

# ALPO Central Office Development Update - Number 6 – Endowment Update

February 14, 2020

Looking back at the previous year of 2019, the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers has undergone more changes, and more transformations are on the horizon for the coming year. Earlier in the year, the ALPO Endowment increased in size with the addition of a charitable bequest of \$177,540.42 from the John E. Westfall Charitable Remainder Trust. Later on, in the Spring of 2019, Mary Alba, the daughter of our founder Walter H. Haas, oversaw a contribution from her father's estate of \$4000.00 to the ALPO Endowment. Toward the end of the year, longtime ALPO member John Centala donated \$75,000.00 to the ALPO Endowment. John Centala has made other contributions to the ALPO Endowment in the past and is a Universal Lifetime member of the ALPO. The ALPO has also received additional contributions from other ALPO members in 2019 totaling \$1700.00 either through direct donations or through expanded memberships at the Patron level or higher. All these contributors have been or will be recognized individually in the Winter and Spring 2020 issues of the *Journal of the ALPO*. The ALPO is grateful for their donations and/or memberships in our organization. As of this writing, the ALPO Endowment Fund stands at a value of \$320,131.06.

In Year 2019, we noted the loss of ALPO Board Member Mike Reynolds. Mike also served for two terms as the ALPO's Executive Director, in addition to being our longtime coordinator for the Eclipse Section. Mike was a great ambassador for the ALPO with his gregarious nature and his ability to connect with amateur astronomers and lay-people alike. Mike will be greatly missed for his expertise as an astronomer and for representing the ALPO in the manner in which he did.

But with the passing of former colleagues comes the opportunity to make new friends, welcome new participants in ALPO programs, and introduce new volunteer associates in managing those programs. The ALPO Board of Directors recently voted to create a separate Board of Trustees to help govern the ALPO Endowment as a trust fund. In the coming months, this separate Board of Trustees will be composed and readied to participate in managing the ALPO Endowment to help accelerate growth through smart investing and fundraising.

The ALPO is indebted to many that have come before, to make the ALPO what it is today. While the ALPO has had a storied past, we look forward to a future that can provide a central point of operations for a whole host of activities including archiving of our vast observational collections. Your support of the ALPO through charitable bequests, donations, higher level memberships, regular memberships, and dedicated observation of all sorts, as well as the wonderful management of all our programs, all help to strengthen the ALPO as an organization, both in the present and into the future. Thank you all!

Best regards,

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