

# Stephen Levine: Candidate for Nominating Committee



**Affiliation:** Lowell Observatory

**Position/Title:** Astronomer & Lowell Discovery Telescope Scientist

**PhD institution:** University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1992

## **Areas of scientific interest:**

I maintain interests in a range of areas from studies of small bodies in the outer Solar System, to kinematic and dynamic investigation of the structure and evolution of lopsided and irregular galaxies, to astronomical instrumentation and large scale and all sky surveys.

## **AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:**

- Chair, 2008, Committee on Student Participation, Division on Dynamical Astronomy
- Member, 2007, Committee on Student Participation, Division on Dynamical Astronomy
- Member, 2001, Nominating Committee, Division on Dynamical Astronomy

## **Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:**

- Visiting Astronomer, 2009 – 2010, American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) *\*While in residence at the AAVSO headquarters, we began work on what has become APASS, the AAVSO Photometric All-Sky Survey.*
- Astronomer, 1997 – 2010, US Naval Observatory, Flagstaff Station *\*Part of the team responsible for the production and distribution of the USNO-A and -B all sky catalogs. Also responsible for overhauling the observatory's telescope and camera control system software.*
- Investigador, 1993 – 1997, Observatorio Astronómico Nacional, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) *\*Part of a group interested in numerical simulations of galaxy – galaxy interactions.*

## **Statement:**

The AAS nominating committee is charged with finding and nominating leaders for the society and our broader scientific community. To do so in a way that provides effective representation

for all of us is a challenge that requires an appreciation of the many different paths and disciplines that we each have followed.

Over the course of my own career, I have crossed disciplines and communities. The variety of my experiences have taught me of the many backgrounds and approaches to astronomy. I began as a student working on occultations by planetary rings. My interest in disk systems and dynamics took me into numerical simulations of galaxy systems, followed by work on large observational surveys (e.g., USNO-B, APASS). I branched out into telescope and camera control systems (first at USNO and then with the commissioning of the Lowell Discovery Telescope, and leading an observatory technical support group). Along the way, I have taught at UNAM, NAU and the Summer Science Program (for rising high school seniors). Each area has given me the opportunity to work with different groups with different backgrounds — scientists (professional and citizen), engineers, students, administrators, and educators. The common thread through this is the need to communicate effectively, both listening and understanding and responding appropriately.

It is this background that I believe would allow me to serve the AAS well in seeking out and encouraging broader participation in the leadership of our community.