

**About the  
American  
Astronomical  
Society**



***An overview for AAS Agents***

# The AAS

---



- Founded in 1899
- Non-profit corporation
- Executive Office on K Street NW in Washington, DC
- Governed by a 19-member Board of Trustees\*, with Trustees elected from the membership via a nominating committee
- Six topical Divisions
- Corporate member of the American Institute of Physics (AIP)

# \*Transition Period

---



**By 2020**, the Board of Trustees shall gradually decrease in size from 19 members to 11 members.

**In 2018**, 3 *Councilors*, whose terms are scheduled to expire in 2018—along with the Executive Officer, the Education Officer, and the Chair of the Publications Board in their capacity as members of the governing board of the Society—shall be replaced by 2 At-Large Trustees for a term of three years (reducing the size of the Board of Trustees to 15);

# \*Transition Period

---



**In 2019**, 3 *Councilors*, whose terms are scheduled to expire in 2019, shall be replaced by 1 At-Large Trustee for a term of three years, and an election shall be held for Secretary (reducing the size of the Board of Trustees to 13); and

**In 2020**, 3 At-Large Trustees, whose terms will expire in 2020, shall be replaced by 1 At-Large Trustee for a term of three years, and an election shall be held for Treasurer (reducing the size of the Board of Trustees to 11).

# Mission

---



The mission of the AAS is to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe.



**AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

Enhancing and sharing humanity's scientific understanding of the universe since 1899.

# Officers & Council



<b>President</b>	Christine Jones
<b>President-Elect or Past President</b>	Megan Donahue (President Elect)
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Senior VP: Chick Woodward Second VP: James D. Lowenthal Third VP: Michael Strauss
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nancy D. Morrison
<b>Secretary</b>	G. Fritz Benedict
<b>Education Officer</b>	Charles Liu
<b>Trustees</b>	Daniela Calzetti Nancy Chanover Sally Oey Adam Burgasser Jessica Kirkpatrick Stuart Vogel Marcel Agüeros Kelle Cruz Kelsey Johnson
<b>Executive Officer</b>	Kevin Marvel

# Strategic Assembly

---



**The Strategic Assembly (SA)** is composed of the

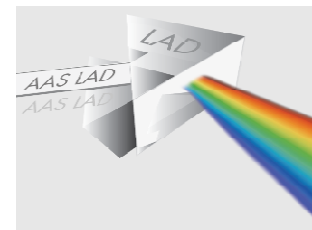
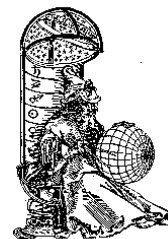
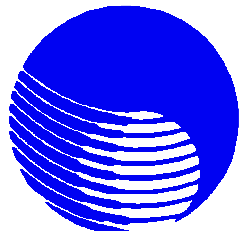
- Members of the Board of Trustees
- Chairs of the Society's six Divisions
- Chairs of the Society's Committees

**The SA** ensures board, representative, and diverse input into the long-range planning of the Society.

# Divisions



- Division on Dynamical Astronomy (DDA)
- Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS)
- High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD)
- Historical Astronomy Division (HAD)
- Laboratory Astrophysics Division (LAD)
- Solar Physics Division (SPD)





# AAS Directors



## Executive Officer

Kevin Marvel, [kevin.marvel@aas.org](mailto:kevin.marvel@aas.org)

## Deputy Executive Officer/Director, Public Policy

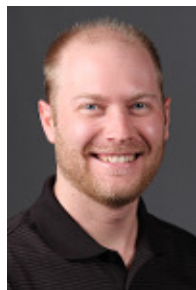
Joel Parriott, [joel.parriott@aas.org](mailto:joel.parriott@aas.org)

## Chief Financial & Operating Officer

Kelly Clark, [kelly.clark@aas.org](mailto:kelly.clark@aas.org)

