



DDA Secretary's Annual Report – 2012

Alice K. B. Monet

Term: 1 July 2009-present

I. Membership

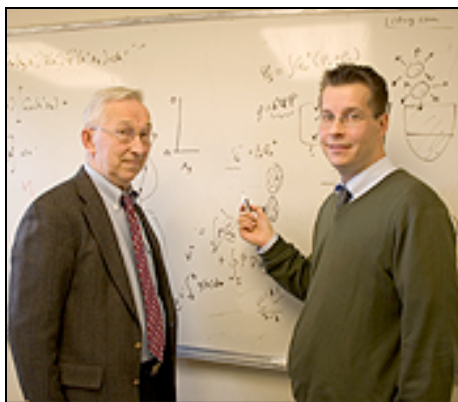
The ongoing effort to reconcile the Division's membership records with the Society's membership database continued. At the time of this report, the AAS database lists DDA members in the following categories:

Full	188
Junior	26
Affiliate	23
Emeritus	47
TOTAL	311

This total, obtained using the AAS Membership Directory search tool, exceeds the sum of the four types of members by 27. This implies the existence of a previously unsuspected class of “dark matter” members! Further research is underway.

The Division's records include a total 323 members. The list may include members who are not current on their dues, or who have joined very recently and do not yet appear in the AAS database. In an effort to eliminate the sources of error, the Secretary recommended that all DDA members check their official membership status on the AAS website, and report any problems directly to the Membership Office. A few discrepancies were discovered. The AAS Membership Office has been very helpful in the effort to verify membership status and to make corrections as needed.

The death of one Division member has been reported since the last annual meeting. Kim Innanen, Professor Emeritus, York University, passed away on August 3, 2011.



Kim Innanen with son, Kris.

II. Quarterly Committee meetings

Following the AAS Leadership Conference in October 2011, attended by the DDA Secretary and Treasurer, the decision was made to hold more frequent meetings of the DDA Committee via telephone and/or Skype. The intention was to engage the members of the Committee more actively in division governance and decision-making, to make better use of their expertise and enthusiasm, and to enable the division to grow and evolve to meet its members' needs.

The first two meetings, held on 14 February 2012 and April 23, 2012 were well-attended. The minutes of these meetings are available from the Secretary.

III. By-laws Modifications

Three modifications were suggested. One of these involved the financial controls to be set up and used to insure that the annual meetings stay within pre-approved budgets and do not result in deficits. The other two modifications referred to the nomination of candidates and the election procedures. These proposed modifications will be presented to the membership at the annual business meeting, and to the AAS Executive Committee for approval. If approved, the modifications will be put to a vote by the membership, as required in the bylaws of the division.

IV. Meeting Planning & Organization

The DDA Executive Committee drafted a Meeting Planning Checklist (latest version attached) to aid in organizing the division's annual meeting. When a final version has been accepted by the committee, this checklist will be made available to anyone planning to host a meeting, to ensure that potential hosts have an accurate understanding of the work involved in organizing a successful meeting, and to ensure that all essential elements are addressed in the planning process.

V. Elections & Appointments

A total of 110 ballots was received, all but one via email. Approximately 35% of division members voted. The current and former DDA Secretaries counted the ballots independently.

On this year's ballot, the six candidates for the three open committee positions were listed as a group, and members could vote for no more than three. It turned out there was a tie for the third highest number of votes, and this tie was not changed by the Chair's ballot. Ultimately, the tie was broken by a coin toss, as the bylaws did not provide for another method.

This unusual situation occurred because the ballot did not require a choice between two candidates for each of three open positions on the committee, which has been the usual procedure for a number of years. When the candidates were paired, the Chair's ballot would break any ties. This election experience prompted a review of the bylaws regarding elections, and led to one of the modifications being proposed.

New Officers (terms begin 1 July 2012):

CHAIR (2012-2013)	Douglass P. Hamilton	(Univ. of Maryland)
VICE CHAIR (2012-2013)	Matija Cuk	(SETI)
SECRETARY (2012-2015)	Alice Monet	(USNO, Ret.)
COMMITTEE (2012-2014)	Eugene Fahnstock Jennifer Meyer Michele Trenti	(JPL) (UC Santa Barbara) (Cambridge, UK)
PAST CHAIR (2011-2012)	Daniel Scheeres	(Univ. of Colorado)

Continuing Officers:

TREASURER (2010-2013)	William I. Newman	(UCLA)
COMMITTEE (2011-2013)	Ruth Murray-Clay Matt Hedman Jerry Sellwood	(Harvard CfA) (Cornell Univ.) (Rutgers Univ.)

Retiring Officers:

Steve Chesley	(JPL)
Martin Duncan	(Queen's University)
Nader Haghighipour	(Univ. of Hawaii IfA)

Brouwer Award Selection Committee:

Continuing: Yanquin Wu (U Toronto), Jack Wisdom (MIT), Tom Statler (NSF)
Appointed in 2012: Lia Athanassoula (Obs Astronomique de Marseille) +

Student Stipend Committee:

Continuing: Rory Barnes (U Washington) +
Appointed in 2012:

Nominating Committee:

Continuing: Kelly Holley-Bockelmann (Vanderbilt), David Nesvorny (SWRI)
Appointed in 2012:

History Committee:

Continuing: James Hilton