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Friends and colleagues: I hope some of you missed having the Silent Auction, back at the Triple Conjunction conference in Wheeling. Unfortunately after corporate downsizing, I wasn't able to attend that conference. Although there were kind folks on the committee willing to make it happen, we decided that there were just too many complications to fit it into an already full conference schedule. Well, now I'm back, and so is the auction.

In case you are new to the group, this is a fun activity we do to help other planetarians by supporting the SEPA Scholarship fund. We are raising money so that someday (hopefully soon) one of our colleagues will benefit in the future from a little financial help to attend a professional workshop or a SEPA conference. To all those who provided items in the past, I cannot thank you enough.

As of the time of this writing, the fund account balance stands at \$1,622.00. As I have said before, I think our ultimate goal should be to get this account to a level from which we can provide a significant grant by using the interest alone and leave the principal intact. That all depends on us and (of course) interest rates. So, we still have a long way to go. As has been tradition, we will again hold a silent auction to benefit this fund. To maybe help make it faster and more fun, this year's auction will have a twist. Certain items will be available as a raffle, for \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. Drawings will be held at the banquet.

What we need from the membership (as always) are your contributions of items or services that you would be willing to provide to the highest bidder. In the past we have offered books, games, artwork, crafts (including a hand tooled, astronomy themed leather belt), musical CDs, and even an actual piece of space memorabilia. So think it over and let me know if you plan to bring something along to the conference in Lafayette. Knowing what to expect ahead of time will help me plan the space requirements. Also, let me know if you would like to help out on the SEPA Scholarship committee.

I have provided a form for you to use in describing the item(s) you bring for auction and for my records. If you have an item you want to donate but cannot make it to the conference, then send it to me. If it is not too big for my car, I will try to get it there. Alternatively, you can ship the item(s) to conference host Dave Hostetter in Lafayette. Just make sure to mark the box "SEPA Auction" so it's not mistaken for a door prize! As usual the auction will take place in the mingling time before the banquet. Thanks again for your participation as an item provider, bidder, raffle ticket buyer, or all three. I hope to see you in Lafayette, LA.
Dave Maness

SEPA SILENT AUCTION ITEM

If you cannot bring the item,
draw a picture or paste a photo here
(if you think it will help with the sale.)

Item:

Description:

Offered by (your name): _____

Preferred mode of contact information (Phone, Mail, Email, Fax, Telegram, Pony Express,
or other)
