MINUTES OF THE 87TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AAVSO, HELD OCTOBER 29–NOVEMBER 1, 1998, IN CAMBRIDGE, MA

Martha L. Hazen
AAVSO Secretary
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

The AAVSO Finance Committee met on Thursday afternoon, October 29. That evening, early comers were treated to a very successful open house and buffet supper at AAVSO Headquarters.

The AAVSO Council met on Friday morning, October 30. On Friday afternoon, participants in the AAVSO meeting were invited to join a field trip to the Boston Museum of Science. That evening, Dr. Gerald J. Fishman presented a very informative and interesting lecture on Gamma Ray Bursts.

The Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 31, was called to order at 9:00 am by President Gary Walker.

Martha Hazen, Secretary, gave a summary of the minutes of the 87th Spring Meeting of the AAVSO in Boulder, Colorado. The minutes were accepted as summarized. The president appointed Bill Dillon, Gerry Samolyk, and Elizabeth Waagen to count the ballots for the Council election.

Treasurer Theodore Wales presented his annual report. He noted that the receipts were very large due to the final distributions from the Clinton B. Ford estate and the Margaret Mayall trust. The proceeds from the C. B. Ford estate were immediately transferred to the C. B. Ford Fund, and the monies from the Mayall trust were transferred to the Endowment Fund. In August, the endowment funds were changed from 75% common stock to 50%, to increase the income. The budget forecasts a small shortfall for fiscal year 1999, but the accumulated income can accommodate such a shortfall for a while.

The following Committee reports were read:

Charge-Coupled Device (CCD)	Gary Walker, Chair
New Charts	Charles Scovil, Chair
Telescope	Charles Scovil, Chair
Chart Distribution	Kerriann Malatesta
Nova Search	Kenneth Beckmann, Chair *(Report read by Daniel Kaiser)*
Photoelectric Photometry	Howard Landis, Chair *(Report summarized by John Percy)*
RR Lyrae	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Eclipsing Binary	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Solar Division	Elizabeth Stephenson, Chair
Supernova Search	Robert Evans, Chair *(Report read by Mario Motta)*

President Walker expressed the AAVSO's thanks to all the committee chairs for their active and excellent work.

Director Mattei read the report of new membership applications approved by the Council of October 30, 1998. Fifty-five applicants were accepted, including two junior members and one sponsored member. Director Mattei noted that the Council also voted John Glenn as a member while he was in orbit. She said that 43% of the applications came through the AAVSO web page. At this time, Director Mattei also noted that Dorrit Hoffleit and the AAVSO were praised in the U.S. *Congressional Record.*

Director Mattei announced the decease of Ronald Zissell's son Scott. The membership stood for a moment of silence in his honor.

Director Mattei then discussed plans for future meetings:

- The Spring 1999 Meeting will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on July 1–7, jointly with the ASP and RASC. The subject of the entire meeting will be "Partners in Astronomy." The membership meeting and paper session for the AAVSO will be on Saturday, July 3. John Percy presented a "travelogue" about Toronto.
- The Council had a lively discussion on meetings, in light of the fact that fall meetings have become almost prohibitively expensive. However, the Council expressed the view that two meetings per year are desirable. It may be possible to use a less costly format. There will be a fall meeting next year, although it may be streamlined. Hawaii may be postponed for a year or two. A working group consisting of Mario Motta, Gary Walker, Rebecca Pellock, and Janet Mattei will study the problem.

Following a short break, Albert Holm announced the results of the Council election. Peter Garnavich, Mario Motta, and Ronald Royer were re-elected, and David Williams was also elected.

Director Janet Mattei presented her annual report. The report in its entirety appears beginning on page 183 of this issue of the *Journal.* Some of the highlights of what was a very exciting and successful year include:

- The 9.0 millionth observation was made by Ronald Zissell.
- Hands-On Astrophysics is complete and is being successfully marketed.
- The AAVSO website now contains all the standard charts, and 7 million observations in the AAVSO International Database can now be accessed via the website in the form of light curves for each star.
- Headquarters has responded to 224 requests for data.
- A partnership was formed with NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center Gamma Ray Bursters team for education and public outreach.
- A large number of publications was produced, including two issues of the *Journal of the AAVSO.*

The Director then presented a short review of her 25 years as head of the AAVSO.

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm, and was followed by a group photograph.

The Scientific Paper Session was held from 1:30 to 5:00 pm. At the beginning, President Walker announced the election by the Council of the following officers for 1998–1999: Gary Walker, President; Lee Anne Willson, 1st Vice President; Daniel Kaiser, 2nd Vice President; Martha Hazen, Secretary; Wayne Lowder, Treasurer; Janet Mattei, Director; and Michael Mattei, Clerk.

