

## **NORTH CENTRAL REGION ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE 2020-2021 REGION REPORT**

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Carl J. Wenning, Regional Chair (2017-2023)



### **Region's Executive Officers:**

**Chair** (third and final 2-year term expires 2023)  
Carl J. Wenning (Twin City Amateur Astronomers)  
21 Grandview Drive  
Normal, IL 61761  
Mobile: 309-830-4085  
[carlwenning@gmail.com](mailto:carlwenning@gmail.com)

**Vice Chair** (second 2-year term expires 2023)  
Bill Davidson (Rochester Astronomy Club)  
3705 Halling Place SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
(507) 273-6220  
[rochesterskies@outlook.com](mailto:rochesterskies@outlook.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer** (second 2-year term expires May 2022)  
Roy Gustafson (Popular Astronomy Club)  
11 Deer Run Road  
Orion, Illinois 61273  
Mobile: 309-781-4368  
[astroroy46@gmail.com](mailto:astroroy46@gmail.com)

**Regional Representative** (second 3-year term expires May 2022)  
Bill Davidson (Rochester Astronomy Club)  
3705 Halling Place SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
(507) 273-6220  
[rochesterskies@outlook.com](mailto:rochesterskies@outlook.com)

### **Financial Report:**

Initial Balances:	\$8,758.03 (July 1, 2020)
Final Balance:	\$8,332.70 (June 30, 2021)
Difference:	<b>\$425.33</b> (decrease)

Pursuant to the discussion at the 2019 AL Council Meeting in Florida, NCRAL has aligned its financial accounts with the AL so that both now operate under the same federal EIN. AL Treasurer Bill Dillon assisted NCRAL Secretary-Treasurer Roy Gustafson with the effort. Donations made to NCRAL under the aegis of the AL now can be transferred from the AL to NCRAL taking advantage of the AL's 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

### **NCRAL Banking Account:**

Location –

SENB Bank  
3535 Avenue of the Cities  
P.O. Box 1070  
Moline, IL 61266-1070  
Phone: 309-757-0700  
[www.senb.com](http://www.senb.com)

Signatories and contact information –

NCRAL Secretary-Treasurer Roy Gustafson  
[astroroy46@gmail.com](mailto:astroroy46@gmail.com)  
11 Deer Run Road  
Orion, IL 61273  
Mobile: 309-781-4366  
[astroroy46@gmail.com](mailto:astroroy46@gmail.com)

AL Treasurer William Dillon  
[wildil820@gmail.com](mailto:wildil820@gmail.com)

### **Response to Coronavirus Pandemic:**

- All NCRAL-sponsored events during the year were canceled due to the pandemic.
- The Region's annual convention, NCRAL 2021, was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- The Region continued with its awards programs despite COVID-19. Awards that would have been made at the NCRAL 2021 convention were announced online. The awards' plaques and certificates will be made formally presented at the NCRAL 2022 convention along with those from NCRAL 2020.
- Many affiliates have used video conferencing (e.g., *Zoom*) during the pandemic to hold membership meetings, give public presentations, and conduct business.

### **Regional Awards & Mini-Grants:**

- Wayne Kuhn of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society (Wisconsin) received the *2022 NCRAL Region Award* in recognition of his outstanding service to amateur astronomy.
- There were no nominations or applications for the *2021 NCRAL Newsletter Editor Award*.
- The Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society (Illinois) received a *NCRAL Mini-Grant for Membership Recruitment and Retention* (\$250). They will develop, print, and disseminate either a poster or a brochure promoting membership in the CUAS.
- There were no applicants for this year's *NCRAL Affiliate-Recruitment Mini-Grant*.
- The Twin City Amateur Astronomers was unable to complete the inaugural 2020 NCRAL mini-grant program for affiliate recruitment due to the pandemic. Their \$250 mini-grant remains on hold waiting for life to return to normal on the campus of Illinois State University where it is slated to be used with the nascent ISU Astronomy Club and the ISU Planetarium.

### **Region Administrative Updates:**

- Because elections could not be held at NCRAL 2021 due to its cancellation, Regional Chair Carl Wenning conducted online elections in a manner consistent with the Region's Bylaws. Electors were the Region's officers, and president and one presidential appointee from each affiliate. Of the 96 potential voters, very few participated in the election process.
- The Region has confirmed hosts for NCRAL conventions through 2023.

- The Region has started its sixth consecutive year of publishing quarterly issues of **Northern Lights**, the Region's newsletter. Back issues are accessible on the Region's website at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>

#### Electronic Communications:

- NCRAL utilizes a self-subscribed email list for disseminating the **Northern Lights** newsletter and other communications. Some 475 of the Region's approximately 1,900 members (25%) are subscribed. See <https://goo.gl/gS8SF>
- The Region maintains an active Facebook page in which celestial events and accomplishments worthy of note are listed regularly. See <https://www.facebook.com/northcentralregionastronomicalleague/>
- The Region maintains an extensive and ever-expanding website that is regularly updated. See [www.ncral.wordpress.com](http://www.ncral.wordpress.com)

#### NCRAL Affiliate and Member Accomplishments:

- Numerous affiliate members earned AL observing club pins and certificates during the year.
- A growing number of NCRAL members are taking advantage of the Region's seasonal Messier mini-marathon.

#### Star Parties & Club Events:

- Several statewide star parties scheduled within the region for 2020-2021 were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- In the main, most if not all affiliate-sponsored public club events were cancelled due to the pandemic; however, with distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, several affiliates have returned to public talks and observing sessions with the use of protective practices including the wearing of masks, hand sanitizers, and social distancing in April.

#### NCRAL Objectives for 2021-2023:

The Region has five objectives for the current Chairmanship interval (2021-2023). They are to: (1) create an 110-object NCRAL Messier Marathon program to complement the four [NCRAL seasonal mini-marathon programs](#) that are proving to be popular with several of our affiliates; (2) modify the current [NCRAL Convention Planning Guidelines](#) last updated in 2019 to take into account changes suggested by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of video-conferencing-based meetings and webinars on future attendance; (3) pilot a donation system with the Astronomical League whereby donations to the AL (a 501c3 non-profit educational organization) can be channeled to NCRAL; (4) develop an NCRAL 5-Year Plan, and (5) amend the [Region's Bylaws](#) to clarify them and to, if possible, eliminate the two-tiered governance system which has been ineffective for the Region.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl J. Wenning, Chair (2017-2023)  
[North Central Region Astronomical League](#)

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