

Nominee Statements

Ken Weber (President):

My interest in Astronomy began in 2014 while visiting a bookstore. I found a book about the Universe. I thought, "I can actually see these things?" I purchased this book and investigated astronomy on YouTube. "My thoughts were spinning." For Christmas my wife gave me the book "Night Watch" by Terence Dickinson. I was hooked. In my neighborhood I saw a sign for the Wow Science Astronomy Night program. At the event I saw my first ISS sighting and first Double Star. I also met WAS member Suzanne Leap. During my first WAS meeting I met and spoke with Bernie Kosher, Gary Weinstein and Joe Stieber. My first WAS star watch was at Atsion and the popular song at the time "Your a Sky Full Of Stars" was going through my head. On the way to Atsion I got lost and ended up on a dirt road off of 206 and saw several shooting stars!

I have been a WAS member since 2014. This will be my first time volunteering to be a club officer. I own a 10" Dob and 8" SCT. I most enjoy observing Jupiter, Saturn, the Moon and globular clusters.

Al Meloni (Vice President)

I thought I run for VP in order continue our efforts to transition pass Corvid, encourage younger members to join, and ensure the Club's Bylaws reflect recent changes. My main interest in astronomy lies in the building of telescopes and mounts. Most of my scopes/mounts are heavy and dated. However I do enjoy when my homemade mount and scope works correctly and I successfully image a planet or two. Recently I have taken interest using one of my smaller scopes along with a new mount that is very portable and physically easily to use. Unfortunately a new mount comes with new electronic equipment that is another challenge for me. Hopefully our WAS members will help me out in this area.

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Suzanne Leap (Secretary)

My interest in amateur astronomy began after witnessing Venus transiting the Sun on June 8, 2004 at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Later that day I went online looking for astronomy clubs and found WAS. Along with my husband I attended my first WAS star watch at Batsto in 2004. I remember seeing my first Double Star Epsilon Lyrae that evening. I'm grateful to the members of WAS who have encouraged me as an amateur astronomer. I like sharing the night sky with others through outreach. I enjoy observational astronomy and in the field I can be found hunting for "all the light" be it stars, solar system objects, DSOs, the Milky Way, the Zodiacal Light, the Moon and the Sun!

I have been a member of WAS since 2005. I volunteered frequently at WAS public star watches prior to being a club officer. I volunteered in the observatory at the Franklin Institute operating the antique 10" Carl Zeiss Refracting Telescope and various SCTs from 2007-2020 showing the Sun and night sky objects to the museum guests. I have been the WAS Secretary since 2021 and the WAS Star Watch Director beginning this year. I look forward to serving in these positions again next year.

Wade Evans (Treasurer)

I joined the club in 2015. I served as club treasurer from 2016 ending in 2021. During that time, I provided treasurer reports, up to date membership list, helped with the annual picnic, 50th Dinner party and other club events including outreach and star watching events. I also helped the club to secure the BOS site. I decided after 5 years to take a break from treasurer and ran for the open position of Vice President in 2022, which I currently hold. This year, I'm looking to continue my service and return as the club's treasurer for 2023.

I have always been interested in astronomy since before my 1st telescope that my mom gave me, when I was nine. I wanted to learn more of the sky to teach my kids and joined WAS to help with that and for use of the fields at Batsto, Atsion and now at BOS.