

FROM THE SOVERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

9 November 2009

SoVerA is entering into a new and exciting phase of its growth. As we move toward full 501(c)(3) status, we will become a bona fide astronomy/science education organization.

Here are some of what we will be offering to our members:

- Public star parties *
- Seminars on "how-to" of astronomy
- Special offerings on astronomy merchandise
- Astronomy email list
- Research group participation
- Film/dinner/star party nights
- Special events and projects
- Monthly public astronomy presentations *
- Special guest speakers *
- Field trips – first ones early in the new year
- Observing sessions
- Educational seminars at local schools
- Resource web site

**Generally open to the public*

How do we best provide all of this activity while protecting our organizational interests? With this level of dedication, come costs. Our expenses, while not towering, must include insurance and operating costs, as well as publicity of upcoming programs and paying some costs for special events in the New Year.

It has come time to begin charging dues to help cover these expenses so that we can continue to bring you the best programming that we can, as well as help with astronomy education programs for area students.

The board has evaluated and established an appropriate fee structure to apply. The rates are shown below. If you decide not to continue with us, *then you need to do nothing*; and as of the 1 January, those who have not paid their membership will simply be dropped from the astronomy email list.

If you do wish to continue with us, then refer to the rates below and mail in your information and check (don't mail cash, we will accept that only in person, and provide you a receipt directly) as described.

We believe we have come up with numbers that will not chase you away, and yet hopefully enable us to pay our bills. It seems a pretty reasonable deal given that we will all share in learning about all of existence.

We hope each and every one of you will want to support what is effectively *your* organization as it becomes a bigger and better one. We look forward to calling you all "members of SoVerA".

Thank you all so much and clear skies ahead!

SoVerA Board of Directors:
Claudio Véliz, President
Donna Monahan, Vice President
Catherine Stewart, Treasurer
Patrick Porch, Secretary

SoVerA Advisory Panel:
Jonathan Kemp, Technology
Jennifer Harper, Publicity

SOVERA ANNUAL DUES STRUCTURE:

Beginning 1 December 2009, SoVerA will commence Membership Fees as follows:

Individual Membership:	\$25.00
Student Membership:	\$20.00
Family Membership (immediate family):	\$35.00
Senior Membership (65 and over):	\$20.00

- All membership fees are due by 31 December for the upcoming calendar year.
- Renewals will also be due by 31 December each subsequent year.
- At this time we can accept only cash and personal checks with an imprinted address.

Please make payments to "SoVerA, Inc." and send together with the form below to:

SoVerA
PO Box 424
Chester, VT 05143

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Category of Membership applying for: _____

If Family Membership, please list additional immediate family members' names:

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

(None of this information will ever be distributed beyond internal SoVerA administrative use without your prior written permission.)