

ALPO Central Office Development Update - Number I - Introduction

January 25, 2013

This is the first in what is hoped to be many updates in regard to fundraising for the ALPO central headquarters or office concept. If you haven't had a chance, please review our PowerPoint presentation in pdf format, "The ALPO's Legacy" or our brochure concerning this undertaking. It will give you a good idea of why we are attempting to work toward this goal, and where we are going with this.

As the PowerPoint presentation demonstrates, a central office with a salaried staff could conduct the business operations of the ALPO that would include the preservation of valuable observational data that amateurs all over the globe have diligently produced over the years. Many other services such as maintaining library materials and instrumentation for loan as well as being a focal point for outreach to the rest of the astronomical community, amateur and professional, would increase the ALPO's value as an integral component in educational and research astronomy. Many other mature organizations of similar standing to the ALPO such as The Astronomical League, The Astronomical Society of the Pacific, AAVSO, and BAA, maintain their own brick and mortar headquarters and have found them indispensable in supporting their specific needs and their growing operations. The ALPO certainly could benefit from a well coordinated, well funded office.

Fundraising is a key component in our goal. We are accepting funds from individuals through higher levels of membership not only to raise money, but to also increase awareness to the greater astronomical community and beyond that the ALPO is serious about its plans. The ALPO is also exploring ways of inviting corporate sponsorships and foundation grants in helping to fund this project. In recent years, we have had some ALPO members expressing interest in charitable bequests to the ALPO upon their death. The [ALPO Secretary](#) can provide some general guidance literature for referencing the ALPO in wills and trusts for these members when discussing this method of contribution with their attorneys, family, and friends. Note that the ALPO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of California and gifts to it are tax deductible.

Funds for the central office concept will be directed to the ALPO Endowment Fund. The Endowment was founded by the ALPO Board in 1997 with an initial funding contribution of \$5000.00 from the Wilbur Smith Foundation. The ALPO Endowment Fund has been and will continue to be a repository for funding specific to the eventual creation of a permanent home for the ALPO.

The ALPO Endowment Fund is now currently valued at \$29,427.67. While we have a long way to go to come up with critical amount of funds to proceed with the central office concept, having fundraising in place gives this project a presence and purpose.

While fundraising is just one component to an overall plan, interest in this concept beyond mere funding is important. Human resources will be just as crucial as financial resources. Having interested persons with the skills and talents to guide this concept along will be needed. I invite any and all reading this statement to feel free to contact [ALPO Secretary](#) who are interested in providing advice and support for this endeavor. It will be the work of many and not just one or a few that make the central office concept a reality. Please join me in this promise.

ALPO Secretary,

Matthew Will