

2019 Advocacy Annual Report for IDA Massachusetts

January 31, 2020

This report is dedicated to the memory of Alan Rifkin of South Hadley, MA, who for decades worked tirelessly to support IDA and light-pollution awareness before his untimely death on November 26, 2019

Chapter Officers

President:	Prof. James Lowenthal (jamesastron@gmail.com)
Vice President:	Timothy Brothers (bro@mit.edu)
Treasurer:	Dr. Michael Person (mjperson@mit.edu)
Secretary:	Dr. Nancy Morrison (nancyastro126@gmail.com)
Communications:	J. Kelly Beatty (kbeatty@darksky.org)

Chapter Communications

<https://idamass.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DarkSkyMA/>

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ida-massachusetts>

Chapter Structure & Finances

IDA-MA maintains, through IDA Headquarters, LLC status in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It has established a checking account for handling incidental income and expenses, though at present IDA-MA is not soliciting chapter memberships distinct from IDA itself. A financial report for 2019 is attached as Appendix A

Chapter Membership

As of September 4, 2019, IDA had 165 active members in Massachusetts. All of these individuals are considered members of IDA-MA, whose officers occasionally send out emails to the entire list. Separately, we maintain a list-serv via Google Groups, which currently has 84 members, 15 of whom joined during 2019.

Although Massachusetts is a relatively small state, it has geographical “divisions” that do not routinely interact. So we have established ties with light-pollution activists with good geographical separation: Greater Boston, MetroWest Boston, North Shore, South Shore, western Massachusetts, and Cape Cod.

The chapter holds a monthly meeting via teleconferencing that is announced and open to all members of the Google Groups list.

IDA-MA Annual Meeting

Our second annual meeting, on September 7, 2019, drew roughly 25 chapter members from around the state. Held at the Boston headquarters of the Appalachian Mountain Club, it featured an especially strong set of speakers:

- Ruskin Hartley, IDA Executive Director
- John Judge, Executive Director, Appalachian Mountain Club
- Dr. Chuck Czeisler, Baldino Professor of Sleep Medicine, Harvard Medical School
- Cara Goodman, coordinator of LED streetlights program, Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
- Leo Smith, IDA's Northeast coordinator

James Lowenthal, IDA-MA's President, detailed the chapter's recent activities and future plans. Afterward, officers met with Ruskin Hartley to discuss chapter activities and relevant topics.

Key Activities in 2019

Statewide legislation

Our major initiative in 2019 was advocating for statewide legislation co-authored by IDA-MA members Glenn Heinmiller, Kelly Beatty, and Mario Motta. If enacted, this bill will create the first statewide 3000K CCT maximum for state and municipal exterior-lighting installations. It would also require the Dept. of Public Utilities to establish rate tariffs for low-wattage streetlights and those with wireless-network control. Finally, it requires the Department of Transportation to adopt best practices for roadway lighting and to employ passive safety and wayfinding measures where appropriate.

Identical versions were submitted in the House and Senate, with a total of 26 co-sponsors; full text of the bill is available at <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1937>.

At a public hearing on May 30, 2019, James Lowenthal, Timothy Brothers, Leo Smith, and Kelly Beatty presented testimony to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. Since then, both IDA-MA officers and members have advocated strongly for the bills' passage.



We await the bills' transfer to Ways and Means Committee for further consideration.

Stakeholder Engagement in 2019

IDA-MA made significant progress in engaging outdoor-lighting stakeholders. Most significantly, chapter officers partnered with the Massachusetts Municipal Association (mma.org), which represents municipal governments for the state's 351 cities and towns, to create "best practice" policies that have been distributed to MMA's membership; see <https://is.gd/XVO5G9>. We have also forged close collaborations with the national office of the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Massachusetts chapter of the Sierra Club.

Individual IDA-MA members made dozens of presentations to various community groups and officials throughout the year. See Appendix B for a complete list.

Membership Growth in 2020

IDA-MA awaits detailed structure for coordination of memberships and annual dues among IDA and its various chapters. In the meantime, IDA-MA will continue to promote IDA membership at presentations by its members and through its contacts with local stakeholders.

