



# SearchLites

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The Quarterly Newsletter of The SETI League, Inc.

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## Pandemic Assistance – Just Around the Corner

By H. Paul Shuch, Executive Director Emeritus

The global pandemic from which we are only now beginning to emerge has, for well over a year now, impacted all of us. The SETI League is no exception, although we have perhaps weathered the storm better than most. Members of your leadership team had already been working from home for some time, reducing both facilities overhead and commute costs. Our volunteers around the world have continued their activities, as their personal schedules and resources would permit, and we remain no less successful at detecting evidence of extraterrestrial technology than we had been for the past quarter century! So, the search goes on.

If you've been following our Event Horizon page on The SETI League website, you will have seen that nearly all in-person scientific conferences and meetings have been either canceled outright, or replaced by virtual meetings on Zoom, or other remote access platforms. This is how we handled the recent Annual Membership Meeting, and how we expect to continue holding it for the foreseeable future. Perhaps the only bright side of this public health emergency is that it's dragged many of us, kicking and screaming, into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. But then again, isn't remote communication what SETI science is all about?

Though I certainly have missed in-person contact with my colleagues worldwide, an unexpected benefit of curtailing travel is that my travel budget has gone unspent. Thus, your SETI League has remained solvent, despite a significant (and fully expected) reduction in contributions and member dues revenues. As the financial information in this newsletter will confirm, we have operated this past year at a deficit, but are fortunate enough to be able to continue doing so for some time into the future.

So, just as governments and non-government organizations around the world are doing to mitigate the impact of the current pandemic, The SETI League is in a position to assist, at least in a small way, those of you who have stuck with us through thick and thin. At our virtual Annual Membership Meeting in April, your Board of Trustees voted to extend, at no charge, the membership period for all members currently in good standing, through the end of 2022. Of course, if your financial circumstances permit and you are so inclined, we would welcome membership contributions during this dues holiday. But, if you choose not to contribute financially, rest assured that you will still remain one of us.

On behalf of the SETI League Board, I thank you all for your generous support and encouragement over the years, and wish you health as we begin the slow return to normalcy.

Yours for SETI Success, Paul

**Guest Editorials:**

## **In Support of the Next Generation Arecibo Telescope**

by **Claudio Maccone**

**Chair, IAA SETI Permanent Committee**

We, the SETI Permanent Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics (hereafter called “IAA SETI Committee”) support and endorse the contents of the white paper titled: “The Future of the Arecibo Observatory: The Next Generation Arecibo Telescope.” Our organization recognizes the scientific, economic and cultural impacts of the Arecibo Observatory and supports rebuilding a new telescope at the same site. We believe this new unparalleled instrument will push forward the boundaries of SETI (the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence), Planetary Science, Space and Atmospheric Sciences and Astronomy for decades to come.

Readers might wish to know a little more about the IAA SETI Committee. It was established more than fifty years ago by a small group of far-sighted radio astronomers from both the Soviet Union and the Western Countries: Rudolf Pesek and Nikolay Kardashev from the East, Frank Drake and Carl Sagan from the West, just to mention a few. Over the years, the interest to radio SETI grew in the most technologically advanced countries and nowadays the IAA SETI Committee has 96 Members, many of which are distinguished scientists of world class.

We meet once a year during the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) that currently hosts three SETI Sessions:

1. SETI 1, devoted to SETI Science and Technology.
2. SETI 2, devoted to SETI and Society, namely to the consequences that the first Contact with an Alien Civilization might have on Humanity, probably still largely unprepared for such an event.
3. Interactive SETI presentations, i.e. informal presentations to the interested IAC attendees.

Those wishing to better understand the past and present activities of the IAA SETI Committee are invited to peruse the relevant website Overview ([iaaseti.org](http://iaaseti.org)).

Let me just conclude by pointing out that a number of SETI searches were conducted at the Arecibo radio telescope in the past, notably by Teams from the SETI Institute and the University of California at Berkeley. This tradition must be continued in the future, and that will happen only if the Team of the Next Generation Arecibo Telescope will succeed in reviving this unique instrument that we have been loving for decades.

