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What's Up With the Astronomical League January, 2014

Compiled by Carroll
Iorg, President

2014 LEAGUE AWARDS PROGRAMS

It's that time of the new year. The League offers many opportunities for youth astronomers as well as society webmasters and newsletter editors to enter the competition for special recognition for their great efforts. **Application forms for the NYAA and Horkheimer Awards are included in this issue.**

These awards are listed below:

- **National Young Astronomer Award (NYAA)**-This youth award has the earliest deadline **1/31/2014**. If that young person in your society is debating whether to enter the competition or not, tell her/him to send an email to NYAA@astroleague.org and alert us that they are intending to submit an entry. If the young astronomer needs a few extra days to submit their packet that is acceptable, but we have to know this information before the 1/31 deadline. The top two finishers receive an all expenses paid trip to ALCon 2014 in San Antonio, scheduled for July 10-12, a beautiful commemorative plaque and other benefits.
- **Jack Horkheimer Service Awards**-The top three finishers in this youth competition receive a check for \$1,000 each (you read this correctly). In addition one of these top three receive an all expenses paid trip to ALCon 2014. A beautiful plaque and other benefits are also presented. **The deadline for this award is 3/31/2014.**
- **Jack Horkheimer/O'Meara Journalism Award**-The first place winner of this essay award for ages 8-14 will also receive \$1,000, in addition to other special benefits. A 300-500 word essay on some area of science is required by the 3/31/2014 deadline.
- **Webmaster Award**-This award is presented to the top finisher in the competition for best webmaster. To nominate your society's webmaster for this special award, presidents should send a letter of recommendation to WebmasterAward@astroleague.org or to Mike Rao Administrator, Astronomical League Webmaster Award, 2559 Rusk Street, 2559 Rusk Street, Houston, Texas 77003 mike.rao@optimus-us.com. Please submit the nomination by 3/31/2014.
- **Mabel Sterns Newsletter Award**-The president of the club should email a copy of the designated issue of the club's newsletter in Adobe Acrobat pdf file format to SternsNewsletter@astroleague.org, along with a cover letter of recommendation in the same file format that includes the postal address of the nominee and a photo of the newsletter editor, preferably in an astronomical type setting. Paper copies submission may be sent to the national office.

A Farewell to John Dobson

A more extensive tribute to Mr. Dobson is offered in the March Reflector, but we wanted to give a tribute in this January publication as well.

On January 15, 2014, the world lost a true astronomical visionary who changed the world of astronomy forever. He made the hobby more accessible to not just the visitors who visit observatories or science centers, but to the general public who walk the streets of our country.

At any star party one will find many dobsonian telescopes setup on the field. In vendor marketing, the design is prominently listed for sale.

The Sidewalk Astronomers, which John co-founded, has dedicated its annual International Sidewalk Astronomy Night to John's memory on March 8. For more information see www.sidewalkastronomers.us/.



(John Dobson at one of his visits to Sean's Astronomy Shop, photo compliments of Sean League)



2014 National Young Astronomer Award (NYAA) Application Form

(Revised October 2010)

To recognize the outstanding achievements of high school age astronomers, the Astronomical League has established the National Young Astronomer Award.

Eligibility:

United States citizens 14-19 years of age and not enrolled in college are eligible to apply for this award. Foreign students of the same age are eligible if they are enrolled in a United States secondary school on the date of the application deadline.

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY ON THE INSTRUCTION SHEET THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS APPLICATION FORM.

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents' Names _____

School Information:

If you are enrolled in high school, please provide:

Name of School: _____ Grade in School: _____

School Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number of School: _____

Media Information:

Name of your local newspaper: _____

Phone number and webpage address of local newspaper: _____

Sponsor Information:

Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Name/Title: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Astronomical League Membership? List the name of your League astronomy club or Member at Large status if you are a member. _____

Your sponsor should be a teacher, counselor or astronomy club officer. If you have difficulty locating a sponsor, please contact the email listed below. **The deadline for the 2014 award is January 31, 2014.**

More specific information and suggestions regarding content of potential NYAA entries is available at <http://www.astroleague.org/>. For more information regarding the award email NYAA@astroleague.org.

