



PHILIPPINE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

HANDBOOK



Philippine Astronomical Society

5th Floor, Semicon Building, Marcos Highway, Pasig City
Tel. No. (632) 521-0758 www.philastroociety.org

Welcome to the **Philippine Astronomical Society!**

The premiere astronomical organization of the Philippines.

As a member, you have the privilege to attend the monthly meetings every third Sunday of the month; to join the out-of-town stargazing activities and public viewings; to attend various lectures, exhibits, and PAS-sponsored activities; to benefit from the continuing education program; and to have the company and camaraderie of fellow astronomy enthusiasts.

The Society newsletter is The Appulse, which you get a free copy of electronically. We do welcome your contributions to this newsletter. To be updated on PAS activities, check our website www.philastroc.org. Please feel free to interact with all the other members on any subject matter besides astronomy through this website or through the group's message board at philastroc@yahoogroups.com. (For the latter, the Membership Committee needs to register your email addresses first with the Webmaster.)

You may also actively participate in the Society activities through the different Committees – Education, Events, Information Technology, Instrumentation, Membership, Observation, Publication, and Ways and Means - handled by the Committee Chairpersons whose contact numbers are listed in this Handbook. These Committees welcome and need your voluntary involvement.

The most important annual activities of the Society are the National Astronomy Week every third week of February, the election for the Board of Directors on the third Sunday of July, and the General Assembly on the third Sunday of August. Your help/presence during these annual activities is very much needed and desired. Website postings for these activities and

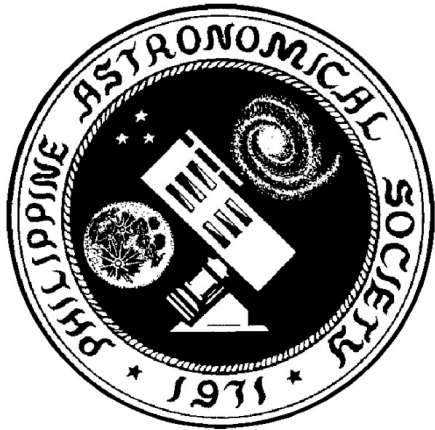
their venues will be done months prior to the designated schedules.

We hope and expect to see you during our monthly meetings and during all the other activities throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to text/call the Membership Committee or the other Committees and Officers if you have further inquiries.

Thank you for joining the Philippine Astronomical Society.

Membership Committee
The Board of Directors and Officers

THE PAS SEAL



The official seal of the Philippine Astronomical Society is inscribed in a circle within a larger circle, which is symbolic of the vast outer space that humanity has always been longing to explore and to understand, illustrating the concept of the quantum world within the universe.

The central figure in the seal is a reflecting telescope, symbolizing the continuous quest for scientific knowledge.

In front of the focus are three stars, representing Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao - expressing the vision of entrenching firmly the science of Astronomy in the Philippines.

At the bottom of the telescope is the moon, which symbolizes Man's first step of its exploration.

The top right of this is a spiral galaxy, representing the distant universe and the cosmos, which humans seek to explore.

The rope connecting the symbols depicts the unity of common interests, hopes, and desires bound together for the advancement of Astronomy and Astrophysics in the Philippines.

PAS..... IN RETROSPECT

The formation of an amateur astronomy club designed to aid the layman had long been idling in the minds of several Filipinos but never definitely realized over thirty years ago. It took an American serviceman T/Sgt. Phillip D. Wyman of the US Air Force to convince some Filipinos in Manila to put up an association patterned after the astronomy clubs in the United States.

The idea caught fire and pretty soon on April 15, 1971, the first stargazing club in the country, the Philippine Astronomical Society, was launched. It was a modest but memorable occasion where seven people gathered in an apartment in Pasay City. The founding members were Phillip D. Wyman, Hans Arber, Adrian Arroyo, Fr. Victor L. Badillo, SJ, Ernesto Damasco, Robert Kaul, and Gertrudes Lucas.

For a start, the members had to content themselves with using the telescope and observatory of Hans Arber, a Swiss businessman and amateur astronomer, who became the Society's treasurer for that year.

