ARTICLE I.  NAME

The name of the Society shall be the “Delaware Astronomical Society”.

ARTICLE II.  PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society shall be to encourage interest, and to advance education and scientific knowledge, in the subject of astronomy.

ARTICLE III.  MEMBERSHIP

A. Application for Membership

Any interested person may become a member upon submission of a completed membership form and payment of dues.

B. Categories of Membership

1. Senior Membership (voting) is open to those who have formally joined the Society and are in good standing. A Senior Member shall be at least sixteen years old. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Chairs are open only to Senior Members.

2. Junior Membership (non-voting) is open to individuals through the age of fifteen.

3. Family Membership is accorded to families of Senior Members who desire active participation in the Society.

4. Distinguished Membership is accorded those members who have rendered a distinct and special service to the Society. Election to the Distinguished Membership roster shall be by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

5. Honorary Membership is awarded those individuals who have made a distinct service to the Society or advanced its purposes and goals.
ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

The functions of the Society shall be carried out by the Board of Directors, which shall be composed of the following:

A. Officers of the Society

1. The President shall be the chief executive officer and shall preside at meetings of the Society, appoint chairpersons of any and all standing committees, act as ex-officio member of standing committees, implement all decisions voted by the Board of Directors and the general membership, and carry out such other duties as may be prescribed elsewhere in these By-Laws.

2. The Vice-President shall assist the President in all duties and, in the President’s absence, assume such duties as may be prescribed here and elsewhere in these By-Laws.

3. The Secretary shall take minutes of all meetings of the Society for review at the next following general meeting, carry on all business correspondence on behalf of the Society, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed elsewhere in these By-Laws.

4. The Treasurer shall collect, disburse, and keep records of the funds of the Society, report the financial status of the Society at each regular meeting, and carry out such other duties as may be prescribed elsewhere in these By-Laws.

B. Committee Chairpersons (Standing Committee)

1. The Observatory Committee Chairperson shall preside over the Observatory Committee, responsible for the security and maintenance of all of the Society’s equipment, including the Observatory building, its contents and other portable equipment owned by the Society.

2. The Library Committee Chairperson shall preside over the Library Committee, responsible for maintenance of the Society’s library resources.

3. The Education Committee Chairperson shall preside over the Education Committee, responsible for educational activities of the Society, including star parties, courses for junior astronomers, and other similar programs.

4. The Publications Committee Chairperson shall preside over the Publications Committee, responsible for preparation and distribution of the Society newsletter (The Focus) and other publications.
5. **The Observing Committee Chairperson** shall preside over the Observing Committee, responsible for informing the Society membership of astronomy-related phenomena and events and to keep such records as appropriate or requested by the Board of Directors.

C. **Board Members Elected at Large**

Three members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at large from the Senior Membership of the Society.

**ARTICLE V. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Official business of the Society shall be transacted only during meetings of the Board of Directors or at general meetings of the Society, and all decisions shall be made in accordance with these By-Laws.

A. **Meetings**

1. General meetings shall be held the third Tuesday of the month unless otherwise specified by written notice to the Membership. There shall be a minimum of nine general meetings in one year, weather permitting. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall precede the general meetings, but the Board may specify meetings on further occasions as necessary for deliberation and decision-making upon proper prior notice to the Membership.

2. A regularly constituted Board of Directors meeting requires a quorum consisting of one more than half of its sitting members.

3. No individual may hold simultaneously more than one position on the Board of Directors.

B. **Finances**

1. Disbursement of Society funds shall be made by check issued by the Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall review expenditures at each of its regular meetings.

2. The schedule of dues for the several categories of membership shall be established by majority decision of the Board of Directors. Any member sixty days in arrears shall be notified that he/she is no longer a member in good standing and shall be ineligible to vote or to hold office. Any member ninety days in arrears shall be dropped from the membership roster. Membership dues in all categories may include subscriptions to such publications and other benefits as determined by the Board of Directors.
C. **Elections**

1. The Officers of the Society shall be elected as specified in these By-Laws for terms of two years. Each term shall begin on July 1 of the even-numbered years.

2. The three at large members of the Board of Directors of the Society shall be elected as specified in the By-Laws for terms of two years. Each term shall begin on July 1 of the odd-numbered years.

