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GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

It's time for our annual CVA Board of Directors' election. Current board members nominated for new three-year terms are Michael Kimes, Sandra Schachter, Andy Sudol, Lamont Wiltsee, and Jeff Wood.

Any CVA member in good standing may nominate other candidates by gathering 15 member signatures and submitting them by February 21st. If other nominations are submitted, ballots will be sent out by email (or postal service mail, if requested) by March 1st, with votes due back by March 14th. If there are no new petition candidates, the slate will automatically be appointed. The new board will elect its officers.

New terms begin on April 1st, and board members and officers will be introduced at the annual meeting.

Dark Sky, continued from Pg. 4

In May of 2019 Pris Walton wrote in the *Valley Voice* of existing regulations adopted by the county to help us reduce light pollution and let the starry sky be seen. In the May 2014 newsletter, Mibs McCarthy wrote about the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (www.MIRA.org), an off-the-grid observatory in our back yard up on Chews Ridge. Many of us have heard of the Jamesburg Earth Station (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamesburg_Earth_Station) built to support the Apollo 11 moon landing.

So now I'm writing to generate more interest and tell everyone about the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) (<https://www.darksky.org>); the IDA serves as a clearing house to promote dark skies and recognize and preserve places worldwide where the glorious night sky is in full view. The website spells out several different types of designations, criteria for application, and how to become a member.

Won't the sky just be there as always? Why bother joining the IDA, one might ask? Two big reasons: with IDA's recognition

Carmel Valley residents will have more ability to preserve our night skies and develop regional interest about them; in addition, we join a global community to promote preservation of the night skies. I've started conversations with leadership of the Santa Cruz Chapter, who are currently busy working with Pinnacles National Park in their recognition process. It may be possible for Carmel Valley's interested parties to join forces with Regional Parks, Santa Lucia Preserve, Ventana Wilderness Alliance, and maybe Big Sur Land Trust and Big Sur and seek to apply as a combined Community, Park, Reserve, and Sanctuary designation of IDA for not just all of Carmel Valley from Highway 1 to Arroyo Seco, but for most of the Santa Lucia Range as well.

I've set up an email address to join in on our local effort. If you are interested, please send an email to: carmelvalleydarkskygroup@gmail.com

If you have read this far, you clearly may be interested. Thank you. Send an email, and then early in 2022 I will organize a Zoom conference for further exploration.