



## Â Notes from the President

October has been a fairly hectic month. There have been numerous issues and pressures for all of us with the impending November 3 Election Process, the receipt of confusing healthcare insurance choices; odd weather situations (record number of days over 100 degrees and record small amounts of rain for Tucson as well as an extended hurricane season nationally and still looming wildfires); still more confusion regarding COVID cases; and attention going to considerations in readjustments in traditional holiday planning and celebrating.

Progress is occurring, however, as was demonstrated in the astronomy community success at the recent Pima County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in which the decision was made to reconsider the proposed new wording regarding Electronic Message Displays (EMDs) (referring to use of LEDs in signage in Pima County). The local Astronomy Community, including TAAA, believed that the proposed wording would increase light pollution and the Commission listened to our concerns.

Fortunately, our **November 6<sup>th</sup> First Friday Member Meeting** guest speaker will be **Ruskin Hartley from the International Dark Sky Association (IDA)**. Members will have opportunities to ask questions and to talk with Ruskin. Please think about anything you may wish to discuss with him regarding dark skies and explore how we can all be helpful stewards acting to protect our local and international dark skies.

TAAA Board Actions of October 14, 2020 included the following:

- 1.The Board approved the following new or revised position descriptions for CAC: Director, Assistant Director, Project Manager, Maintenance Supervisor, Site Engineer, Reynolds Mitchell Observatory Director, Reynolds Mitchell Operator-40 Manager/Chief Telescope Operator, Reynolds Mitchell Operator-9 Manager, Wally Rogers Observatory Manager, and Observatories Training Coordinator
- 2.A decision was made to ask Jim Knoll to represent TAAA at the October 28<sup>th</sup> Pima County Planning and Zoning Commission in its consideration of signage related to Electronic Message Displays.
- 3.Electronic voting should be added to the options for voting methods used in TAAA Elections. The current absentee ballot process should be replaced by an early voting option. In order to be eligible to vote in an election, new members should join or members-due-for-renewal should renew at least 24 hours prior to voting.
- 4.The Board discussed possible holiday actions in lieu of the annual Holiday Party.

### TAAA Trivia!

**Question 1a:** Where can you find the "TAAA Virtual Moon Exploration" video made on 6-27-2020?

**Question 1b:** "I love word search activities!" Where can you find the following word searches: "Astronomy Word Search", "Young Astronomers", "Constellations", "Telescope"?

**Question 1c:** Where can you find instructions on "Making a Planisphere or Star Wheel"?

**Question 1d:** Where can you find information about all the Astronomical League Observing Programs, their requirements and about which programs are considered to be beginner, intermediate or advanced?

**(Trivia answers are at the end of this document.)**

**One Important announcement regarding CAC:** Alas, for personal reasons, John Mead has needed to withdraw from serving as CAC Director. **Jim Knoll** is currently serving as **Interim CAC Director. To make reservations at CAC, continue to use the [cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org) address. It will reach Jim.**

### ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

**Question 1a:** the "TAAA Virtual Moon Exploration" video made on 6-27-2020 can be located by: a. go to the TAAA webpage at [www.tucsonastronomy.org](http://www.tucsonastronomy.org); b. click on the third item on the right, "Community Involvement"; go down to and click on "Virtual Events and

Activities"; go to "Facebook and YouTube Links"; click on "TAAA YouTube"; the fifth item to the right is "TAAA Virtual Moon Exploration 6-27-20"

**Question 1b:** Word search activities: Go to the TAAA webpage at [www.tucsonastronomy.org](http://www.tucsonastronomy.org) ; Click on the third item on the right, "Community Involvement"; click on "Virtual Events and Activities"; continue going down until you reach "Virtual Activities"; go on down to "Astronomy Word Searches". A variety of astronomy word searches are listed and will include the three referred to in the question.

**Question 1c:** Watch **Jim** and **Susan Knoll** demonstrating, think about all the steps they took, and think about how you can make teaching videos!! Go to the TAAA webpage at [www.tucsonastronomy.org](http://www.tucsonastronomy.org) ; click on the third item on the right, "Community Involvement"; go down and click on Virtual Events and Activities; under "Activities", go down to "Making a Planisphere or Star Wheel".

**Question 1d:** Go to [astroleague.org/observing.html](http://astroleague.org/observing.html). There are designated categories to click on that will answer each of the above questions. Explore an observing program that looks interesting and one that you don't know much about!

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association  
PO Box 41254  
Tucson, AZ 85717

[Add us to your address book.](#)

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you prefer not to receive future emails from us | [Privacy Policy](#)

powered by **memberplanet**