

Constitution of the Decatur Area Astronomy Club

Preamble

We the undersigned, in order to secure the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons interested in astronomy and related sciences, through the conduct of public and private discussion groups, forums, panels, lectures, or other activities, do hereby organize and constitute the Decatur Area Astronomy Club, a non-profit organization.

Article I: Name of the Organization

The name of this organization shall be Decatur Area Astronomy Club. The letters "DAAC" shall hereinafter stand for Decatur Area Astronomy Club.

Article II: Purpose of the Organization

This organization shall further the education of its members and the public in astronomy and related sciences by:

- A. Conducting public outreach programs and field seminars in astronomical viewing.
- B. Promoting fellowship among and providing the means of exchanging information between individuals having a common interest in astronomy.
- C. Promoting scientific research and related activities among its members.
- D. Promote public awareness of the value of, and the need for dark skies.

Article III: Approval of Financial Obligations

This organization does not contemplate financial gain or profit by any members thereof, and is organized solely for nonprofit purposes. The following issues of the organization shall be decided by a majority of the quorum present at a regular business meeting:

- A. Acquiring or disposing of right, title, or interest in property in excess of \$100.00. Proposals for activities, acquisitions and expenditures in excess of \$100.00 shall be publicized in the newsletter prior to the next business meeting.
- B. Incurring financial obligations in excess of the organization's capacity to pay from current dues or yearly revenues

- C. The procedure for determining the amount of dues shall be contained in the bylaws.

Article IV: Membership

Any person who is interested in astronomy and willing to abide by the articles of the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization shall be qualified for membership in DAAC.

- A. Types of membership in the organization shall be defined in the bylaws.
- B. Application for Members
 - 1. Application for membership shall be made to any officer of the club.
 - 2. No application will be accepted unless accompanied by all dues applicable.
- C. Members in good standing shall be any individual accepted for membership and whose dues have been paid for the current year, hereinafter referred to as "members."

Article V: Form of Government

- A. Form of Government: The government of this organization shall be invested in the voting members and a Board of Directors with respective powers as defined in the Constitution.
 - 1. A quorum of a regular business meeting shall be at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members in good standing.
 - 2. A regular business meeting shall consist of a quorum of the members in good standing. The body shall be presided over by the President and shall have invested in it the power to amend this constitution, to approve the budget and dues of the organization, and to approve or disapprove by simple majority the actions of the Board of Directors.
 - 3. The Board of Directors shall consist of club officers and Directors-at-Large, and shall be in charge of the supervision and conduct of any and all business of this organization, to recommend amendments to this constitution, and perform all other functions, incident to the proper conduct of this organization.
- B. Club Officers and Directors-at-Large: Tenures of Office and Elections
 - 1. The Officers and Directors-at-Large of this organization shall be voting members, and shall consist of the following:
 - a. President

- b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer
 - d. Two Directors-at-Large
2. A Quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of at least three elected board members, which must include at least one officer.
 3. Periods of office:
 - a. All officers shall serve a period of one year, or until their successors are elected. Each position is renewable.
 - b. All Directors-at-Large shall serve a period of two years, with two Directors being elected every two years.
 4. Nominations:
 - a. The president shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three members, who shall present the nominations to the general membership at the October business meeting.
 - b. Nominations for all open positions shall be opened at the October business meeting and shall be publicized in the newsletter prior to the November business meeting. Nominations will be closed at the start of elections at the November meeting.
 - c. Any member may nominate another member for office, provided prior consent of the nominee has been given. Qualification of the nominees shall be validated by the membership chairperson or treasurer.

C. Elections:

1. The undersigned founding members will select and install the initial slate of officers. These officers will serve in the capacity, and duration of office, as set forth in this constitution. Thereafter officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the quorum of the voting members present at the November business meeting. Unopposed nominees for office may be confirmed by a majority vote, otherwise voting will be by secret ballot. The ballot counting will be by committee, and the ballots shall be saved by the secretary until the installation of officers at the January meeting. In the case of a tie, the election shall be determined by lot.
2. The position of any officer absent from three successive business meetings or board meetings shall be declared vacant unless such absences are excused by the board.

3. Notice of a special election shall be printed and presented to the membership in the newsletter at least two weeks prior to said election. A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled by a simple majority vote of the quorum of the voting members present at the next business meeting.
 - a. The vacancy shall be filled until the normal term of office expires in November.

D. Duties of the Board of Directors:

1. Duties of the President shall be to:
 - a. preside at all meetings.
 - b. coordinate the activities of the board of Directors.
 - c. all extra meetings as required, temporarily fill vacancies, and appoint and dissolve committees not otherwise provided for.
2. Duties of the Vice President shall be to:
 - a. serve in the place of the president in case of president's absence or incapacitation.
 - b. act in an official capacity (under the direction of the president) for DAAC at public functions.
3. Duties of the Secretary shall be to:
 - a. keep all official documents and records of DAAC, and perform other duties delegated by the President
 - b. record the minutes of all regular business meetings and the board of Directors, and at the request of any member, read aloud the minutes of the regular business or board meeting.
 - c. conduct an annual inventory of all club property, and present it to the general membership at the October business meeting.
4. Duties of the Treasurer shall be to:
 - a. execute all financial transactions authorized by the club.
 - b. receive and distribute all dues, subscriptions and bank receipts.
 - c. account for all receipts and expenditures.
 - d. report on club finances at each regular business meeting.

- e. maintain an up-to-date roster of members.
 - f. the duties of secretary and treasurer may be combined.
- 5 . Duties of the Directors-at-Large shall be:
- a. to attend board meetings, and assist the President in carrying out club activities.
6. All officers who serve as administrative officers, Directors, committee chairmen, or committee members, shall be required to attend all appropriate meetings when scheduled by the organization. When unable to attend, a member may give written proxy for another member to attend the meeting in his/her place.

Article VI: Expulsion of Members and Impeachment of Elected Officers

- A. A membership may be revoked by the Board of Directors of DAAC for any of the following reasons:
- 1. non-payment of dues
 - 2. willful misuse of club property
 - 3. willful disregard for her/his own safety or the safety of others while on organization sponsored activities
- B. Any member subject to expulsion will be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors.
- C. Elected Officers, Committee Chairpersons, Directors-at-Large and all special officers may be impeached and removed from office for any of the above reasons or for neglect of duty while in office.
- a. Any Officer or Board Member subject to impeachment will be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors. Impeachment and removal from office an only be made by a two-thirds vote of the quorum present at a regular business meeting.

Article VII: Amendments

Proposed amendments to the constitution shall be written and signed by one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the members, and presented at a regular business meeting. The amendment must then be published in the newsletter, and voted upon in its present form at the next business meeting. A vote of two-thirds of the quorum present is required for ratification. Any amendment so passed shall take effect immediately.

Article VIII: Dissolution of the Decatur Area Astronomy Club

- A. A proposal to dissolve DAAC must be written and signed by three-quarters of the members, and presented at a regular business meeting. The proposal must then be published in the newsletter, and voted upon at the next business meeting. A vote of four-fifths of the quorum present is required for dissolution. This vote shall take effect immediately.

- B. When such action is taken, and after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the organization, the remaining assets shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation that is organized exclusively for educational and/or scientific purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status.

Name

Date