Shortly after the founding and organization, the Society held its first Annual Convention on May 22, 1971 at the Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Hall, Herran St., Manila. After a series of organizational meetings, the Society's membership increased. It adopted its Constitution and By-Laws that set forth as its official address No. 2555 Acacia St., San Miguel, Manila, which was the residence of Gertrudes Lucas, then NSDB Technical Assistant and PAS Treasurer.

The Society's Constitution stipulated as its main objectives the following:

1. Foster widespread interest in the study of astronomy.
2. Disseminate astronomical information in the Philippines and abroad.
3. Design and construct telescopes and other optical apparatus.
4. Establish and maintain an astronomical center and planetarium in Manila.
5. Provide the public a basic knowledge of astronomy to stimulate interest in this science.

However, in pursuing these aims, the Society had to rely heavily on the assistance given by affiliate bodies in the United States in the form of cash donations and materials. These were used chiefly in building a telescope. In July 1971, a telescope-making class was formed to undertake the delicate task of mounting and assembling the parts of a 6" reflecting telescope kept in the house of one of its members in Pasig City.

The hardest phase involving the grinding of the lens was done using the facilities of the NIST Optics Section and Machine Shop. In a month's time, the PAS operational telescope of classical Newtonian design was completed. Most of its components were locally produced and available, like the fiberglass tube and steel tripod.

Aside from the main stargazing activity, PAS held convocations and meetings designed to acquaint the public with the advances in astronomy and space travel. Well-known experts in physics and astronomy were invited to address these gatherings frequently held at the Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Hall. Movies on space travel and Apollo flights were shown during these meetings, courtesy of the US Information Service and the US Embassy.

Its most ambitious educational project was the holding of a five-month introductory course in Astronomy, which was started on January 1, 1972. The classes were held at the Manila Science High School, Taft Avenue, Manila; and the faculty was headed by Fr. Victor L. Badillo, SJ, the Director of the Manila Observatory at that time. This was supposed to be a yearly program of the Society.

The 2nd Annual Convention of the Society was held on April 29, 1972 at the Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City. Phillip D. Wyman, PAS President, who gave the opening and closing remarks, was optimistic about the realization of the Society's objectives in the near future.

He declared that the society's main goal is the putting up of an astronomical center and planetarium in Manila. The projected center would serve not only as a research site for astronomy but would also house the facilities and permanent headquarters of the Philippine Astronomical Society. It would be open to the public at all times, especially to teachers and students of science in the Philippines. Indeed, in just few years, the National Museum Planetarium was realized through the efforts of Dr. Godofredo L. Alcasid, with Engr. Maximo Sacro as its first curator.

The Society was formally registered as a nonstock and nonprofit organization with the Securities and Exchange Commission in May 1972. After this occasion, the election to choose the eleven members of the Board of Directors was held on July 23, 1972 in accordance with the approved PAS By-Laws. The following Saturday after the election, the newly elected Board of Directors convened to choose among themselves the five new officers to run the Society's affairs for the academic year 1972-73.

From then on, for more than three decades, PAS has continued

to pursue its main objectives of stimulating, advancing, and propagating Astronomy in the Philippines through its various activities and projects. Aside from pursuing these main objectives, its present Board of Directors and Officers starting in the year 2004 has endowed upon themselves the pursuit of scientific researches in coordination with other scientific communities.

For the first time, in its history, PAS constructed its own 16" and 12" telescopes to be eventually equipped with a spectrometer that will be dedicated to scientific pursuits. The PAS has truly grown stronger and better.

The Society has opened and continues to open its door to everyone regardless of age, sex, religion, or profession and has undergone substantial improvement in terms of its membership, makeup, and activities. Now and as at the start, the driving force in PAS is its people, who are dedicated to the cause and who sacrifice their time and resources to share their interest in the heavens with others, especially the young ones.

VISION

A dynamic, harmonious, research/leisure-oriented astronomical society in the Philippines.

