

**MINUTES OF THE 90TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AAVSO
NOVEMBER 1–4, 2001, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS****David B. Williams**

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The Finance Committee met on Thursday morning, November 1, 2001, and the AAVSO Council met that afternoon at the Holiday Inn Somerville. That evening, members and guests visited AAVSO headquarters in Cambridge to enjoy a dinner buffet, meet the staff, and inspect the facilities.

On Friday, November 2, many members attended a Precision CCD Photometry Workshop conducted by Dr. Arne Henden, AAVSO Councilor and astronomer at the U. S. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station. Late in the afternoon, the first three papers were presented (see list), followed by a town meeting to discuss issues of interest to the members and the new constitution and bylaws, to be presented for a membership vote on Saturday. That evening, members and guests enjoyed a lively and informative lecture on supernovae and the expansion of the universe by Prof. Robert Kirshner, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

On Saturday, November 3, the Membership Meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by President Lee Anne Willson. David Williams read the minutes of the 90th Spring Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, on behalf of Secretary Martha Hazen, who could not be present. The minutes were approved as read.

The president appointed Elizabeth Waagen, Gerry Samolyk, and Timothy Hager to count the ballots for new Councilors.

Assistant Treasurer Louis Cohen presented the treasurer's report. The association enjoyed increased income during the past year, principally due to investments and grants. A higher mix of bonds versus stocks in the endowment fund produced more income while reducing the impact of the stock market decline. Expenses were also higher, particularly due to staff health coverage and a third issue of the *Journal of the AAVSO*. Expenses exceeded income for the year, but the deficit was only half the amount of the previous year. The report was approved as presented.

President Willson noted the need for continued growth in the endowment fund to ensure the association's financial position in the long term. A Monte Carlo simulation performed by the investment managers of AAVSO funds demonstrated that the current level of endowment funds could be exhausted in 30 years if more than 4 percent is withdrawn each year to balance the budget.

The following committee reports were presented:

CCD	Gary Walker, Chair
Chart Distribution and Production	Janet Mattei
GRB Network	
[technically not a committee]	Aaron Price
New and Preliminary Charts	Charles Scovil, Chair
Nova Search	William Dillon (for Kenneth Beckmann)
Photoelectric Photometry	Howard Landis, Chair
RR Lyrae Stars	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Eclipsing Binary Stars	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Solar Division	Carl Feehrer, Chair
Supernova Search	Raymond Berg (for Robert Evans)
Telescope	Charles Scovil

Photoelectric Photometry Committee Chair Howard Landis noted that this would be his final report, as he is retiring from the chairmanship after 26 years. The members recognized this record of service to the AAVSO with warm applause. Howard announced that the new Photoelectric Photometry Committee Chair would be AAVSO member and photoelectric observer J. Philip Manker.

Director Janet Mattei reported that the Council had approved the applications of 87 new members, a record number for a six-month period. She also reported the deaths of members Robert G. Johnsson and AAVSO's most prolific observer Danie Overbeek, as well as the loss of three friends of the AAVSO, Jacqueline Kloss, a former assistant to Harvard Observatory Director Shapley and an acting AAVSO chart curator; Gladys Perkin, the widow of Richard Perkin of Perkin-Elmer and the head of the Perkin Fund; and Joyce Rey Watson, the librarian at Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) who was instrumental in bringing the operation of the Astrophysical Data Systems to CfA. The members rose for a moment of silent tribute to these colleagues.

Director Mattei then presented her annual report, which will be published in detail in the *Journal of the AAVSO* [see p. 162]. Some of the highlights of a very active year included: the addition of the 10 millionth observation to the AAVSO International Database, the publication of the *Manual for Visual Observing of Variable Stars*, distribution of the first AAVSO chart CD, launching of two electronic publications for observers (*Eyepiece Views* for visual observers, *CCD Views* for CCD observers), automation of the chart making process, upgrade of our web and FTP sites to a T1 line, many enhancements in the hardware and software serving data reporting and processing and the web site, and a record high number of requests for data.

The Director concluded her report by recognizing international attendees—Bruce Sumner from Australia and the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand, John Toone from England and the British Astronomical Association, Arto Oksanen from Finland, Marc Biesmans from Belgium, AAVSO Council member Jaime Garcia

from Argentina—who will participate in the International Chart Working Group meeting on Sunday. Also recognized was Astronomical Technical Assistant Keriann H. Malatesta for her fifth anniversary of service as Technical Assistant at AAVSO headquarters.

