



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION
MISSOURI CHAPTER

International Dark Sky Association - Missouri Chapter

ATTN: CALENDAR, NEWSROOM, OR PSA EDITOR

January 18, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Donald Ficken

(314) 550-7191 (cell)

The **International Dark-Sky Association** welcomes a new chapter in Missouri U.S. to support efforts that protect the nighttime environment from light pollution across the state of Missouri. **IDA Missouri** chapter joins more than 50 IDA chapters already established around the world, including more than 20 international chapters representing five continents, all working to preserve the night sky. IDA Missouri's mission will be to help provide solutions that address negative outcomes from misdirected light.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is a 501(c)(3) founded in 1988 to protect the night skies for present and future generations. Today, IDA is the recognized authority for night sky protection and has taken the lead in identifying and publicizing the negative impacts of artificial light at night on human, wildlife and climate change. IDA works with the public, city planners, legislators, lighting manufacturers, parks and protected areas to implement smart lighting choices.

“Launching our IDA Missouri chapter is an important first step toward protecting our Missouri night skies from misdirected light” said Don Ficken, an amateur astronomer and newly elected President of IDA Missouri. “We look forward to providing information on wise use of outdoor lights while advocating against excessive and poorly designed lighting.”

It was in November 2018 that IDA members met and voted unanimously to form a Missouri Chapter that includes chapter President, Don Ficken, Vice President Jackie Beucher, Treasurer Harold (“Cook”) Feldman, Secretary Chuck Simms, Director of Media Ron King and Board Members at Large Bill Neubert, Alfred (“Fred”) Schovanez and Rick Yord. While the initial IDA Missouri Board was drawn from a community of amateur astronomers, the Board intends to expand its representation to non-astronomy representatives and welcomes individuals or organizations to become involved.

IDA Missouri Board is an approved chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association, and shares tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) chapter. IDA Missouri, LLC, has also registered with the Missouri Secretary of State.

For more information about the International Dark-Sky Association, please visit www.darksky.org.
For more information about IDA Missouri or to request information on how to become involved, please visit www.darkskymissouri.org # # #