MISSION

PAS commits itself to promote and support the Society's vision through education, research, out-of-town observations, instrumentation, and science camps throughout the country.

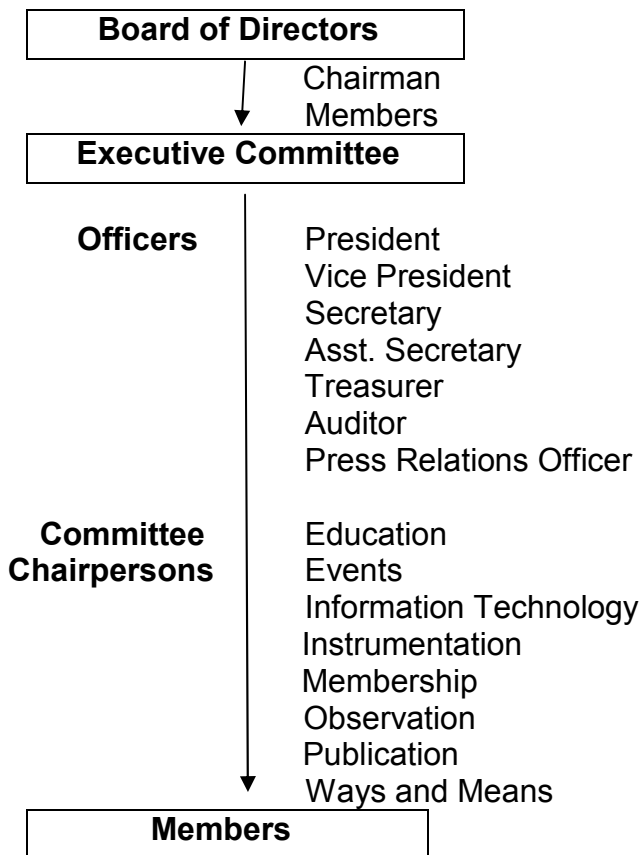
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Foster widespread interest in the study of Astronomy.
2. Disseminate astronomical information in the Philippines and abroad.
3. Design and construct telescopes and other optical apparatus.
4. Establish and maintain an astronomical center and planetarium in Manila.
5. Provide the public with a basic knowledge of Astronomy in order to stimulate interest in this science.

STRATEGIES

1. Development of a three-pronged program of activities in Astronomy
 - a. Theoretical Astronomy (astrophysics, research, Astronomy 101)
 - b. Practical Astronomy (out-of-town observations, urban astronomy, instrumentation, astrocamps)
 - c. Recreational Astronomy (star parties, regular meetings)
2. Formalization of the various resolutions regarding policies on
 - a. Remuneration or proceeds from lectures and astrocamp activities, etc.
 - b. Channel of communication (suggestions, grievances, etc.
 - c. Professional code of ethics
 - d. Recruitment and memberships
 - e. Networking
 - f. General meeting dynamics
 - g. Funds management
3. National Astronomy Week Celebration

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Board of Directors – the policy and decision-making body of The Society. They approve all the financial releases and transactions of the Society

Executive Committee – the administrative and executive body of the Society. They take care of planning and executing the different projects and activities of the Society.

Members – include all the institutional, regular, lifetime, and honorary members of the society.

ACTIVITIES

The Society primarily aims to stimulate, advance, and propagate astronomy in the Philippines through its various public outreach projects and activities. These activities are interactive, exciting and educational, which focus on the trends and developments in the field of Astronomy here in the Philippines and in the whole world.

- **National Astronomy Week (NAW)**

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 130, s.1993, the Society, together with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), celebrates the NAW every third week of February. The activity encourages high school and elementary students to excel in the field of Astronomy through lectures, hands-on activities and competitions. Activities conducted during the NAW include poster-making contest, quiz bee, essay-writing contest, public viewings, lectures, photoexhibit, mobile planetarium show, and astrocamps among others.

- **Monthly Meetings and Lectures**

Conducted every third Sunday of each month and are divided into two parts. The first part is the lecture, which aims to educate and to inform the members and other attendees of the trends and interesting topics in Astronomy. Lecturers are PAS members or guest speakers from renowned institutions. The

second part concerns the organizational and social aspects of the organization. Planning of upcoming activities and updates on the different Committees are also done during this part of the meeting.