The Director announced that the next Spring Meeting will be a “Pan-Pacific” meeting held in Waikoloa on the Big Island of Hawaii, June 30–July 5, 2002, and will include the Second High-Energy Astrophysics Workshop for Amateur Astronomers. The next Annual Meeting will be in the Cambridge area, October 25–27, 2002, and will include a joint session with the International Dark Sky Association on the 25th.

The new constitution and bylaws were then presented for member consideration. The attendees seemed well satisfied with the final document, which was adopted unanimously by a show of hands.

The tellers reported that Arne Henden and Raymond Berg were re-elected to the Council and Charles Pullen and Geoffrey Clayton were elected as new Councilors.

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. for a group photo.

The Council met during the lunch hour. Elected as officers were:

President	Daniel Kaiser
First Vice President	William Dillon
Second Vice President	Raymond Berg
Secretary	Martha Hazen
Treasurer	Louis Cohen
Clerk	Michael Mattei

The election of Ray Berg as Second Vice President created an open position, which the Council filled by electing David Hurdiss as Councilor. The Council further voted unanimously to elect Janet Mattei to a five-year term as Director, as provided in the new constitution and bylaws.

The Council also voted to express its gratitude to Wayne M. Lowder for his most recent service as Treasurer and his many previous years as active observer, Council member, and President.

The Scientific Paper Session was called to order at 2:04 p.m. The new officers were announced, and thanks were expressed to those who were leaving the Council. Nine additional papers were presented (see list).

The banquet was held that evening. Following dinner, AAVSO Nova Awards were announced as being awarded to Brett White of Australia for his discovery of Supernova 2000do, Robert Evans of Australia for his discovery of Supernova 2001du, Libert (Berto) Monard of South Africa for his discovery of Supernova 2001el, and Alfredo Pereira of Portugal for his discovery of Nova Sagittarii 2001 No. 2 and his independent discovery of Nova Sagittarii 2001 No. 3.

The Director’s Award announced at the spring meeting was presented to Stephen D. O’Connor of Montreal. President Lee Anne Willson announced that the Council had selected recently-retired *Sky & Telescope* editor Leif J. Robinson as

recipient of the second William Tyler Olcott Award for contributions to the understanding and promotion of variable star astronomy. Director Janet Mattei presented a special award of appreciation and thanks to Howard J. Landis for his 26 years as Photoelectric Photometry Committee Chair, archivist for the Photoelectric Photometry Database, and many other contributions to the AAVSO.

In celebration of the association's 90th anniversary, the assembled members and guests also enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation created by AAVSO Technical Assistant for Special Projects Sara J. Beck, with assistance from AAVSO staff members Michael Saladyga and Aaron Price, on 90 years of SS Cygni and the many observers who have contributed to that star's AAVSO light curve during the past nine decades (available for downloading on the AAVSO web site). Sara also created and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the current and past three superoutbursts of the cataclysmic variable WZ Sagittae, matching data points with the photos of observers, that was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, representatives of the AAVSO and other variable star observing organizations participated in a meeting of the International Chart Working Group to discuss guidelines for chart making and coordinate the adoption of common standards for variable star observing charts.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Sessions on Friday, November 2, and Saturday, November 3, 2001:

John Pazmino	The Other Dark Sky
Frederick R. West	The Corona of CN Leonis
Barbara L. Welther	Henrietta Leavitt and the Many Hats She Wore at HCO
Arto Oksanen	Optical Gamma-Ray Burst Observations at Nyrölä Observatory
Robert Cohanin	Modeling a Planet in a Mira Wind
Aaron Price	Strange Mystery: Strange Stars
Dorrit Hoffleit	New Hipparcos Variables in <i>The Bright Star Catalogue</i>
Casper H. Hossfield	Rebecca's Magnetometer
George Hawkins	Combining the 2MASS Catalog and the AAVSO International Database; Results for CV's
Bradley Schaefer	Do Recurrent Novae Become Type Ia Supernovae?
Ronald E. Zissell	CE Cas, A Tale of Two Cepheids
Lee Anne Willson	Web-Based Courses on Basic Astronomical Concepts