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in editorials are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect the position of The SETI League, Inc., its Trustees, officers, Advisory Board, members, donors, or commercial sponsors. ❖



Want a painless way to support The SETI League? Browse to:

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com).

In the "Pick your own charitable organization" box, just type in "SETI League." Now, every time you shop Amazon, they will donate a half percent of your purchase price to SETI research!



SETI League members are encouraged to nominate SETI-relevant websites for our monthly SETI SuperStar Award. Nominating emails to our Awards Committee may be sent to:

[Awards\\_at\\_setileague\\_dot\\_org](mailto:Awards_at_setileague_dot_org).

Please be sure to indicate the URL of the candidate website you are nominating, and a brief explanation as to why you consider the site worthy of recognition.

## Event Horizon

SearchLites readers are apprised of the following conferences and meetings at which SETI-related information will be us at [info@setileague.org](mailto:info@setileague.org), to obtain further details. Members are also encouraged to send in information about upcoming events of which we may be unaware.

**August 25 - 29, 2021:** 79th World Science Fiction Convention, Washington, DC.

**October 25 - 29, 2021:** 71st International Astronautical Congress, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**April 24, 2022, 1300 EDT (tentative):** Twenty-Eighth SETI League Annual Membership Meeting, Little Ferry, NJ. (Online via Zoom)

**June 27 - 30, 2022:** Penn State SETI Symposium, State College, PA.

**September 18 -22, 2022:** 72nd International Astronautical Congress, Paris, France.

**2023 (dates to be announced):** 73rd International Astronautical Congress, Baku, Azerbaijan.

Please note that the global COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the cancellation or rescheduling of many planned scientific meetings and conferences. We recommend you check with the event sponsors for updates before making travel arrangements. ❖

## **Minutes of the 2021 SETI Virtual Membership Meeting Conducted online on 18 April 2021**

- **Call to Order**

The 2021 Membership Meeting was convened virtually (via the Zoom platform) at 13:07 hours EDT.

- **Quorum Call**

Trustees and Officers present: A. Heather Wood, Richard Factor, H. Paul Shuch

Trustees and Officers absent: Martin Schreiber

Additional Members present: Muriel Hykes

A quorum is present.

- **Minutes of 2020 Board Meeting**

The Minutes of the 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting having been previously posted to The SETI League's World Wide Web site, a motion was passed to accept the minutes as submitted.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Developed jointly by Dr. Shuch and Secretary/Treasurer Heather Wood, covering the calendar year 2020 (as e-filed).

1. Revenues: Dues and Contributions, \$8,014; Interest Income \$2; Total \$8,016.
2. Expenses: Educational/Scientific Programs \$11,766; Management/General \$750; Fundraising \$1,792; Total \$14,308.
3. Revenues minus Expenses: (\$6,293).
4. End of 2020, SETI League account balances equalled \$13,341. 2020 beginning net assets \$19,634.
5. 2021 Budget: Projected Revenues \$8,000; Program Expenses \$8,000; Management/General Expenses \$750; Fundraising Expenses \$1,750; Total Expenses \$10,500; Projected surplus (deficit) (\$2,500); Projected Ending Balance \$10,841.
6. This report was accepted by those present.

- **Executive Director's Report**

During 2020, the Executive Director:

1. published four issues of *SearchLites*, the quarterly newsletter of The SETI League, Inc.
2. gave no SETI public lectures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. performed 52 weekly updates of The SETI League website
4. posted roughly 20 photos, plus numerous links and comments, to The SETI League Facebook page
5. issued one press release
6. continued to serve as an Emeritus member of the International Academy of Astronautics SETI Committee

7. responded to about a dozen email and telephone inquiries from members and prospective members.

- **Committee Reports**

1. **Membership**

Ms. Wood reports that six new members joined The SETI League during 2020, and we have two new members so far this year.

2. **OSETI Committee**

Mr. Factor held a Zoom meeting with SETI Institute scientists Seth Shostak and Elliott Gillum, regarding their OSETI equipment. He still has plans to install an Optical SETI observatory at his Sedona AZ location. Factor has sent photos of his location to SETI Institute colleagues for analysis, and will follow up with them.