- **Astrocamps**

Cater to high school students and teachers who are interested to learn more about Astronomy outside the four walls of the classroom. The camp is composed of lecture series, interactive workshops, and stargazing activities.

- **ASTRO 101**

Aims to give an Introductory Course in Astronomy for the members and other aspiring amateur astronomers. This is the continuing education program of the Society that is conducted annually by the Education Committee.

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- **Out-of-Town and Urban Observations**

Scheduled depending on the occurrence of astronomical events. Out-of-town observations are conducted outside Metro Manila where light pollution is minimal. Urban Observations, on the other hand, are conducted within Metro Manila.

- **Messier Marathons**

Encourage PAS members and other participants to familiarize themselves with deep-sky objects, as catalogued by French astronomer Charles Messier, through a Marathon scheduled every third week or fourth week of March. The first Messier Marathon was conducted on March 25, 2006 at Sampaloc National High School, Tanay, Rizal.

- **Public Viewings (*Astronomiya sa Kalsada*) and Lectures**

During astronomical events, PAS conducts public viewings with occasional lectures in places like the Boardwalk at Luneta. Members of the Society also go to schools and various places outside Metro Manila to deliver lectures and conduct stargazing activities.

THE PADRE FAURA AWARD

The award given by the Philippine Astronomical Society, Inc. to individuals who made outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the popularization or advancement of the science of Astronomy here in the Philippines.

Awardees

1972 – Casimiro del Rosario

1973 – Ricardo Cruz

1974 – Hans Arber

1975 – Fr. Leo Boethin, SVD

1976 – Jose G. Caburian
Fr. Victor L. Badillo, SJ

1977 – Godofredo L. Alcasid

1981 – Maximo Sacro, Jr
Phillip D. Wyman

1982 – Roman L. Kintanar

1983 – Ernesto V. Calpo

1986 – Edwin L. Aguirre
Imelda B. Joson
John L. Nassr

1988 – Fr. Francis J. Heyden, SJ

1990 – Clyde W. Tombaugh

1991 – Emilia Q. Agustin

1992 – Ernesto Baron

1996 – Edmund Rosales
Engr. Francisco Lao, Jr.
2000 – James Kevin Ty
Dante B. Yglopaz
2005 – Fidel V. Ramos

(Padre Faura founded the Manila Observatory.)

THE PAS 12” AND 16” TELESCOPES

The most prevalent practice in the past was for the PAS members to buy their own telescopes ready for use, that is, if they can afford the cost. On the other hand, very few members were into amateur telescope making due to the amount involved in the purchase of the spare parts.

An inventory of PAS property was conducted in 2004. Among the equipments in the custody of Fr. Badillo, SJ, the Chairman of the Board at that time, were two mirrors: the 12” and 16” mirrors.

These mirrors stayed in storage due to lack of technical skills and logistics necessary for the assembly of the telescopes. Besides, the sheer weights and bulkiness of the two mirrors demanded a strong dedication and determination from anyone who would venture to initiate such construction.

The FY 2004-2005 Board of Directors, however, envisioned these two mirrors that never had its first light to serve as telescopes. So, in the year 2004, the BOD and Officers of the Society decided to construct the 12” and 16” telescopes to be solely used for PAS scientific researches. The 16” telescope was assembled first and was completed in time for the 2005 National Astronomy Week celebration.

The PAS telescopes had their First Photons of Light during the night of February 21, 2005 at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City as part of the 2005 NAW Celebration.

