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Third Quarter

# PSF NEWS

Planetary Studies Foundation

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## *Thank You!* FOR VOTING

Congratulations to Mary Becker, Jim Dole and Douglas Hicks for being elected as your 2022 PSF Board of Directors, and a special thanks to all who voted! The PSF by-laws give members the opportunity to voice and share their ideas and opinions, and select individuals to guide PSF into the future.

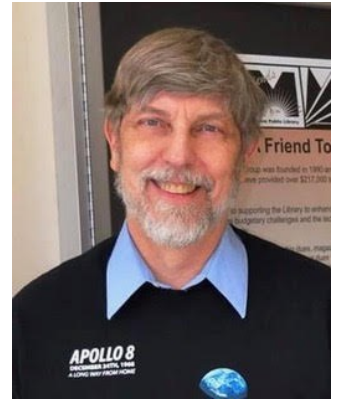
As an organization of 250 unique, individual members from across the globe, our by-laws state that we need at least 10% of our members to vote in the annual election. We are fortunate that we have members who not only believe in the organization, but want to volunteer their time, money and talents. We would like to give a special thanks to those who cast their ballots this year in the PSF Executive Board Election.

Loren Acton  
Bill Anders  
Joseph A. Auer, Jr.  
Karen and Leo Baran  
Beth and Jim Baranski  
Mary Becker  
Carl and Louise Bryant  
Mary Sue Coates  
Cecilia Cooper  
Carol Dehnbostel  
Jim Dole  
Kathie and Jess Farlow  
Cole and Paula Feiner  
Doug and Audrey Firebaugh  
Michelle Firebaugh  
Larry Fulfs  
Joe and Bonnie Garrity  
Michael Gillig  
Judith, Phillip, and Jeff Glenn  
Jim Hagen  
Nancy Heggem  
Doug Hicks  
Alexander Jakopin  
Lyle Johnsen  
George Johnson  
Ernst and Mary Jo Jolas  
Connie Kahl

Candace Kohl  
Eugenia Krzyanski  
Janet Landato  
Elizabeth, Evelyn and Craig Larson  
Richard Leary  
Jerry and Elena Marty  
Janet Moote  
Ryan and Andrea Nolan  
Marsha Prieboy  
Marilyn Quas  
Mary and Kevin Ramsden  
Larry and Joan Reylek  
Ramon and Nancy Ricondo  
Paul P., Diane and Caroline Sipiera  
Brett and Mary Beth Stark  
Dan and Pam Tindell  
Linda Virag  
Zeke and Emily Winder  
Herb Windolf  
Ralph Winrich  
James Wotal

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I find it hard to believe that we are at the Third Quarter mark of 2022. For me this summer seems to have flown by with many different personal and professional activities keeping me very busy. On the professional side I am pleased to report that our efforts to create an exciting meteorite exhibit at the Putnam Museum and Science Center in Davenport, IA are nearing completion. All the required meteorites have been delivered and descriptive captions for each specimen have been prepared for their placement in the exhibit. Special thanks go out to Putnam's exceptionally knowledgeable curator Chris Chandler and PSF's assistant meteorite curator Evelyn Larson for all their efforts in the design and research that went into the creation of this exhibit. It is our intent that this exhibit will be a permanent feature of the museum. So, in our design plans we had to anticipate the many possible changes in meteorite classification and nomenclature that may take place over the next twenty years. This was not an easy task especially when we were working with reference publications that were essentially twenty years out of date. Fortunately, through the efforts of Evelyn and our senior research scientist Tony Irving we were able to make our exhibit as accurate and up to date as possible. Barring any unforeseen difficulties, it is still our plan to have a late Fall exhibit dedication that will be a member's and open to the public event. I am also pleased to report that our research efforts to classify 127 undescribed stone meteorites has been completed and includes the discovery of an apparently new type. We are now preparing to take-on new analytical challenges for 2023 but with a more manageable number of meteorites. Also planned for a May 2023 delivery date is the transfer of PSF's over 1,800 meteorites to the Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven, CT.



