

## Secretary - Steve Dubois

Greetings, MAPS Members. As most of you know I have served as your Secretary on the Executive Board for the last two terms and hope to earn your vote to remain with the organization in this capacity for the upcoming term. I bring with me 28 years of experience as a planetarian both at the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium in Buffalo, NY as well as (much more recently) the Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium in Williamsville, NY. Throughout my years I have used both opto-mechanical and digital equipment as well as many outreach opportunities teaching under the authentic sky at local summer camps for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. An advocate of both new technology and traditional educational values, I believe that, first and foremost, a planetarium should replicate the experience of viewing the night sky under perfect conditions. In other words, the stars should always be central focus of any planetarium and that enriching the lives of the visitors, through deepened understanding of the skies above, is of key importance.

My background is somewhat unique. I have been around my hometown Planetarium for my entire life. When the Buffalo State College Planetarium opened in 1964, my father Robert, a physics professor, was asked to be co-administrator of the new facility. Two years later, the late Dr. James Orgren replaced my father and accepted the newly created position of full-time Director. During the many times when I would travel with my father to campus, a visit under the dome with "Dr. O". was always a highlight. As a young teenager, I began to learn the night sky and, after the summer of 1983, I set my goals on seriously studying astronomy. It was inevitable that I would again cross paths with the rebuilt and renamed Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium when I began my first semester of college at Buffalo State in 1986. I joined the Astronomy Club and held many key positions throughout my college years including Vice President and President. In 1987, I was formally trained as an operator/educator and I have been working at the planetarium ever since. Being in a small university dome, I've had to wear many hats over the years. I have created curriculum, authored and directed several multi-media presentations while also working as production designer and illustrator. My greatest passion associated with this field, though, is music/soundtrack scoring and I have served as music director on most every show with which I have been involved. I have also composed original music for 8 planetarium productions, both locally and abroad, and always welcome the challenges associated with bringing diverse space science topics to life sonically. In the mid 1990's, Paul Krupinski created a planetarium show production company called Ancient Eyes Productions and I worked with Paul on a major release that was distributed all over North America which I co-wrote, co-illustrated and scored called Mister Frost and the Skies of Winter. Paul and I continued working with creating and introducing a line of educational items for gift shops (such as astronomer pencils & erasers and our best-selling "Moonphaser" pencils.) All of these diverse experiences have made me an extremely well-rounded candidate because I have worked within many facets of this field. For the last two years, I have co-chaired the MAPS subcommittee for our grant program with Kristen Chon and Sue Button. We evaluate the grant submissions and decide upon the level of funding to offer.

To me being on the Executive Board is an opportunity to be a part of something where I can make a difference. Believe me, if any of you have ever spoken to me during the conferences and voiced praise, concerns, constructive criticism or provided ideas to improve the organization,

that I have always communicated such feedback to the Board. Most importantly, is that I see MAPS as a community. I have enjoyed learning from you in your talks and presentations, conversing with you at banquets, meeting with our ever-supportive vendors and also sharing with all of you over these past years (while both on and off the Executive board) my presentations such as "Are We Obsolete?", "Props in the Dark" and "Scoring for Science." I hope that you will re-elect me so that I may continue my involvement with MAPS: an organization which I care about so deeply. I view my position as much more than recording notes and typing minutes. I, as well as all of the Board, believe in working as a team to make MAPS the very best it can be. I feel that I have a lot more to give to this team and hope you will feel the same way. I will represent well the mission statement of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society and you, the membership. Thank you in advance for your continued support!