COMMITTEES

- **Education** – takes charge of lecture topics during monthly meetings and of inviting lecturers.
- **Events** - updates the Society not only on yearly astronomical events but takes charge of the National Astronomy Week preparations and activities.
- **Information Technology** – handles the PAS website and Yahoo Groups message board; registers email addresses of new members to the PAS email directory for proper information dissemination.
- **Instrumentation** – handles matters pertaining to the instruments of the Society like telescopes, binoculars, and all accessories that are needed in viewings, scientific observations, and astrophotography.
- **Membership** – recruits and orients members; assigns them to Committees; maintains/updates membership directory.
- **Observation** – conducts the public viewings, scientific observations, and out-of-town trips.
- **Publication** – publishes the monthly newsletter “The Appulse.”
- **Ways and Means** - raises funds and find means to conserve funds.

TYPES OF MEMBERS

- **Regular Members** - Members of the society whose names have been registered with the Membership Committee and who have paid their annual membership fees.
- **Lifetime Members** - Members who have paid the lifetime membership fee.
- **Institutional Members** - Schools and companies affiliated with the society and who have paid the annual institutional membership fee (10 members per institution).
- **Honorary Members** - BOD-screened/approved associations, organizations, or individuals who have made significant and meritorious contributions to PAS and to the country in the field of Astronomy.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MEMBER

1. Pay annual membership fee to the BOD Treasurer.
2. Attend at least four (4) monthly meetings held every third Sunday of the month.
3. Combination of any two (2) of the following:
 - a. Participate and help PAS during public viewings.
 - b. Provide and give a requested lecture during monthly meetings or any PAS-approved education program.
 - c. Join urban and out-of-town observations.
 - d. Submit articles for publication in The Appulse.
 - e. Help prepare/conduct the National Astronomy Week activities.

- f. Help raise PAS funds.
 - g. Help PAS during astrocamps and school campus tours.
 - h. Recruit at least one new member in a fiscal year.
4. Choose a Committee and help perform Committee tasks.
5. Own a binocular and telescope, if possible.
6. Abide by PAS Constitution and By-Laws. .

PRIVILEGES OF A MEMBER

1. Membership Kit
 - a. Membership Card
 - b. PAS Handbook
 - c. Calendar of Activities
 - d. Monthly issue of The Appulse
 - e. Directory of Members
2. Avail lectures in all monthly meetings.
3. Avail stargazings in all out-of-town and urban observations.
4. Chance to participate in the continuing education program for a minimal cost.
5. Chance to lecture during PAS-sponsored activities.
6. Use of PAS properties.
7. Interact with other members through the Yahoo Groups or the Website.
8. Enjoy the camaraderie of other astronomy enthusiasts.

GUIDELINES ON THE CODE OF ETHICS

To maintain efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation and execution of the PAS Constitution and By-Laws, the following guidelines on professional behavior and attitude have been established:

I. Behavior during Monthly Meetings and Lectures

1. Keep track of time and be punctual at all times. All meetings, assemblies, and other activities should start and end on time.
2. Decorum during meeting should be adhered to strictly. Be conscious of your outfit. Make sure to always look neat, clean and respectable at all times.
3. Show proper respect to the speaker/s. Speak only when you are given the floor. Raise your hand if you want to say something.
4. Always smile and be congenial to everybody. Foster an atmosphere conducive for learning and development of camaraderie among the members and/or participants of the activities of the Society.
5. Participate actively during the open forum.

II. Behavior during Astrocamps or Out-of-Town Activities

1. Avoid behavior that will taint the integrity and reputation of the Society. Any member is mandated to behave with decorum at all times.
2. Learn to modulate your voice when talking. Connect with your inner self and know when to calm down.

3. Practice courtesy and politeness when interacting with colleagues, guests, or hosts.
4. Discuss disagreements or divergence of opinions in private.
5. Never take important matters or decisions into your own hands. Course complaints, grievances and other issues through the Chairman of the Board/ Board Members/ President/ Committee Chairpersons.
6. Direct complaints or grievances to the person concerned.
7. Wait for the proper place and time to resolve issues.

III. Behavior when Conducting Lectures

1. A PASer should be responsible and has a sense of duty. Accomplish the tasks assigned to you in a disciplined manner. Prepare very well for your lectures.
2. Be open to questions, suggestions, comments and criticisms.
3. Be humble to admit mistakes, if you happen to make them.
4. Provide handouts if possible.