and craftsmanship in various fields of astronomy; (iv) to correlate amateur activities with professional research.

The League publishes a *Bulletin* five times annually in which items of astronomical interest, as well as programing aids, are brought to the attention of members. An observing manual is in preparation; it will combine in one volume the suggested methods for accurately observing and reporting to appropriate agencies the principal astronomical objects visible with relatively small equipment.

There is a Junior Activities Section, which assists in the organization of junior clubs and coordinates the activities of junior members through the *Junior Astronomer*, published in 10 issues a year.

Additional sections provide assistance on instrumentation, group projects, and available astronomical films. A Book Service is maintained for the purchase of books at a discount for members.

In addition to its observational and organizational functions, the League promotes public interest in support of the relatively small number of professional astronomers. We believe that this contributes in no small measure to the growing public interest in the

science and brings support to the work of professional astronomers.

Functionally, the League is divided into regions, each of which comprises one geographic portion of the country. Each region operates under an organizational structure similar to that of the national body. At present there are seven such regions functioning: Middle East, Mid-States, North Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest. A few member groups are outside the present regional boundaries.

The League holds an annual general convention, and each region holds its own annual regional convention. At these meetings, papers are presented by leading amateurs and professionals on various aspects of astronomy. Reports are made of the various observational programs carried on under the direction of section chairmen in conjunction with the national observing societies, such as the American Association of Variable Star Observers, the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, and the American Meteor Society. Proceedings of each general convention are published and are made available to members; they may also be purchased by interested individuals.

The site of the general convention is rotated throughout the regions. The 1954 convention will be held in Madison, Wis., July 2-5; plans are being made to observe the total solar eclipse of June 30 prior to the convention. In 1955 the general convention will be in Seattle, Wash.

Current officers are president, R. R. LaPelle, R.D. 3, Meadville, Pa.; vice president, James H. Karle, Portland 19, Ore.; secretary, Russell C. Maag, Sedalia, Mo.; treasurer, Mrs. Ralph N. Buckstaff, Oshkosh, Wis.; executive secretary, Grace C. Scholtz, 166 Mason Hall Apts., Alexandria, Va.

CHARLES H. LEROY
Past President

Pittsburgh 15, Pennsylvania

SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. Entered at the Lancaster, Pa., Post Office as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

All correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D. C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors.

Change of address: The notification should reach us four weeks in advance. If possible, please furnish an address stencil label from a recent issue. Be sure to give both old and new addresses, including postal zone numbers, if any.

Annual subscriptions: \$7.50; foreign postage, outside the Pan-American Union, \$1.00; Canadian postage, 50¢. Single copies 25¢. Special rates to members of the AAAS.

SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. The AAAS also publishes THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY. Subscription and advertising rates will be furnished on request.