



Newsletter 2023/1

March 2023

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Dear NVR members,

A new year has started again, so it's time for a new newsletter.

In this newsletter you will receive an update on the special General Assembly that took place on 26 January.

If you have any questions, please contact the secretariat.

Happy reading!

General Assembly

A special General Assembly took place on 26 January. This special General Assembly was organized because several board members had indicated for various reasons that they no longer had the required time for the association. Unfortunately, we said goodbye to Ton Marée as chairman, Chris Verhoeven as board member, Nicoletta Silvestri as board member, Stijn Mast as board member and Stacha Petrovic as board member. Ton's farewell speech can be found later in this newsletter.

The board is pleased to announce that the General Assembly has approved the proposal for new board candidates.

We welcome Raj Rajan Thilak as new secretary. He succeeds Peter Batenburg in this position. Peter Batenburg will remain active for the association as a general board member. We also welcome Dimitra Stefoudi, Wendy Mensink, Egor Tamarin and Kim Regnery as new board members. Under the leadership of the newly elected chairman Pieter van Beekhuizen, we hope to organize great activities with this group of enthusiastic board members in 2023.

For the sake of completeness, we have listed the entire board below:

Chairman: Pieter van Beekhuizen
Vice-President: Peter Buist
Secretaries: Raj Rajan Thilak
Treasurer: Mischa de Brouwer
Board member: Frits Overtoom
Board member: Peter Batenburg
Board member: Wendy Mensink
Board member: Kim Regnery
Board member: Egor Tamarin
Board member: Dimitra Stefoudi

A biography of all board members can be found on our website.

In 2023, the board will continue to be supported by Richelle Scheffers. Helen von Schwartzberg will continue to take care of the membership administration.

Letter from the chairman – Pieter van Beekhuizen

Dear NVR members,

During the extraordinary General Assembly on 26 January, the members present agreed to the proposal to appoint a new board. Unfortunately, I could not be physically present due to illness, but fortunately I was able to participate in the meeting virtually, not knowing that I had to be urgently hospitalized the next day.

During this meeting, new board members were appointed for a period of 3 years; I was appointed chairman for an interim period ending on June 30, 2023. During the next General Assembly in June, the board will offer a proposal for the (re)appointment of the chairman, treasurer and several board members for a new term of 3 years.

The reason that many board changes took place has been expressed clearly and correctly by outgoing chairman Ton Marée, during the last General Assembly. You can read this speech in this newsletter. I would like to thank Ton Marée, but also the other board members we said goodbye to (Stijn Mast, Nicoletta Silvestri, Stacha Petrovic and Chris Verhoeven) for all their commitment to our beautiful association during the past period, despite the difficult corona period and personal aspects.

A new board not only has the obligation to continue the many successful cases, but also to look at what improvements/adjustments are needed for the proper functioning of our association.

As the Netherlands Space Society, we will pay more attention to Dutch space projects, activities, and companies. We will pay continued attention to astronomy, astrophysics and the institutional and commercial application aspects of space travel. Very interesting developments are underway when it comes to the role of commercial companies in the field of exploration and exploitation both in LEO and also on the moon. We will also look at how space travel can be spread much more widely in society by involving other groups that are not normally directly connected to space travel (culture, architecture, music, art, archaeology, etc.).

The first example is the possibility for NVR members to attend a performance by Metropole Orkest in collaboration with ESA with the title: "Solar Orbiter – we are all children of the sun". These performances will take place in Amare, The Hague (22 April) and Carré, Amsterdam (25 April). All members will soon receive a message about this performance.

The board is supported by various committees. These committees will be able to work independently after the board (financially) approves their plans. Well-functioning committees are very important to our association. To achieve our goals, we need new committee members who are also committed to this. Members who want to make themselves available to a committee can report this to our secretariat: secretariaat@ruimtevaart-nvr.nl. The secretariat will pass on the applications to the committee chairmen, after which we will make contact.

Further priorities for the new board are adjustments to our website and social media, renewing MoU's with the other related organizations in and outside the Netherlands, a close collaboration with other associations/foundations in the field of Young Professionals (SpaceNed, SSPF and NL Space Campus), regularly organizing company visits, and organizing interesting events, movie nights, lectures and networking drinks in collaboration with, among others, the Dutch Space Museum (NRM) in Lelystad.

Over the years, our membership has grown to almost 1200 members and as a board we hope to further increase the number of members in the coming period.

As a new board, we want to give the NVR a nice follow-up after having been the most informative space association in the Netherlands for 72 years. We are an association for young and old, for space experts but also for those interested.

I would like to thank all the members who were present at the last General Assembly and all other members for the support and trust in the new board and we will get to work to realize our renewed ambitions.

Kind regards, on behalf of all board members,

Pieter van Beekhuizen
Chairman NVR

Word of thanks – Ton Marée

Dear members of the NVR,

This inserted GA can definitely be considered a special event in the history of our association. An inserted General Assembly, for the early termination of the chairmanship and board membership of 4 other board members, and the election of a new chairman and 5 new board members. I heard that there have been concerns about this among members of the association and that questions have been raised about what is going on. I have also been asked these questions personally. I can well imagine these questions and concerns.

Therefore, as outgoing chairman, I would like to give a brief personal explanation.

Due to my private situation, I temporarily suspended my board activities in May 2022 in consultation with my fellow board members, and handed these tasks over to them. This was in the interest of the association, because it turned out that I could not properly fulfill my obligations towards the association given the circumstances. Initially, it was intended that this would be for just several months, but eventually this situation turned out to last until now. This is partly due to long-covid complaints after the summer.

I am very grateful to my fellow board members, and in particular Peter Buist, Peter Batenburg, Mischa de Brouwer and Pieter van Beekhuizen, for taking over my duties and responsibilities in recent times.

This situation has, of course, increased the pressure on my fellow board members. For some other board members, certain developments in their private situation also made it difficult to continue to fulfill the board tasks. The board has therefore made the decision that it is in the interest of the association for some board members to submit an early termination and present the election of new board members to the association.

I consider us lucky that it is possible to find such good candidates for the board in the ranks of our association, who want to work for the association with full enthusiasm. I am pleased that Pieter van Beekhuizen has agreed to take over the chairmanship from me. I sincerely hope that the General Assembly will positively agree to this change of board, and will give the new board full confidence to lead the association.

Ton Marée