New Members Accepted at the Annual Meeting, November 2, 2001:

Abu-Laban, Riyad, Canada	McDonald, Kevin L., OH
Agrupacion Astronomica Cantabra, Spain	McGarry, James, England
Allen, Nick, England	McInnery, Brian J., England
Arnold, James E., AL	Metcalf, Daniel, OH
Aronowitz, Charles, Canada	Meyer, Robert A., VA
Banach, Michael D., MD	Meyer, Tony, CA
Bateman, Greg, CO	Moynihan, Patrick F., MA
Bean, Richard A., CA	Mullis, Arthur R., NC
Berger, Calvin C., CA	Nash, David, CO
Binder, Louis, TX	Ocheltree, Randy D., AZ
Botts, Nick, TN	Oehlers, Leon P., TX
Campo, Clifford, NY	Olds, Donald G., OR
Carney, Ronald W., FL	Ondich, David G., MN
Conley, Michael, CA	S Orr, Robert A., VA
Cook, James G., TX	Otto, Robert, NH
Cooney, Walter R., LA	Pastory, Ronald L., AZ
Crawford, Tim, AK	Paxson, Kevin B., TX
Davidson, Robert, NV	Peterson, Robert, WI
Day, Michael Eugene, OH	Pfister, Thomas, IL
Dunn, Claire, VT	Premoe, Roger, WA
Earley, Jim, OR	Pruitt, Randy, MI
Eiers, Charles Joe, CA	Quintas, Jaime, Portugal
Frank, Bennett D., MO	Rienhardt, James, NY
Friday, William David, NC	Robinson, Keith, England
Gagnon, Susan E. L., Canada	Rogers, Jim, NE
Garcia, Miguel Angel, Puerto Rico	Rumbo, Eric Ronald, Australia
Garner, David L., Canada	Ryle, David Randal, TX
Genao Chalas, Silvio A., FL	Sager, Robert C., NY
Goodson, Jeffrey Angelo, VA	Schaffer, Charles, WA
Hall, William, NM	Schexnaydre, Michael, MA
Harris, Barbara, FL	Schultz, Alan, PA
Higgins, David B., OK	Shakalis, William, MA
Hill, James G., MS	Small, Kimberly, PA
Hoette, Vivian L., WI	Spencer, Brent, Canada
Hotka, Michael A., CO	Standifer, Bob, TN
Kahler, Eric, NJ	S Tarkenton, Grey, CO
Kovacs, Jerald D., OR	Tedesco, Guy, NY
Krafka, Frank, TX	S Terrell, Dirk C., CO
Krainak, Jon T., MD	Tiedemann, Henry A., MA
Laurich, Louis, OH	Trowbridge, David, WA
Lucidi, Fabrizio, Italy	Vail, James A., ID
Maier, Harald, Germany	Vail, James R., CA
Malyszek, Terri, CA	Wittberg, Mikael, Sweden
	Wojcik, Jan, NY

S = sustaining membership

List of Deceased Members/Observers/Colleagues

Johnsson, Robert G., MD	Perkin, Gladys S., NY
Kloss, Jacqueline S., MA	Watson, Joyce Rey, MA
Overbeek, Michiel Daniel, South Africa	

AAVSO Nova Award Recipients (presented at the 90th Annual Meeting in Somerville, MA, November 3, 2001)

Brett White of Linden, New South Wales, Australia, for his discovery of Supernova 2000do in NGC 6754 on September 30.5 UT.

Robert O. Evans of Hazelbrook, New South Wales, Australia, for his discovery of Supernova 2001du in NGC 1365 on August 24.7 UT.

Alfredo Pereira of Cabo da Roca, Portugal, for his discovery of Nova Sagittarii 2001 No. 2 on August 26.866 UT and for his independent discovery of Nova Sagittarii 2001 No. 3 on September 5.846 UT.

Libert A. G. Monard of Die Wilders, Pretoria, South Africa, for his discovery of Supernova 2001el in NGC 1448 on September 17.064 UT.

AAVSO William Tyler Olcott Award Recipient (presented at the 90th Annual Meeting in Somerville, MA, November 3, 2001)

Leif J. Robinson of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was presented the second William Tyler Olcott Award for contributions to the understanding and promotion of variable star astronomy.