This year's Annual PSF Members Meeting was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> once again as a Zoom event. I truly miss having the in-person contact, but all considered it fulfills a need and brings many of our members together to express their ideas and concerns. The meeting reported on the financially sound condition of the PSF and a very conservative 2023 budget was passed to fund our operating expenses and programs. Directors Jim Dole and Tom Dunmore gave a very impressive report on the seasonal activities at our Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory in Freeport, IL. Our thanks were extended to Jim and Tom and all their volunteers for the excellent work they do at the Observatory. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the newly elected Executive Board members Mary Becker, Jim Dole, and Douglas Hicks for their continued dedication and support. The Board then re-elected Paul P. Sipiery as President, Caroline A. Sipiery as Vice-President, Ryan P. Nolan as Treasurer, Andrea M. Nolan as Executive Secretary and Joseph A. Auer, Jr. as Chairman of the Board. The meeting concluded with a review of our plans for 2023 that include cooperative programs with the Putnam and the Yale Peabody museums.

On a personal note, some of the activities that have kept Diane and I busy this past summer have been associated with two of our daughters. First was the return to Galena, IL of our daughter Caroline and the opening of her new successful business venture named Miss Murphy's Bed & Breakfast. Then on September 1<sup>st</sup> our daughter Paula and her husband Cole brought a new PSF member into the world with the birth of Miles S. Feiner. This brings our grandchild number up to four with Miles joining his sister Olivia and his two cousins James and Roc Nolan the sons of daughter Andrea and her husband Ryan. Diane and I could not be a happier pair of grandparents than we are with these four beautiful additions to our family. Still hoping that one of them will one day step on Mars holding pictures of Diane and me.

***Paul P. Sipiery***

# DONORS SPOTLIGHT

## Summer 2022 Contributions

### General Operations

Diane & Paul Szipera  
Linda Virag

### Student Member Sponsorship

Ryan & Andrea Nolan

# MEMBERS CORNER

## RENEWING MEMBERS

### Individual Membership

Jerome Clair  
Nancy Heggem  
George Johnson  
Marsha Prieboy  
Ralph Winrich

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST PSF MEMBER

Paul & Diane Szipera are pleased to announce the addition of their new grandson and newest PSF member. Their daughter and son-in-law, Paula and Cole Feiner, couldn't be happier.



**Miles Szipera Feiner**

**September 1, 2022**

**3:12 p.m.**

**7 lbs 3 oz**

**20 in**



### THANKS FOR VISITING!



*(Left) Paul & Diane Szipera and Judith & Jeff Glenn visiting from New Jersey*



*(Right) Bill & Claudia Gruber, Caroline, Diane & Paul Szipera at Miss Murphy's in Galena, IL*

# PSF 2023 BUDGET

## GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES FOR 2023

*General Office:*

Communications Coordinator =	6,000
Office Support Personnel =	2,000
Internet Services =	1,000
Office Supplies/Maintenance =	500
Newsletter & Postage inclusive =	2,500
	Sub-total = 12,000

*Continuing Programs:*

Putnam Museum & Science Center Exhibits =	2,000
Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History = (Meteorite Transfer)	2,000
Student Meteorite Research Internship =	8,000
Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory =	2,000
	Sub-total = 14,000

*Marketing:*

Meteoritical Society Student Travel Grant =	2,000
	Sub-total = 2,000

## METEORITE RESEARCH

*SELF-FUNDING PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY ANALYTICAL FEES AND SURPLUS SALES BASED ON A PROJECTED NUMBER OF 40 SPECIMENS*

Analytical Services: Brown University & Washington University in St. Louis =	4,000
Sample Preparation (Probe Sections) =	2,000
Research Personnel Compensation =	6,000
	Sub-total = 12,000

**PSF 2023 Budget**

**Grand Total = \$40,000**

## ANTICIPATED INCOME

I. Membership Dues =	2,000
II. Analytical Service Fees =	8,000
III. Donations and Contributions =	28,000
IV. Bank Interest (CD & MM) =	2,000
	<b>Grand Total = \$40,000</b>