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTION SHEET (PAGE 2) AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY.

**NATIONAL YOUNG ASTRONOMER AWARD (NYAA)
2014 INSTRUCTION SHEET (PAGE 2)
PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY!**

1. Submit your entry packet in electronic format (adobe acrobat pdf files) to NYAA@astroleague.org.
2. Submit a photo of yourself, preferably in an astronomical setting in jpg format to NYAA@astroleague.org.
3. **If electronic submission is not an option**, please send an email regarding this to NYAA@astroleague.org, then mail the packet by way of the postal service to NYAA, Astronomical League, 9201 Ward Parkway, Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64114. (It must be postmarked on or before January 31.)
4. Only one project per applicant, please.
5. Your work should be original research and your sources should be well-documented in a generally accepted format.
6. **If your project was conducted as part of a team effort, your own contribution must be clearly indicated.** Not doing so may adversely affect the judging.
7. Please refer to the previous year's first place finisher's project as an example. This is posted on the Astronomical League website www.astroleague.org.
8. **The deadline for submitting your entry is January 31, 2014.** If sent electronically, it must be received by the National Office by that date, or, if mailed through the postal service, the postmark must be on or before that date.



2014 Horkheimer Service Award Nomination Form

- Nominee must be a League member under 19 years of age at the time of nomination.
- Award is based upon service to the League.
- Young astronomers can be nominated for both the National Young Astronomer Award and the Horkheimer Awards.
- Three Horkheimer Awards are presented: the Horkheimer/Smith Award, Horkheimer/Parker Award, and the Horkheimer/D'Auria Award.
- **Award nomination entry deadline: March 31, 2014.**

Young Astronomer's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

If enrolled in school, please provide:

Name of School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year in School: _____ School Phone: _____

Astronomical League affiliation: _____
(Club name or MAL status)

Local Newspaper Name: _____ phone: _____

Newspaper email or website address: _____

Please enclose supporting details of Astronomical League achievements:

1. Public Service such as outreach (attach newsletter articles, etc.)
2. Astronomy Club duties or officer positions held (attach documentation)
3. League Observing Awards earned (enclose copy of observing club certificate, such as the Messier); general observing achievements
4. Other Astronomical Service such as participation in various amateur astronomy events (attach description)

Sponsor information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Sponsor **MUST** be an Astronomical League regional or AL astronomy club officer.

To apply for this award, please complete this form and submit it and three copies along with four copies of the supporting materials by the award deadline of **March 31, 2014**. Send to:

Horkheimer Service Awards, Astronomical League
9201 Ward Parkway, Suite 100 Kansas City, MO 64114

Instead, the form may be submitted electronically in pdf format to HorkheimerService@astroleague.org.

Please submit a photo of the nominee (in jpg format, if it is sent by email) taken in an astronomical-type setting.



2014 Horkheimer/O'Meara Journalism Award Nomination Form

- Only open to writers 8 to 14 years of age.
- Essay length should be 300 to 500 words.
- Essay topic can be from any science related field.
- Judged on accuracy, creativity, conciseness, and clarity.

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School Enrollment Information:

Name of School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year in School: _____ School Phone: _____

Astronomical League Affiliation: _____
(Club name or MAL status)

Local Newspaper Name: _____ Phone: _____

Newspaper Email or Website Address: _____

The competition for the Horkheimer/O'Meara Youth Journalism Award is only open to writers in the 8-14 age group. The essay should be 300 to 500 words. It is not limited exclusively to astronomy, but can be about any science related topic that interests the contestant — from robin's eggs to quasars. The author should take a factual scientific event or discovery and write an accurate story that is so exciting and informative that readers will not want to put it down. Entries will be judged on four criteria: accuracy, creativity, conciseness, and clarity.

Sponsor information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

The sponsor must be an Astronomical League regional or AL astronomy club officer.

To apply for this award, complete this form and submit it with your essay by the award deadline of **March 31, 2014** to:

The Astronomical League, 9201 Ward Parkway, Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64114; or by way of Email HorkheimerJournalism@astroleague.org

Please email a photo of yourself in jpg format or send a photo with your application.