

# **CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY - SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE**

## **Minutes of the forty-sixth Annual General Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2015 16:45-18:00 EDT Grand Ballroom East, Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, Hamilton, ON**

### **Minutes**

The Annual General Meeting of CASCA started at 16:45 with 76 members present.

#### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

- **Motion to adopt the following agenda (Taylor/Sill): Carried.**

1. Adoption of Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour [President]
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2014 AGM / Adoption du compte rendu de la réunion de 2014 [Secretary]
3. Nominations to the Nominating Committee / Nominations due comité de nomination
4. Business arising from the minutes / Affaires découlant du compte rendu
5. President's Report / Rapport du Président
6. Secretary's Report / Rapport du Secrétaire
7. Treasurer's Report / Rapport du Trésorier
8. Election of Auditor / Élection du vérificateur
9. Committee Reports / Rapports des comités
10. Future CASCA Meetings / Prochaines réunions de la CASCA
11. Other Business / Divers
12. Adjournment / Levée de l'assemblée

#### **2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2014 AGM**

- **Motion to approve the minutes of the 2014 AGM (Joncas/Manset): Carried.**

#### **3. Nominations to the Nominating Committee**

- Allison Sills and Norm Murray were nominated and have accepted their nominations. No other nominations were proposed.
- **Motion to close the nominations (Courteau/Rosolowsky): Carried.**

#### **4. Business arising from the minutes**

- None.

## 5. President's Report

- *Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT)*: Success at last! The Federal Government announced \$243.5M of funding for Canada to join TMT at a ~15% share level. Canada will contribute the TMT enclosure and adaptive optics system “NFIRAOS.” The community owes this success to the many years of hard work by CASCA Presidents, ACURA, individual astronomers, and the general public. The contributions of Dr. Don Brooks of ACURA and Mr. Guy Nelson of Empire Industries, co-chairs of the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy, will be specifically honoured at tonight’s CASCA Banquet by being made “Patrons of CASCA.”
- *NSERC*: Fifteen astronomers were nominated by CASCA to serve on NSERC grant review panels last year, but only one Canadian, Prof. Sara Ellison, was selected. Further improvement would be welcomed. Accordingly, the CASCA Board will be approaching members to consider being nominated this year and asks that anyone interested please self-nominate if possible.
- *IAU*: Forty-two additional Canadians were nominated for individual memberships in the IAU this past year, and approval will take place at the IAU General Assembly this summer. In addition, the sign-up process for new IAU Commissions and Divisions has recently completed.
- *Nepal Earthquake Relief Appeal*: Astronomy professors in Nepal have appealed to the international community for funds and equipment for them to recover from the recent devastating earthquake. CASCA members are urged to help if able.
- *James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT)*: The JCMT is now under new management by the East Asian Observatory consortium. The UK and Canada continue to be involved at a lower level than previous, through university-led consortia providing operating funds. In Canada, another key contribution is the JCMT Archive managed by the CADC at NRC Herzberg in Victoria. Canadians from any institution in Canada are eligible to participate in a new generation of large surveys. A deadline for proposals of such surveys is July 31, 2015.
- *Madawaska Highlands Observatory (MHO)*: MHO has completed its financing and expects to be open in 2018. It consists of a 1-m diameter optical telescope with a 5-degree wide field-of-view. MHO will sell time to the global community. See [www.madawaskahighlandsobservatory.com](http://www.madawaskahighlandsobservatory.com) for more information.
- *CASCA website*: The CASCA Ethics Statement has been translated into French and posted on the French side of the site. In addition, French and English content is now better synced than before.
- *E-Cass*: The new E-Cass editors, Magdalen Normendeau and Joanne Rosvick are doing a great job and are thanked for their notable service to the Society.

## 6. Secretary's Report.

- *Memberships*: CASCA currently has 506 members, including 444 members in good standing (MIGS) and 62 who are one year in arrears in their dues payments. Thirty-six members are two years in arrears and are now expelled. CASCA gained 53 new members, including 22 first-year students, this past year. Overall, membership levels continue their slight decline, with a ~10 member decrease every year for the past few years, despite a concerted effort this past year to attract new members and get existing members to pay their dues in a timely fashion.

- *Deaths:* The Society mourns the passing of CASCA member Prof. Richard Bochonko, formerly of the University of Manitoba. A moment of silence was taken on his behalf.
- **Motion to accept the Secretary's Report (Crabtree/Rosolowsky): Carried.**

## 7. Treasurer's Report

- *Society Finances:* CASCA's overall finances are in good shape. The value of our investments is up by 6.8% over last year. The operating account contains \$40.5K, much more than the \$11.1K projected last year, due to various expected expenses not being realized. A total of \$27.6K was earned from dividends from investments and these have been reinvested. Investments in cash and cash equivalents and fixed income funds are going down, as previously planned. Next year, \$113K income is expected, with \$103K in expected expenditures, leading to a \$10K balance that is down from \$40K this year.
- *Dues:* Based on the Bank of Canada's inflation rate of 1.91% for last year, the membership dues will increase this year. Dues for next year will be set during the upcoming membership renewal drive to:
  - Ordinary: \$155
  - Student/retired: \$63
  - Postdoc/Associate: \$113
  - Joint CAP+CASCA: \$108

After October 31, the dues will increase over those posted above by 25%. Note that the deadline for dues payment is being extended by one month.

- *CASCATrust:* Members generously donated \$2087 to CASCATrust over the past year. In FY2014, CASCATrust was used to fund student and postdoc travel to the AGM, the Plaskett Award and associated travel, and the student best oral and poster presentation awards.
- *Further information:* Please see the detailed Treasurer's Report posted on the CASCA web site.
- **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Taylor/Sivakoff): Carried.**

## 8. Election of Auditor

- No obvious alternatives for auditor are known at this time, but in the coming year the Board will continue into the possibility of a new auditor.
- **Motion to reappoint Wilkinson as the auditor (Taylor/Courteau): Carried.**

## 12. Committee Reports

- Reports on activities by CASCA's many committees can be found on the CASCA web site. Each committee is performing important work for the Society, and members are encouraged to read their reports and contact the committee Chairs as needed.

## 13. Future CASCA Meetings

- CASCA 2016 will be held in Winnipeg, MB in May 2016.

**14. Other Business**

- Ethics Statement: a member raised the issue that CASCA's Ethics Statement should include "gender identity" as another characteristic of persons for whom equal opportunities must be provided. The members of the Board present agreed in principle to the addition of this language but wanted to consider the change more carefully before altering the Ethics Statement.

**15. Adjournment**

- **Motion to adjourn the meeting (Taylor/Courteau): Carried.**