## Director of Meeting Services

Vacant



## Director of Membership Services

Diane Frendak, [diane.frendak@aas.org](mailto:diane.frendak@aas.org)

## Director of Information Technology

Scott Idem, [scott.idem@aas.org](mailto:scott.idem@aas.org)

## Director of Publishing

Julie Steffen, [julie.steffen@aas.org](mailto:julie.steffen@aas.org)

## Press Officer

Rick Fienberg, [rick.fienberg@aas.org](mailto:rick.fienberg@aas.org)

# Journals



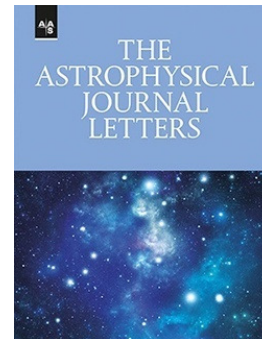
The AAS publishes *The Astronomical Journal*, *The Astrophysical Journal*, *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, and *The Astrophysical Journal Supplement*.

As of 2015, the AAS Journals are only published electronically.

All AAS Journals are delayed open access, with a 12-month proprietary period.

AAS Nova ([aasnova.org](http://aasnova.org)) is a website providing highlights of recent articles from AAS Journals that might otherwise be overlooked.

[journals.aas.org](http://journals.aas.org)





# AUTHORS

AAS authors by region in 2013



# 8 AUTHORS PER PAPER

Avg. number of AAS authors in 2013



# 10 DOWNLOADS EVERY MINUTE

AAS article downloads in 2013



4,135

Total AAS articles, figures and tables in 2013



54,248

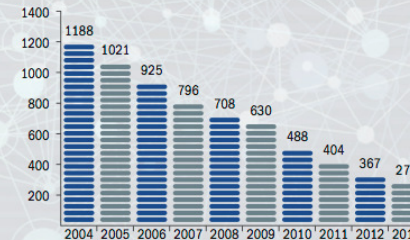


10,447

## Total print circulation over the last decade

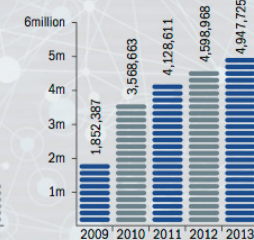


The Astronomical Journal



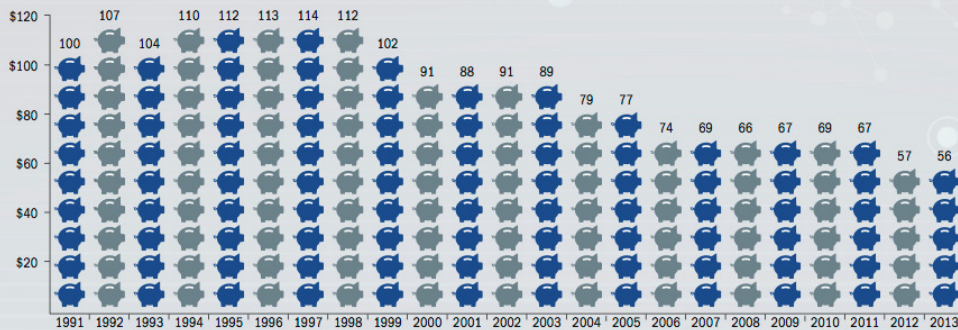
The Astrophysical Journal

## PDF downloads



AAS Journals

## Avg. authors fee per page in 2013



Inflation adjusted figures

# TOP 10 A&A Journals

## Top 10 Journals (by citations)

- 1 Astrophysical Journal 191,940
- 5 Astrophysical Journal Letters 45,993
- 6 Astronomical Journal 34,668
- 7 Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series 24,764

Total = 674,187 / AAS share = 297,365 (44%)

# Meetings



The AAS holds a winter and summer meeting each year that include:

