

## **NORTH CENTRAL REGION ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE 2021-2022 REGION REPORT**

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022  
Carl J. Wenning, Regional Chair (2017-2023)



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

#### **Chair**

Carl J. Wenning (Twin City Amateur Astronomers)  
21 Grandview Drive  
Normal, IL 61761  
Mobile: 309-830-4085  
[carlwenning@gmail.com](mailto:carlwenning@gmail.com)  
(third and final 2-year term expires May 6, 2023)

#### **Vice Chair**

Bill Davidson (Rochester Astronomy Club)  
3705 Halling Place SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
(507) 273-6220  
[rochesterskies@outlook.com](mailto:rochesterskies@outlook.com)  
(second 2-year term expires May 6, 2023)

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Roy Gustafson (Popular Astronomy Club)  
11 Deer Run Road  
Orion, Illinois 61273  
Mobile: 309-781-4368  
[astroroy46@gmail.com](mailto:astroroy46@gmail.com)  
(third 2-year term expires May 2024)

#### **Regional Representative**

John Attewell (Rochester Astronomy Club)  
3112 9th Avenue NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
(507) 398-4492  
[john\\_attewell@hotmail.com](mailto:john_attewell@hotmail.com)  
(first 3-year term expires May 2025)

### **Financial Report:**

Initial Balances:	\$8,332.70 (July 1, 2021)
Final Balance:	\$8,112.83 (June 30, 2022)
Difference:	<b>\$219.87</b> (decrease)

### 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  
[astorroy46@gmail.com](mailto:astorroy46@gmail.com)  
11 Deer Run Road  
Orion, IL 61273  
Mobile: 309-781-4366

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

### Regional Awards & Mini-Grants:

- Due to a lack of suitable nominations, the *2022 NCRAL Region Award* presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to amateur astronomy was not awarded.
- There were two nominations for the *2022 NCRAL Newsletter Editor Award*. The quality of each was considered identical. Therefore, two awards were presented:
  - Fr. Eugene M. Brown, Minnesota Astronomical Society, *Gemini*
  - Mr. David Leake, Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society (Illinois), *Clear Skies*
- There were no applicants for this year's *NCRAL Affiliate-Recruitment or Membership-Recruitment Mini-Grants*.
- The Twin City Amateur Astronomers completed the inaugural 2020 NCRAL mini-grant program for affiliate recruitment (delayed due to the pandemic) with the Illinois State University Astronomy Club expected to join the AL during the summer of 2022 with the start of the new fiscal year.

### AL Awards:

- During May, Sandullah Epsicokhan of the *Twin City Amateur Astronomers* (TCAA, Illinois) was named the 2022 Mabel Sterns Newsletter Editor Award recipient for 2022. The award will be presented at ALCon 2022. This marks the third time the TCAA has been so recognized with editors Michael Rogers & Jean Memken receiving the inaugural award in 1998 and Carl Wenning receiving the award in 2017.

### Region Administrative Updates:

- The Region held its NCRAL VISION 2022 convention May 13-14, 2022, at Port Washington, Wisconsin. Seventy registered for this event with all but a few showing up. The convention was hosted by the *Northern Cross Science Foundation* headed by Jeff Setzer. By all accounts, the convention was a remarkable success. This was the Region's first convention since 2019 due to the COVID pandemic.
- The Region has confirmed hosts for NCRAL conventions through 2023 only. NCRAL 2023 will be hosted by the *Twin City Amateur Astronomers* at Grand Bear Resort (which recently experienced a catastrophic residential housing fire that fortunately did not affect the main lodge) near North Utica, Illinois. The convention format will be different from prior contentions to account for the new *COVID/Zoom generation* of amateur astronomers. The theme will be *Amateur Astronomy for Amateurs*. Focus will be on workshops, seminars, panel discussions, and other face-to-face activities that a Zoom-based event usually does not provide.
- NCRAL now has an operational donation system whereby donations to NCRAL are now acknowledged as 501(c)(3) contributions due to our proper bank affiliation with the AL.

- A lack of interest in preparing a 5-year plan for NCRAL resulted in this goal from last year's agenda being dropped.

#### Electronic Communications:

- The Region has completed the sixth consecutive year of publishing its quarterly newsletter, **Northern Light**. Back issues are accessible on the Region's website at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>
- 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 number of subscribers remains essentially unchanged despite regular promotion.
- 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 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 small number of NCRAL members are taking advantage of the Region's seasonal Mini Messier Marathon.

#### Star Parties & Club Events:

- With the approval of the AL, affiliates have returned to conventions, public talks, and observing sessions, dispensing by in large with the use of personal protective devices, hand sanitizers, etc.
- Statewide star parties scheduled within the region during 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A full slate of events is now scheduled for the summer of 2022. See the NCRAL website for details.

#### NCRAL Objectives for 2022-2023:

- The Region has four 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) formulate detailed guidelines for selecting Region and Newsletter Editor award recipients, and (4) 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. Changes will be placed on hold until revisions in the AL Bylaws are approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl J. Wenning, Chair (2017-2023)  
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