**PSF 2023**

**Anticipated Income**

**Grand Total = \$40,000**

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# Linda Virag

*Linda Virag is our featured member for the Fall 2022 issue of PSF News. Linda grew up in Skokie, IL and currently lives in Streamwood, IL.*

**PSF: Can you tell us about your career?**

**LV:** I worked as a field secretary for 3 1/2 years. In 1976 I teamed up with my boss to open a concrete contractor company. We worked out of a janitor's closet. He ran the field and I ran the office. I am still running the office and he retired in 1999. I will retire next year. Our company went from four employees to two hundred. In all those years I went from no one in the industry knowing me to quite a few people knowing me and back to very few people knowing who I am. The upside is now everyone else does my work and I oversee everything. I actually went to Harper College — and met Dr. Sipiera during that time — to learn accounting so I could keep up with my expanding job.

**PSF: Was there ever another profession you wanted to pursue?**

**LV:** No. I loved my job. I grew along with the company and I am very proud to be one of the founders.

**PSF: Do you have any special hobbies or interests?**

**LV:** I loved painting when I was young. I didn't have time to keep up that interest between raising my daughter and working non-stop. I have finally started sketching again and I will start painting again when I retire.

**PSF: Do you have a favorite place you have traveled?**

**LV:** Growing up my family camped our way over a great deal of our country. I loved a place near Indianapolis called Shakamac. It has a lake with platform diving. There's nothing more exciting than jumping off a 32 foot diving board.

**PSF: How did you get involved with the Planetary Studies Foundation?**

**LV:** I joined through Dr. Sipiera and became the Membership Director early on in the organization's existence when I thought I was moving to Florida to be by my daughter. As it turned out, my daughter moved back here.

**PSF: Which is your favorite area of science and why?**

**LV:** I very much like astronomy. I am a dreamer and love everything about outer space. I like to think



Linda Virag

we will inhabit other planets one day.

**PSF: What advice would you give to our young readers and science enthusiasts?**

**LV:** I believe our future lies somewhere other than earth. You can never know enough about what is out there. Keep an open mind and keep learning. Be a part of the future, at the very least make sure you understand what is going on. ♦



# Fifty Years... But Who's Counting?



**By: Avery Engle**

Avery is a junior at River Ridge High School in Hanover, IL. Over the summer, she worked part-time for the PSF and has a love for nature and astronomy.

Two of our PSF members who walked on the moon are Charlie Duke, Apollo 16, and Jack Schmitt, Apollo 17. Duke was the youngest person to walk on the moon, and still is to this day. Charlie flew on April 16th, 1972, and Jack on December 11th, 1972. How extraordinary is it that the last two missions to the moon have included PSF members?

Duke's Apollo 16 crew was John W. Young, Thomas K. Mattingly II, and himself. Charlie and his crew gathered 210 lbs. of moon rocks, 1,774 pictures, and very valuable information. The information they obtained wasn't what NASA

anticipated them getting. NASA sent Duke's crew up to the moon's lunar highlands, which were thought to be volcanic in origin. While the crew was describing the rocks that they were finding in the highlands, they realized that they weren't volcanic at all, but instead they were "breccias" which are types of older rock fused together in the violence of colossal meteorite strikes. This information was valuable to NASA and other scientists in understanding the moon, and

Charlie's legacy continues in science every day.

Jack Schmitt was the first member of NASA's first scientist-astronaut group to fly in space. He is also the only professional scientist to have stepped on the moon. Schmitt and the crew can be thanked for taking one of the most famous and widely distributed photographic images in existence, The Blue Marble.

Also returned from the Moon was a lunar sample described as "the most interesting sample returned from



*"The Blue Marble" — the most widely distributed photograph in history taken during Apollo 17*

the Moon" and is the central piece of evidence that the Moon used to possess an active magnetic field. Saying that Jack Schmitt, one of our very own PSF members, returned the Troctolite 76535 is quite a rarity and pretty astounding.