3. **Awards Committee**

Absent an Awards Committee Chair, no websites received the SETI SuperStar award during the year 2020. There were no Giordano Bruno Awards or Orville N. Greene Awards presented for contributions during 2020. Nominations from members for all awards will be solicited in an upcoming issue of *SearchLites*.

- **Old Business**

1. **Annual Report**

Annual financial updates have been posted to the Website, and published in *SearchLites*.

2. **Web Server**

Mr. Factor reports no difficulties or concerns.

3. **Interstellar Beacon**

The project was terminated in 2020, and upon dissolution of the Interstellar Beacon nonprofit corporation, its remaining assets were donated to The SETI League.

4. **Press List**

Ms. Wood reports that, lacking an email Press List, The SETI League website and Facebook page remain our only two means of disseminating press releases.

5. **Telecommunications**

Ms. Wood continues to retrieve voicemail messages occasionally via cellphone. She reports that the vast majority are spam calls, and that the vast majority of emails received via [setileague.org](http://setileague.org) are similarly spam.

- **New Business**

1. **Election of Officers**

The following slate of officers was retained for an additional one-year term:

- President - Richard Factor, serving without compensation
- Secretary/Treasurer - A. Heather Wood
- Executive Director Emeritus - H. Paul Shuch, serving on a volunteer basis

- Registered Agent - Anthony Agnello

2. **Annual Budget**

The draft 2021 Budget is adopted by the Board.

3. **Tax Return Filing**

The Secretary/Treasurer reports that she was successful in eFiling our 2020 organizational tax return using the electronic Form 990N postcard, and having it timely accepted by the IRS.

4. **Mid-Year Renewal Letter**

Ms. Wood reports that a letter will be sent to all lapsed members in May, offering them discounted dues for renewal. Due to the lack of services having been provided to members during the pandemic, all dues-paying members will also be informed in May that their 2022 renewal will be complimentary (although donations will still be gratefully accepted).

5. **New Jersey Charities Registration**

Ms. Wood has submitted our annual New Jersey Charities registration forms and fees, which have been accepted.

6. **Next Meeting**

Pending confirmation of the dates of other technical meetings, the next Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday 24 April 2022. The date has been verified as not in conflict with Easter or Passover. The meeting will once again be held virtually via Zoom. at 1300 hours EDT, to be followed immediately by the Board of Trustees meeting. The date and time will be announced to the membership via the website and newsletter.

• **Advisory Board**

The Executive Director Emeritus will generate a letter of thanks to members of our Advisory Board for more than two and one-half decades of service. The letter will be distributed by Ms. Wood.

• **Good and Welfare**

The SETI League's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/setileague](http://www.facebook.com/setileague) has (as of this morning) attracted 1,473 "likes" (up 57 since last year), 1506 "follows" (up 62 from last year), numerous member posts, and considerable discussion among members.

• **Adjournment**

The 2021 SETI League Annual Meeting was adjourned by the Executive Director Emeritus at 13:45 hours EDT on 18 April 2021. The required annual Board of Trustees Meeting followed immediately.

• **Board of Trustees actions**

- The Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order by the Executive Director Emeritus.
- The Board members present accepted all reports presented at the Annual Membership Meeting, and adopted the proposed 2021 Budget.
- **Personnel matters**  
The Executive Director Emeritus reviewed with the Board of Trustees the previously adopted terms for cost-sharing of his health insurance premiums, as a program expense, which will continue at last year's percentage, pending availability of funds and subject to periodic review.

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- **Executive Session**  
The Board of Trustees convened an Executive Session to discuss long-term planning for The SETI League, Inc.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 13:58 hours EDT.  
Respectfully submitted by Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Executive Director Emeritus

**SETI League 2020 Financial Report**

990 Line	REVENUES:	2020 (budget)	2020 (filed)
1d	Dues, Grants & Contributions	14,000	8,014
4	Interest & Investments	0	2
12	<b>Total Revenues:</b>	14,000	8,016
	<b>EXPENSES:</b>	<b>2020 (budget)</b>	<b>2020 (filed)</b>
13	Educ. and Scientific Programs	13,000	11,766
14	Management & General	1,500	750
15	Fundraising	1,000	1,792
17	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	15,500	14,308
18	<b>Excess or (Deficit) for the year</b>	(1,500)	(6,293)
	<b>BALANCE SHEET:</b>	<b>2020 (budget)</b>	<b>2020 (filed)</b>
19	Beginning Net Assets	19,634	19,634
21	Ending Net Assets	18,134	13,341