Strategic Plan for 2020

IDA-MA's officers are working on a strategic plan for 2020 that aligns with IDA's organization-wide plan. Specific goals will include:

- passage of statewide lighting legislation
- aggressive engagement of local stakeholders (e.g. MMA, MAPC, Sierra Club, AMC, Audubon, IES-MA)
- creation of a robust website (to replace <https://idamass.wordpress.com/>)
- establishment of fundraising activities that cover LLC costs and benefit IDA-MA initiatives
- coordinated involvement with municipalities to develop outdoor-lighting bylaws/ordinances
- scheduling of public events to showcase the night sky and create light-pollution awareness
- coordination of statewide effort to collect meaningful sky-quality measurements

Appendix A: IDA-MA 2019 Financial Report (summary)

2019 Starting Balance			\$0.00
	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Debit</i>	
Donations	\$408.61		
Expenses		\$179.11	
Fees		\$1.46	
2019 Ending Balance			\$228.04

IDA-MA 2019 Income			
Monetary Donations	\$307.50		
In-kind Donations	\$101.11		
Total Income Received			\$408.61

IDA-MA 2019 Expense Record

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Receipt</i>	<i>Amount</i>	
E1	Food for Annual Meeting	R1-2019	\$179.11	
	Total Expenses Paid			\$179.11

IDA-MA 2019 Fees Record

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fee</i>	
F1	PayPal Fee from Donation D1	\$0.43	
F2	PayPal Fee from Donation D3	\$1.03	
F3	PayPal Verification Deposit	\$0.19	
F4	PayPal Verification Deposit	\$0.02	
F5	PayPal Verification Withdrawal	\$0.21	
	Total Fees Paid		\$1.46

Attestation

I attest that the proceeding report is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:



Michael J. Person
Treasurer – IDA-MA
10 January 2020

Appendix B: Presentations by IDA-MA Officers and Members

Kelly Beatty:

- presented to MMA Public Works Committee
- presented to MMA Energy and Environment Committee
- presented to American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts
- interviewed on WGBH “Grater Boston”: <https://is.gd/anMul8>
- interviewed on WBUR’s Radio Boston: <https://is.gd/rMBZgA>
- interviewed (with Mario Motta) on iHeartRadio’s “Jay Talking”: <https://is.gd/wHitcL>
- presented to Rutland Regional Planning Commission (Vermont)

Timothy Brothers:

- interviewed for feature article on Boston.com: <https://is.gd/9NhCgn>
- presented to Pepperell Board of Selectmen (lighting ordinance)
- presented to Lawrence Public Library
- presented to MIT Haystack Observatory
- presented to Acadia Night Sky Festival (Maine)

Anne Hayek:

- tabling at Natick Earth Day Festival

Anne Jaskot:

- opposed installation of blue-rich LEDs in Williamstown, MA; spoke at town meetings, wrote to town officials, compiled research, shared petitions.

James Lowenthal:

- AAS Light Pollution, Radio Interference, and Space Debris committee
- taught class on Astronomy and Public Policy at Smith College; 1/3 of content is light pollution; students engage local community during International Dark-Sky Week
- led Smith College field trip to dark-sky site in Heath, MA
- tabled for IDA-MA at Springfield Museum’s Astronomy Day
- gave numerous public talks about light pollution
- interviewed on WGBY’s Connecting Point (TV): <https://is.gd/BsOWuY>
- interviewed for *Daily Hampshire Gazette* article (newspaper): <https://is.gd/rHeBrS>
- interviewed on WHMP’s Bill Newman show (radio): <https://is.gd/NAcqCr>
- led Northampton City Lights (monthly meetings, city efforts to reduce light pollution)
- investigated D.A.R. State Park for possible improvements to outdoor lighting

Mario Motta:

- keynote speaker for AAVSO annual meeting (LED lighting, light pollution, AMA policy)
- gave several local talks on the same topics

Lisa McLoughlin:

- wrote an article for *Montague Reporter* (weekly nonprofit newspaper)

Alan Rifkin (who died in 2019):

- spoke at many local star parties and local events

Rachele Rosi-Kessel:

- coordinated an event co-hosted by Arnold Arboretum, Greening Rozzie, Boston Greenovate, and Boston Food Forest Coalition; IDA-MA’s Kelly Beatty was the speaker.