## **What are Charlie and Jack up to now?**

Charlie is still busy giving presentations and he has been a part of the Zero-G flight experience. He also spends his time with his family, including his wife Dotty, children and grandchildren. Schmitt has spent his time being a consultant in business, geology, space, and public policy. Schmitt is an adjunct professor of engineering physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is still contributing his time to science and his wife Teresa in New Mexico.

After Charlie and Jack's Apollo achievements, NASA hasn't sent



*Charlie Duke*



*Jack Schmitt*



Troctolite 76535

another person to the moon. It has been 50 years since anyone has even touched the moon, yet NASA claims that they are hungry to have astronauts landing on the lunar South Pole by 2024. Will this plan take action and happen in the near future? Who knows, but 50 years is quite some time away from exploration of the moon, and new findings and research is possible. ♦

### Interested in getting published in a future newsletter?

If you have a scientific topic you're interested in sharing with the rest of the membership, please reach out to our editor-in-chief for more details and upcoming content schedule:

Andrea Nolan  
Editor-in-Chief  
amcplanets@gmail.com



## AUTUMN CELESTIAL CALENDAR

### October 8 — Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation

This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

### October 21, 22 — Orionids Meteor Shower

This shower is produced by dust grains left behind by Halley's Comet. It runs from Oct. 2 to Nov. 7 but peaks on the night of Oct. 21. The thin, crescent Moon will make for mostly dark skies and a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight.

### November 8 — Total Lunar Eclipse

A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes completely through the Earth's shadow, or umbra. During this type of eclipse, the Moon will gradually get darker and then take on a rusty or red color — weather permitting. This reddish color is why some people refer to this event as a "Blood Moon". The eclipse will be visible throughout Japan, Australia, the Pacific Ocean, and parts of western and central North America. Visit [Time and Date](#) to check the specifics for your location, including start and end times.

### November 9 — Uranus at Opposition

The blue-green planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view Uranus. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue-green dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

### November 17, 18 — Leonids Meteor Shower

This shower is unique in that it has a cyclonic peak about every 33 years where hundreds of meteors can be seen per hour. The last of these occurred in 2001. The Leonids is produced by dust grains left behind by the Tempel-Tuttle comet, which was discovered in 1865. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Leo, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

### December 8 — Mars at Opposition

The red planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. This is the best time to view and photograph Mars. A medium-sized telescope will allow you to see some of the dark details on the planet's surface.

### December 13, 14 — Geminids Meteor Shower

This shower is considered by many as the "king of showers" producing up to 120 multi-colored meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon. The shower runs from Dec. 7-17, but will peak on the night of the 13th. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Gemini, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

### October 8, November 8 & December 8 — Full Moon

The moon will be fully illuminated by the Sun. This is the best time to view the moon using binoculars or a telescope for maximum lunar detail.

### October 25, November 23 & December 23 — New Moon

The moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This is the best time to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership      \_\_\_ \$ 20.00 1 year    **or** \_\_\_ \$ 35.00 for 2 years  
 Family Membership      \_\_\_ \$ 35.00 1 year    **or** \_\_\_ \$ 60.00 for 2 years  
 Sponsoring Membership   \_\_\_ \$ 50.00 1 year    **or** \_\_\_ \$ 90.00 for 2 years  
 Contributing Membership \_\_\_ \$ 100.00 1 year   **or** \_\_\_ \$180.00 for 2 years  
 Student Membership      \_\_\_ \$ 10.00 1 year  
 Life Membership          \_\_\_ \$ 500.00  
 Please accept this donation \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 10 Winterwood Lane, Unit B  
 Galena, IL 61036

*Our mission is to promote the study of planetary science and astronomy with emphasis on meteorites; and to sponsor, encourage, and assist in the physical, astronomical, environmental, and cultural sciences so as to broaden man's knowledge of all phases of the universe.*

For more information about our mission and upcoming events, visit:

**www.planets.org**



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- **SPREAD THE WORD:** Encourage your family and friends to choose the PSF, too. Amazon earned over \$469 billion in net sales in 2021 alone — help us receive a tiny piece of that pie! It's free to you and helps us earn valuable funds.