

The Central Appalachian Astronomy Club (CAAC) held its regular meeting on February 20, 2016, at the Good Hope Observatory in Jane Lew, West Virginia, with 14 in attendance.

CAAC president, Joe Gonzalez, convened the meeting.

Minutes from the December meeting were distributed and were accepted on a motion by John Taylor, seconded by Jim King.

Treasurer Jeri Booher presented the financial report. The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Janice King,, seconded by John.

Star Quest:

Seth Shostak, through Caitlin Ahrens, has confirmed that he will be our main keynote speaker on Saturday, July 9th.

We're getting ready to do mass mailing to Astronomical League astronomy clubs. Joe will order the flyer that should be ready by March meeting for prepping and mailing.

Sue Ann Heatherly, NRAO Senior Education Officer, will line up a keynote speaker for Thursday night on Project Breakthrough Listen. She also advised that due to changes in security regulations, participants wanting to take High-Tech Tour will be required to furnish full name, date of birth, and residence in advance. Sue Ann will also coordinate our meal requests with Doug, NRAO cafeteria manager, and provide us with an advance copy of the proposed menu.

Joe attended the Allegheny County Observatory and saw a presentation by Indy Kohte, which he said was outstanding. Indy will be presenting that same program at Star Quest.

Discussed working with the Boy Scouts, but it may be too focused a program to take on at Star Quest.

John will start contacting raffle donors.

Talked about Star Quest expenses, including costs for the toilets and dumpster.

New Business:

Jim briefed us on Astronomy League happenings: they are requesting applicants for awards for astrophotography, imaging, and for the kids' awards. Deadline is 3/31/16. They are also sponsoring a trip to Chile for K-college level educators, in a competitive process where selectees will learn about observatories in Chile.

Beside Dominion Resources, Sue Ann suggested that John contact a new grant source, West Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

We need a website administrator. A motion was made by Jeri, and seconded by Connie Ahrens, that Janice and Jim King take over that responsibility. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Astronomy Day – Jim King reserved Fairmont State Gaston Caperton Center in Clarksburg.

Proposed speakers will be Nathan Tehrani, Pete Gentile, and new WVU astronomy professor, Kathryn Williamson. Connie will contact.

Connie will check with Pam Casto, NASA, on availability of a Star Lab.

Jeri and Joe will coordinate refreshments and lunch for the staff. Joe will make reservations at Minard's for staff dinner afterwards.

Miscellaneous:

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 12, 2016.

The motion to adjourn was made by Janice, seconded by Jim.