**SETI League 2021 Budget**

990 Line	REVENUES:	2021 (budget)	2021 (filed)
1d	Dues, Grants & Contributions	8,000	pending
4	Interest & Investments	0	pending
12	<b>Total Revenues:</b>	8,000	pending
	<b>EXPENSES:</b>	<b>2021 (budget)</b>	<b>2021 (filed)</b>
13	Educ. and Scientific Programs	8,000	pending
14	Management & General	750	pending
15	Fundraising	1,750	pending
17	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	10,500	pending
18	<b>Excess or (Deficit) for the year</b>	(2,500)	pending
	<b>BALANCE SHEET:</b>	<b>2021 (budget)</b>	<b>2021 (filed)</b>
19	Beginning Net Assets	13,341	pending
21	Ending Net Assets	10,841	pending



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**Annual Renewal: Is This Your Last SearchLites?**  
SETI League memberships are issued for the *Calendar Year*. Please check the expiration date indicated on your mailing label. If it reads December 2020 or earlier, you have already expired, and *must* renew your SETI League membership **now!** Please fill out and return this page along with your payment.

**Please renew my membership in this category:**

Full Member	\$50 / yr
Supporting Member (elderly, retired, or disabled)	\$35 / yr
Scholarship Member (full-time students only)	\$25 / yr
Household Member (same address as a Full Member)	\$15 / yr
Household Life Member (same address as a Life Member)	\$300
Life Member (until we make contact)	\$1,000
Sustaining Life Member – a generous <i>annual</i> pledge of:	\$1,000 / yr
Patron (priority use of The SETI League’s radio telescope)	\$10,000
Director (Patron membership plus seat on advisory board)	\$100,000
Benefactor (a major radio telescope named for you)	\$1,000,000

Annual memberships are issued for the calendar year. Those processed in January through April expire on 31 December of that year. Those processed in September through December expire on 31 December of the *following* year. Those members joining in May through August should remit half the annual dues indicated, and will expire on 31 December of the same year.

**Order Your Membership Premiums:**

	(u)*	(o)*
Pocket protectors	\$ 3	\$ 4
Mouse pads	\$ 5	\$ 7
<i>Tune In The Universe! (CD-ROM)</i>	\$25	\$30
<i>Proceedings of SETICon01</i>	\$20	\$27
<i>Proceedings of SETICon02</i>	\$20	\$27
<i>Proceedings of SETICon03 (CD)</i>	\$15	\$18
<i>Proceedings of EuroSETI04 (CD)</i>	\$15	\$18
<i>Proceedings of SETICon04(CD)</i>	\$15	\$18
<i>SARA Conference Proceedings:</i>		
2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 (specify)	\$20	\$27
<i>SETI League Technical Manual (CD)</i>	\$10	\$13
<i>Project Cyclops 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</i>	\$20	\$30
<i>The Listeners</i> by James Gunn	\$15	\$21
<i>Sing More Songs of SETI</i> (Songbook)	\$10	\$13
<i>Sing a Song of SETI</i> (music CD)	\$15	\$18
<i>Sing More Songs of SETI</i> (music CD)	\$15	\$18
T-shirts, specify M, L, or XL	\$15	\$22
SETI Nerd Gift Set (one each Mouse Pad, Pocket Protector, <i>Project Cyclops</i> and <i>Tech Manual</i> ) at 20% Savings to <u>Members Only</u> :	\$30	\$45

**\*Includes postage to (u) US addresses, or (o) other locations**  
**Payments in US Dollars, check payable through a US bank**

**Pleased to Accept PayPal**

The SETI League invites you to pay your membership dues and additional contributions via credit card, using the PayPal online payment system. Simply log on to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and specify that your payment be directed to [paypal@setileague.org](mailto:paypal@setileague.org).

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