- Plenary talks from major prize winners and invited speakers
- Town Halls with federal agencies and national observatories
- Special Sessions proposed by members
- Workshops held before or after the meeting
- Professional Development sessions organized by AAS and committees
- Additional events, such as meetings-in-a-meeting and receptions

[aas.org/meetings/meeting-services](https://aas.org/meetings/meeting-services)

# Public Policy



Public Policy activities are overseen by the AAS Council and the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) and include:

- Coordinating visits with policy makers
- Representing AAS in public policy settings
- Regular activities intended to influence decision-making related to astronomy



AAS members, Congressional Visits Day, March 2014

The fundamental guiding principle is do no harm and take grassroots action only when tangible results are likely.

[aas.org/policy](http://aas.org/policy)

# Education

---



- Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureship Program
  - Two-day visits to colleges by professional astronomers
- Chambliss Astronomy Student Poster Awards
  - For exemplary research by undergraduate & graduate students who present a poster at an AAS meeting
- Workshop for New Faculty in Physics and Astronomy
  - Held each year with the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society
- Astronomy Ambassadors Program
  - Workshops for early-career astronomers to improve their ability to communicate with students and the public

Gina Brissenden, Education & Outreach Coordinator  
[gina.brissenden@aaas.org](mailto:gina.brissenden@aaas.org)

[aaas.org/education](http://aaas.org/education)

# Media Relations

---



- Overseen by the AAS Board of Trustees, implemented by the Press Officer
- The AAS runs a vetted press-release distribution service for the astronomical sciences, with about 1,200 releases per year to approximately 2,000 journalists and public information officers.
- The AAS holds press conferences at each meeting.
- The AAS issues its own press releases related to Society activities, but not related to science done by our members (those are issued by members' home institutions).

Rick Fienberg, Press Officer

[rick.fienberg@aas.org](mailto:rick.fienberg@aas.org)

[aas.org/about/media-press](http://aas.org/about/media-press)

# Grants & Prizes

---



- **The AAS operates a travel grant program for conferences held beyond the United States**
  - Supported by the NSF
  - Two rounds of selections per year
  - Extra support for travel to the IAU General Assembly
- **The AAS awards numerous prizes to recognize a variety of activities by individuals who further our discipline**
  - Nominations are due 30 June each year
  - Selected by committees, approved by the Board of Trustees

[aas.org/grants-and-prizes/aas-prizes-and-awards](https://aas.org/grants-and-prizes/aas-prizes-and-awards)



# Employment / Professional Development

---



Committees offering advice for launching and shaping a rewarding career:

- Committee on Employment
- Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA)
- Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA)

The AAS also offers:

- Resources for careers in both academic and nonacademic settings
- Links to hubs and blogs for peer-to-peer networking
- Valuable career-oriented speakers and sessions
- AAS Job Register – the go-to source for jobs in the astronomical sciences
- Career Services at each winter meeting

[aas.org/careers](https://aas.org/careers)

# Why Students Should Join the AAS

---



- Guaranteed paper slot at each AAS meeting
- Substantial discounts on AAS and Division meeting registration
- Access to professional development and career resources
- And much more!

[aas.org/individual-membership/benefits-membership](https://aas.org/individual-membership/benefits-membership)

# Voting & Why to Vote

---



- The AAS election is held each December and voting concludes in January
  - Nominations for each position are generated by the Nominating Committee
  - Newly elected leaders take office in June

## ■ Why Vote?

Your dues, your **publication charges**, your meeting **speakers** and formats, your **representation** in Washington, your **employment** and **education** resources – **YOUR SOCIETY** – depends on *your* elected representatives.

# Being an Agent

---



Being an AAS Agent is about:

- Educating your colleagues about the AAS
- Informing them of benefits and deadlines
- Recruiting new members
- Providing feedback to leadership
- Suggesting initiatives to serve members
- Rallying colleagues for rare Action Alerts
- Making the Society better and more relevant

Learn more at  
[aas.org/agents](https://aas.org/agents)