



THE **Custer Institute** INC.

www.custerobservatory.org
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1115 Main Bayview Rd
Southold, NY 11971

The following are the candidates for Custer Institute's 2017 elections. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on June 24, 2017.

President – Charles Cardona III

Vice President – David van Popering

Secretary – Jim Bowden

Treasurer – Barbara Lebkuecher

Chairperson of the Finance Committee – Matt Campbell

Directors-at-Large (2) – Alan Cousins and Bart Fried

Chuck Cardona, candidate for President

As the current and numerous time past President, I am very happy to offer to serve once again.

This past year we have accomplished many of the goals we had set out. We have worked together to encourage participation, increase membership, increase attendance and programs. We now have amazing and talented people working on a wide variety of wonderful and exciting projects and programs. Custer is alive with fun many nights a week!

- Many New Members
- Successful Jamboree
- Successful Astronomy Day
- Great new Programs ongoing
- Mirror Making Class started
- New Telescope installed
- Awesome Music Programs
- Philanthropy Program initiated
- Many more families coming
- Great outreach to scouts and school groups
- Radio Astronomy program developing
- Maker / Hacker Club started and very active

- Library cleaned up and looking great
- New Projector
- Movie Nights starting soon
- Outreach programs
- Partnership with other local groups
- Beautiful new Mural
- Active Astronomy and Astro-photography
- Great Food!
- Local political Support
- Custer in the News and on TV!
- Basement is cleaned

...and probably a few extra things. For the 2017-2018 year, my focus will be on philanthropy and fund raising.

David van Popering, candidate for Vice President

David has been an active member of the Custer Institute since 2006, and continuing as Vice President he brings a wealth of experience to the Institute's board. Anyone who has come to Custer on a Saturday night was sure to have met David up in the dome; he has been giving fun and engaging sky tours as the principal operator of our 25-inch Obsession telescope for almost 10 years.

Since mid-2015, David has focused his attention on Custer's abandoned radio room. There, he is currently involved in completely renovating it with his wife, Justine Haupt. Together they are bringing Radio Astronomy back to Custer and open the door to research and education.

David has played an active role in developing and adapting outreach programs, on and off site, and maintains the Custer website. An accomplished musician, David holds a Master's Degree in Music Theory and in Library Science, has his teaching certification, and works as the I.T. Administrator at Southold Free Library.

David would like to continue working with the active members on Custer's many projects and supporting the enthusiastic momentum of volunteers as it has grown over the past few years

Jim Bowden, candidate for Secretary

Jim Bowden is a native Long Islander and resident of the North Fork and currently resides in New Suffolk, N.Y. Jim earned his Associates in Applied Sciences, from Suffolk County Community College.

While attending SCCC, George Lomaga was Jim's Astronomy and Geology Professor. Jim had minored in multiple Astronomy courses which were later used to complete his science minor while at Suffolk. Later Jim attended St. Joseph's College where he earned a BPS degree in Public Health Administration.

Jim has had a long career working for a number of pharmaceutical and pain management based compounding companies; where he has been employed for over

23 years as a Medical Sales Specialist. Jim's long time interest in Astronomy and latest interest in Astrophotography, has encouraged him to pursue his avocation in Astronomy even further; by becoming a steady member of Custer Institute for the past five years.

Currently Jim serves on Custer's board; as Board Secretary and would like to continue his role as Secretary if re-elected during the upcoming Custer Board elections.

Barbara Lebkuecher, candidate for Treasurer

Barbara has been a member of Custer since 1979 and has been a Board Member and Treasurer since 1981. She is a familiar "face of Custer" whom thousands of visitors see every year when they walk in the door. Barbara is a retired teacher with a Bachelor's Degree from Adelphi University plus 30 credits for a Master's in Education. Since retirement from teaching, she has been a businesswoman running a major Nursery in which she has 47 years of experience.

Matt Campbell, candidate for Chairperson of the Finance Committee

Matt Campbell is retired from Intel Corporation after 32 years in various marketing, planning, international business development, and product line manager positions. Matt received his BSEE from Cornell University under a Navy ROTC scholarship. He is married with one son in high school. He enjoys astronomy, along with other hobbies and interests, as well as volunteering for multiple local organizations and Southold town government. Matt has been active in Custer since retirement in 2014, and as current Finance Chair, Matt is vigilant, insuring spending and budgets are consistent with our income sources so that Custer stays financially sound into the future.

Alan Cousins, candidate for Director-at-Large

I have been involved with amateur astronomy for more than a decade. Much of my interest is in the diverse equipment used for visual observing, whether it's a contemporary Dobsonian reflector or a century old 80mm refractor.

I have been a member of Custer Institute & Observatory since 2007. I am honored to be a past recipient of the President's Award. It has been my privilege serving for the past 4 years as Director-at-Large, helping guide Custer's future. I am a proponent of fiscally responsible growth, with Custer continuing to grow in membership and financially. I want to continue serving Custer, through another term as Director-at-Large.

On Saturday evenings, I'm at Custer using one of its telescopes to show visitors the sky, guiding and providing tours to visitors, and helping newcomers with their telescopes. I endeavor to spark visitor interest in Custer's history and variety of equipment used to observe, with an angle toward gaining new weekly volunteering members. My desire to promote positive visitor 'first impressions' also motivates me to help keep the facility tidy and functional, by doing clean-up and helping with grounds & facilities upkeep. My personal interest of inexpensively acquiring and refreshing older telescopes has led me to resurrect a number of Custer's 'forgotten' telescopes and participate in ongoing equipment maintenance.

When I'm not outside observing the sky, I am a Systems Analyst with Conduent Corporation. My role as a team lead within the retirement plan applications team is built upon prior employment

with Dean Witter, The Bank of New York, Dreyfus Funds, Mellon Bank, and Xerox Corporation. I possess a BA in Economics from SUNY Stony Brook.

Bart Fried, candidate for Director-at-Large

- Founder and past President, Antique Telescope Society
- Life member, Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers, Inc.
- Honorary member, Astronomical Society of Long Island
- Member, Amateur Observers Society
- Member, Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Respectfully,

Custer Election Committee