3. In January of each year, the acting Executive Officer shall appoint an Election Committee Chair who shall form an Election Committee. The Election Committee shall submit its slate to the Senior Membership at the April General Meeting and publish it in the April issue of the Society newsletter. The Election Committee may accept additional nominations from the floor at the meeting upon written permission of the intended nominee and a second from the floor.

4. Ballots shall be mailed to each Senior Member and the identity of the voting member shall not be indicated thereon. Ballots shall be returned by mail or in person to the Election Committee Chair on or before May 31. The three Board Members At Large shall be determined by a plurality of the ballots received and shall take office July 1.

5. Should it become necessary to fill an unexpired term among the Board of Directors of the Society, the acting Executive Officer shall appoint a replacement to serve out the unexpired term.

D. **General**

1. The Society shall maintain a post office box to provide a permanent mailing address. This address is P.O. Box 652, Wilmington, DE 19899.

2. The Constitution and the By-Laws were originally adopted in December 1958. These were consolidated into a single set of By-Laws in August 1972, when the Society formed a corporation exclusively for scientific and educational purposes. These By-Laws were amended and updated: May 1975, September 1995, October 1999.

**ARTICLE VI. AFFILIATION**

The Society may affiliate with other organizations for mutually beneficial purposes at the discretion of a majority of the Board of Directors.
ARTICLE VII. CONTRIBUTIONS

A. Unspecified Gifts

1. The Society may accept contributions, in money or in kind, consistent with its philosophy and purpose, upon the acceptance of a majority of the sitting members of the Board of Directors.

2. The Treasurer shall issue to the grantor (or his or her estate) a receipt acknowledging a fair market value for tax or other purposes.

B. Specified Gifts

1. The President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Board, an Awards Committee Chairperson, who shall take due care to observe the Awards Committee Charter.

2. Anyone wishing to make a specified contribution shall inform the President, who shall convey this information to the Board of Directors and the Awards Committee Chair at the next Board meeting.

3. At the earliest convenient time the Awards Committee Chair will provide a statement and a recommendation to the Board regarding the relationship of the named award to the philosophy and purposes of the Society, its feasibility, and the likelihood of its being self supporting.

4. If, in the opinion of the Board, the objectives of the gift are consistent with the philosophy and purpose of the Society, the proposed award or action shall be approved by a majority vote of its sitting members. It shall thereafter bear the imprimatur of the Delaware Astronomical Society.

5. Notice of the establishment of the award, and information regarding its nature and purpose, shall be published in the next following issue of the Society newsletter.

6. Should a majority of the sitting Board not approve the terms of the contribution, the initiating person or persons may resubmit the proposal to the President for reconsideration.

7. Upon approval of the specified award or action, the Treasurer, as administrator of all Society funds, shall take care to establish a separate account to receive and disburse its funds.

8. The Treasurer shall issue to the grantor (or his or her estate) a receipt acknowledging a fair market value for tax or other purposes.
9. All decisions regarding the execution of the terms of a specified award shall reside in the Awards Committee Chair, with the concurrence of the President, but all disbursals of funds shall require the approval of the Treasurer.

10. Should at some time the funding for a specified award expire, the Treasurer shall so inform the President, who shall make such notice an agenda item at the earliest convenient meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board may continue funding a specified award upon a three-quarters vote of its sitting members by sealed ballot.

11. The Publications Committee Chair shall publish in the September and January issues of the Society newsletter information regarding the nature and selection criteria for all Society awards.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws can be amended in accordance with the following steps:

1. The Officers and the Board Members at Large of the Society shall constitute a By-Laws Revision Committee.

2. A proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Revision Committee through the President.

3. The proposed amendment shall be subject to approval of the Revision Committee by majority vote of its sitting members. In the event of disapproval, the proposed amendment may be carried forward to appear as an agenda item on the next meeting of the Board of Directors, where a three-quarters majority vote of its sitting members can override the Revision Committee.

4. Upon approval, the Secretary shall submit the proposed amendment for publication in the Society newsletter.

5. The proposed amendment shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote by secret written ballot of the Senior Membership present at the next regularly constituted General Meeting.