

DELMARVA STARGAZERS SOCIETY ***CHARTER***

MISSION STATEMENT

We the undersigned, desiring to secure the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons interested in amateur astronomy; to promote the science of astronomy; to encourage and coordinate activities of amateur Astronomical Societies; to foster observational and computational work, and craftsmanship in various fields of astronomy; to correlate amateur activities with professional research, do hereby organize and constitute ourselves the *DELMARVA STARGAZERS SOCIETY*, a non-profit organization.

SECTION I: NAME

The name of this association shall be “ *DELMARVA STARGAZERS SOCIETY*”, a.k.a. “*Delmarva Stargazers*”. For the purpose of this document ‘Society’ and ‘Club’ are interchangeable.

SECTION II: MEMBERSHIP

Any person with a sincere interest in astronomy may be admitted to membership. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member’s dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the calendar year, however, the Board may grant an additional 30 day grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting. Any member may resign from the club upon written notice to the Treasurer. A member may be dropped from membership by a two-thirds vote of membership after a show of due cause.

SECTION III: DUES

Dues shall be established by vote of the general membership and become effective January 1, following. New members who join the Club in the last quarter shall pay no dues for that quarter.

SECTION IV: MEETINGS

'Meetings' shall mean regularly scheduled Club meetings each month at a date and location designated by the general membership. A quorum shall consist of a minimum of three members and two officers present at a duly called meeting. No business shall be conducted unless a quorum is present.

SECTION V: OFFICERS

The officers of the DELMARVA STARGAZERS shall consist of President-Elect, President, Past-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

SECTION VI: OFFICER ELIGIBILITY

All eligible candidates shall be selected from the regular, paid-up membership. Nominations to prepare a slate of eligible candidates will occur at the April Club meeting of election years.

SECTION VII: OFFICER ELECTION

The method of voting shall be by ballot or show of hands and shall be conducted at the regularly scheduled monthly Club meeting in June.

SECTION VIII: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Officers may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

SECTION IX: TERM OF OFFICERS

All newly elected officers assume office at the close of the June meeting. All positions will be of two (2) years duration with the exception of President, which will serve, for a total of three years: 1 year as President-Elect, 1 year as President and then Past-President during the third year. The election of President-Elect will occur yearly and the election of Secretary and Treasurer will occur every other year. The Secretary will be elected on the even numbered years and the Treasurer on the odd numbered years.

SECTION X: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

The President shall be responsible for supervising the overall activities of the Club. The President shall conduct at least one planning meeting at the beginning of the term of office to plan the Club activities for the following year. The President shall conduct the Club monthly meetings. The President shall appoint chairpersons and members of committee as needed. The President shall be the chairperson of the Executive Board and shall reside at all business and planning meetings. The President shall call additional business and planning meetings as required and appoint committee(s) not otherwise provided for. The President shall perform all other duties normally required by the office of President.

PRESIDENT-ELECT/PAST-PRESIDENT

The President-Elect or Past-President shall, in the absence or incapacity of the President, perform all duties and assume all responsibilities of the President. The President-Elect will serve as outreach coordinator and assist the President with committees and organization Club activities. The Past-President will act as an advisor to the officers and is responsible for officer nominations and elections.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be responsible for recording and transcribing the minutes for all planning meetings, business meetings, and the monthly Club meetings. The Secretary shall make the minutes available within 7 days for publication on the Club website and newsletter. The Secretary shall be responsible for handling any Club discount programs for the membership. The Secretary shall correspond with other astronomical societies and organizations regarding club business.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall receive all dues and other funds, and keep an itemized and accurate account of all Club financial transactions. The Treasurer shall give an oral report of the Club finances at all regular monthly Club meetings. The Treasurer shall supply a hardcopy financial report to the in-coming President at the beginning of the term of office. The Treasurer shall maintain the membership list, based on paid dues, to be presented to the Officers. The Treasurer shall chair any financial committees.

SECTION XI: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall be made up the Officers and two Members-At-Large, which will be appointed by the President. The Board shall have the authority to make the policy decisions for the Delmarva Stargazers; to carry on the business of the Stargazers; to establish rules and procedures of the Executive Board and the Delmarva Stargazers; to approve or disapprove actions of officers and committees; and to establish the annual budget and submit to membership for final approval. Executive Board members have their Star Party registration fees waived for service to the Club.

SECTION XII: VACANCIES

- a. If the President is unable to fulfill the term of office of the President, the President-Elect shall act as president until the next June Meeting, at which time the President-Elect will assume the Presidency. If the President-Elect is unable to fulfill the term of office of the President-Elect, a special election will be called.
- b. If the Secretary or Treasurer is unable to fulfill his/her individual term of office, and the unexpired term of office is less than one (1) year, the Executive Board will appoint a replacement to complete the term of office.
- c. If the Secretary or Treasurer is unable to fulfill his/her individual term of office, and the unexpired term of office is more than one (1) year, a special election will be called prior to the next regular business meeting at which time nominations will be taken for candidates to fulfill the vacant position and an election will be held at the next regular meeting. During the interim period, the Executive Board will appoint an acting officer.

SECTION XIII: MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will meet at least once each year as determined by the President. A majority of the Board must be present to provide a quorum. No business shall be conducted unless a quorum is present. The meeting must be rescheduled until the quorum is met.

SECTION XIV: SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

The Club requires certain supporting roles for operations such as: Webmaster, Newsletter publisher, Star Party registration and Star Party operations. It is desirable to have responsible, dedicated individuals from the membership to volunteer their time to perform these vital tasks. Members performing these tasks have their Star Party registration fees waived for service to the Club.

SECTION XV: PURCHASES

All equipment purchases shall be approved by a majority of the Club officers. Un-approved purchases will not be reimbursed by the Treasurer. Routine purchases of food and supplies for regular Club events, supplies for support activities (Website, Newsletter, Star Party registration), and supplies for conducting Club business by the Officers, do not need prior approval.

SECTION XVI: AMENDMENTS

All amendments or revisions to the Charter shall be presented to the membership at two consecutive regular club meetings. A two-thirds vote of the members present at the second meeting will adopt said amendment or revision.

SECTION XVII: DISSOLUTION

If the DELMARVA STARGAZERS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY is dissolved, the Executive Board will sell all saleable merchandise and equipment belonging to the Delmarva Stargazers. The proceeds will be deposited into the Delmarva Stargazers bank account. All debts and liabilities of the Delmarva Stargazers will be paid from the balance in the Delmarva Stargazers bank account. After all debts are resolved, and all checks have cleared the bank, the account balance shall be donated by bank check to one or more non-profit astronomical organizations or research organizations as designated by the membership assembled at the last official Delmarva Stargazers meeting or the remaining officers if no membership is available.