Twenty scientific papers were then presented; the list is attached to these minutes. The Banquet was held at 7:00 pm in the Howard Johnson Hotel. Following dinner, the AAVSO Nova Award was awarded to Brett White of Linden, NSW, Australia, for his visual discovery of Supernova 1998dq in NGC 6754. Also, special presentations were made to Ted Wales, who has retired as longtime Treasurer of the AAVSO, and to Janet Mattei, who has completed 25 years of Directorship at the AAVSO.

On Sunday morning, November 1, participants in the meeting were invited on a field trip to the observatories of Gary Walker and Mario Motta.

Papers presented at the Meeting

Richard Stanton	V-Magnitude Experiment—Initial Results
Leif J. Robinson Janet A. Mattei	Amateurs, Neutrinos, and the Next Type II Supernova
Michael Saladyga	The "pre-embryonic" state of the AAVSO: Amateur observers of variable stars in the United States from 1875 to 1911
Barbara L. Welther	The Founding of the AAS: The Status of Amateurs Versus Women
Stephen R. Wilk	Further Mythological Evidence for Ancient Knowledge of Variable Stars
Cullen Blake	The δ Scuti Variable Star V830 Herculis
John R. Percy Jonathan Hale Yvonne Tang	New Insights into RU Cam
Elizabeth Walker	Photometry of CY Aquarii
Stephen P. Cook	A New Period for the Eclipsing Binary V608 Cas
Wayne M. Lowder	Brightenings of Two Eclipsing Variables at Maximum Light
Albert V. Holm	IUE Observations of the Pulsation of RY Sgr
Ronald E. Royer	FG Sge: Amateur Challenge, Professional Enigma
Roger S. Kolman	A Study of the Behavior of W Aql
Dorrit Hoffleit	Hipparcos Versus GCVS Magnitudes of Non-Mira M-Type Giants
Margarita Marinova John R. Percy	AAVSO PEP and Hipparcos Photometry of AG Cet
David B. Williams	Unfinished Business: Luyten's Harvard Variables
Wayne H. Warren, Jr. Christopher B. Sande Alvin C. Miller Allen T. Home David A. Tracewell	A New All-Sky Reference Star Catalog with Variability Data
Grant Foster	The AAVSO Sunspot Program
Casper H. Hossfield	The Zurich Relative Sunspot Numbers: An Easily Duplicated Solar Index
John Pazmino	New York's New Hayden Planetarium

List of New Members accepted at the Meeting

Adduci, Richard	WI	Moder, Ed	IL
Agravante, Mariecor B.	Guam	Morden, Jasen	Canada
Ayres, Christopher	CA	O'Connor, Vilma Caroline	MA
Babcock, Arthur	CA	O'Meara, Stephen James	HI
Bagnasco, Paolo	Italy	Orzechowski, Joseph E.	NY
Brannan, Donald	MS	Patterson, Joseph O.	NY
Budnik, Scott Jerome	NV	Piccirillo, Ronald	CA
Chumack, John	OH	Prosser, Karen	CA
Cliché, Peter	Canada	Rego, Guillermo E.	Uruguay
Corriveau, Stephan	MD	Robertson, Jeff	AR
Crino, Peter	NJ	Robinson, Steve	MD
Dittmer Sr., Richard G.	GA	Roe, James M.	MO
Duckett, Kermit Earl	TN	Santangelo, Thomas	PA
Dunkin, Randall Carl	OH	Schomer, James W.	WA
Eyuboglu High School	Turkey	Shackleford, David	CA
Fletcher, Thomas L.	OH	Simmons II, Robert L.	CA
Fosdick, Stephen	MA	Sion, Edward M.	PA
Glennon, Mary	Ireland	Stonecipher, Ray	WI
Goodwin, John	MA	Sullivan, Kaye	CT
Gottschalk, Steven Craig	IA	Sumner, Larry D.	VA
Grida, Joe	Australia	Szaj, Robert	Poland
Griffin, Rita Elizabeth Mary	UK	Trantow, Donald F.	WA
Hamilton, David W.	NE	Trapp, Dale M.	MN
Harvey, Richard	Canada	Unrue, Kevin	TX
Husar, Dieter	Germany	Van Hecke, Bayard	NY
Kelts, Blaine	Canada	Wolff, Douglas	CT
Matejcik, Pete	MI	Woodland, Ronald B.	MA
McEntee, Jesse	VT		

List of Members changing from Annual to Sustaining

Card Jr., Richard C.	NC	Martin, Robert	IL
Davis, Richard G.	MA	Norris, Paul	MA
Kasai, Kiyoshi	Switzerland		

List of Deceased Members/Observers

Zissell, Scott	MA

AAVSO Nova Award Recipients (presented at the 87th Annual meeting in Cambridge, MA, October 31, 1998)

Brett White of Linden, New South Wales, Australia, for his discovery of Supernova 1998dq in NGC 6754 on August 23.4 1998 UT.