

A special thanks goes to our TAAA virtual volunteers and leaders for all their intense work in the last month. They have worked industriously during COVID but the last month has been particularly demanding. Various virtual productions have been completed and sent to the National Park Service as the majority of our TAAA contributions to the Virtual 2021 Grand Canyon Star Party (I think there is one more recording left to be completed early this month for GCSP). In addition, a team of volunteers worked to test and ensure that the TAAA Elections software would work properly. We had a wide-array of people donating time, energy, equipment, recording locations, and expertise to the 3:00 -7:30 productions of continuing event activities for our TAAA April 17th Astronomy Festival. And, of course, every month we have our behind the scenes as well as up-front contributors to the virtual Monthly Member Meetings. There is also our on-going TAAA Zoom Coordinator and all the TAAA leaders who reserve and conduct TAAA meetings on Zoom. Impressive is not only the quantity of member involvement and effort that has been contributed to these virtual efforts. But I am repeatedly impressed with the quality of those efforts.

As TAAA President, I love to share information about TAAA's move into the virtual world as I am always so proud of the level of quality of those efforts and the professional approach that our leaders and members take in their virtual work. I hesitate to list names as I am afraid I will unintentionally omit someone, but I will trust that our Bulletin Editors will assist and add names where appropriate:

*GCSP virtual efforts:* Jim Knoll, Jim O'Connor, Bernie Stinger, Rick Paul

*Elections virtual efforts:* David Rossetter, Ben Bailey, Ken Bertschy, John Christensen, Jim Knoll, John Mead, Ed Foley, Doug Smith

*Monthly Meeting Virtual Efforts and Advertising:* Terri Lappin, Jim Knoll, Karen Liptak, Sue Abramson

*Astronomy Festival Virtual Event:* Jim Knoll, Terri Lappin, Jim O'Connor, Rick Paul, Bernie Stinger, David Rossetter, Tom Sarko, Gus Gomez

*The TAAA Board met on April 14th and took the following actions:*

1. The Board was provided with the recently filed 990 (income tax) report for review. A beginning budget for 2021-22 was reviewed. However, it will be updated prior to the next meeting to include input from leaders and voted on by the outgoing Board at the May meeting.
2. Information was provided that TAAA membership has increased during Covid from a low 400+ membership to 495 members on the date of the Board meeting. Considerable positive input has been provided from both local and distant TAAA members regarding having had opportunities to attend and participate in meetings virtually via Zoom and the hope that such opportunities will continue in the future.
3. The Board is in favor of continuing TAAA meetings on Zoom post-Covid so that the virtual component would continue to occur in addition to in-person meetings. However, the ability to continue Zoom in particular meetings will depend upon the availability of suitable technology support in rooms where meetings are held. It is still unclear where infrastructure to support Zoom will and will not be available in the future. This will be a consideration for leaders scheduling meetings.
4. Covid policies were reviewed with some attendance expansion at dark sky sites. Policies will again be closely reviewed at the next Board meeting to determine if further expansion is warranted. No change in First Friday Member Meetings is expected over the summer. (That is, they are scheduled to remain virtual only, according to UA requirements for availability of space.)
5. Planning is continuing for Member Observatory and Dob space development at CAC, based upon specific member-commitments. Donations have been received for a new storage container to be purchased for CAC.
6. A plan for development of a TAAA Endowment program has been approved and the option to donate to the TAAA Endowment Fund has been added to the website.