

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, MICHAEL PECAUT

It's the day after Thanksgiving, and I hope everyone was able to spend some time with friends and family—or at the very least, enjoyed some good food. I live alone, but I had been invited to a couple of different friends' homes for turkey dinner. Because I also like to cook, I decided to make my own bird and stuffing a little earlier in the week. Best of both worlds—or so I thought. As it turned out, when Thanksgiving arrived, I wasn't feeling great, so I stayed home with my fur babies—Chanur, my Bengal cat and Áine, my chocolate lab mix. We had a good time together, and they were very supportive in the way only pets who expect to be fed on schedule can be.

That quiet day made me think back to my undergraduate years at CU–Boulder. It was too far to fly home very often, so I spent many Thanksgivings on my own. It became a running joke in my family that I survived the holiday on “traditional turkey hot dogs,” often while watching *Conan the Barbarian*—because years earlier a football announcer once called it a Thanksgiving Family Tradition. My family is a bit weird that way.

I've come a long way since those days and so has the Society. There have been lean times and times of plenty (though, admittedly, not many of the latter). But one of the many things I am truly thankful for is being part of the ASGSR family—and especially for your trust in allowing me to serve as your president for a short time. See you soon and travel safely!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELLEN GERTSEN

It's hard to believe that I joined ASGSR just three months ago. And what a whirlwind those three months have been! In the spirit of giving thanks, I'd like to take a moment to give shoutouts to several people who have made the past three months possible. First, my thanks to Gale Allen for being an incredible mentor and friend, sharing her hard-earned wisdom about what makes ASGSR tick. Second, my thanks to Jobi Cook and Emily Eicher for stepping back into their roles and doing all the behind-the-scenes work to make the upcoming conference a success. Third, to Keith Chapes for all his dedication and persistence when it comes to good governance and financial responsibility. Fourth, to Mary Harrison and Sarah Velasquez for stepping into their roles only a few weeks before the conference and immediately jumping in to help make ASGSR a stronger and more member-focused organization. Finally, to the Board and members of ASGSR, thanks for having the confidence in me to lead this incredible organization. I'm excited to see all of you later this week and am looking forward to all of the new opportunities 2026 will bring us!



CONFERENCE: Know before you go

We are very excited to welcome many of you to the 41st Annual Meeting next week. We are expecting a full house, so here are some tips and tricks to get you ready!

- Download econference.io to your phone to have full access to the latest version of the conference program. Enter event code **ASGSR25**.
- Location details
 - Hotel address: 11111 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ 85020
 - Hotel phone: 1-602-866-7500
 - This week's weather is expected to be 67°F daytime with lows of 46°F at night
 - See page 7 for more hotel information.
- The registration desk will be open starting at 1 PM on Wednesday December 3 and will have daily hours each day of the conference. Have the QR code from your confirmation e-mail ready to speed up the check-in process.
- Follow ASGSR on [LinkedIn](#) where we'll be posting probing questions to get you ready for several of our plenary sessions and see daily highlights of the conference.
- Social Media policy: We encourage engaging with ASGSR's social media channels such as [LinkedIn](#). Please be professional and mindful when sharing photos and videos on social media.

HAVE YOU...?

- > Downloaded the [conference app](#)?
- > Followed ASGSR on [LinkedIn](#)?
- > Cast your [vote](#) for the next slate of Board members and President? You must be a member in good standing and vote by logging into the X-CD system.
- > Completed the ASGSR [Survey](#)? This is the first survey in over 10 years, and every response will be read by the team. Stop by the ASGSR booth or registration desk to receive a special reward for completing the survey.
- > Signed up to [volunteer as a judge](#) for one or both of the student poster sessions?
- > Voted for your favorite artist in the Art Contest? Be sure to check out the artwork and cast your vote on site.
- > Thanked our sponsors and checked out their exhibitor booths and posters?



SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE Here’s an overview of the conference week. Cross-check with the conference app for the latest information. Complimentary lunch will be available for pick-up in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday and Friday. Students are a big part of ASGSR community. Show your support and attend as many of the student events (highlighted in yellow) as you can.

Wednesday 12/3 [Pre-conference]		Thursday 12/4	Friday 12/5	Saturday 12/6
8 AM Jared Isaacman Confirmation Hearing Watch Party Check the conference app for location		7-8:30 AM Breakfast Time to catch up with old friends & meet new ones	7-8:30 Breakfast + 7:15-8:30AM NASA Proposal Writing Workshop	7-8 AM Breakfast Time to catch up with old friends & meet new ones
		8:30-11:45 AM Main Stage	8:30-10:30AM Main Stage	8-10:30 AM Main Stage
Registration 1-5 PM Check the conference app for room assignments		11:45 - 1 PM Lunch in Exhibit Hall + Analysis Group Townhall	10-10:30 AM 3-Minute Thesis competition	10-10:30 AM 3-Minute Thesis competition
			10:30-11:45 AM Graduate Student Posters	10:30-11:45 AM Undergrad/HS/MS Posters
			11:45 - 1 PM Lunch in Exhibit Hall + NASA BPS Roadmap Rollout	11:45 - 1 PM Lunch
1-2 PM BPS IMSPG		1:30-4 PM Main Stage	1-2PM Main Stage	1-2PM Main Stage
2-4 PM HRP	2-4 PM ISSNL	3:30-4 PM Student Fireside Chat	2-3:30PM Technical Sessions	2-3:30PM Technical Sessions
			3:30-4 PM Student Fireside Chat	3:30-4 PM Student Fireside Chat
4-7 PM Biofabrication & Med Tech Forum		4-5:30 PM Technical Sessions	4-5:30 PM Technical Sessions	4-5:30 PM Technical Sessions
5:30-7:30 PM Fundamental Physics Working Group		5:30-7:30 PM Welcome Reception	6-7 PM Committee Meetings	6-9 PM Banquet
6:30-8:30 PM Trivia Night			7-8:15 PM Student / Industry Meet-up	
		8:15-9 PM Student Mixer (students only)		



A THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We are grateful to all our sponsors and exhibitors who are supporting the conference this year. Make sure to visit our exhibit hall each day to meet with our exhibitors and to check out their poster sessions.

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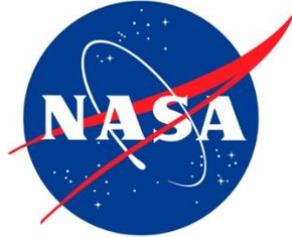


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POLICY AND ADVOCACY UPDATE – Confirmation hearing watch-party

If you are in Arizona, bring your coffee and come join your colleagues for a Confirmation Hearing Watch Party at 8 AM MT on Wednesday December 3. Check the [conference app](#) for the exact location. We'll gather together to watch Jared Isaacman's appearance before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.



ASGSR: A MOMENT IN HISTORY:

The Legend of our ASGSR Gavel – Jeffrey Smith

Each year, at the conclusion of our annual conference, the outgoing President of ASGSR—in a long-standing tradition—ceremoniously hands off the unique ASGSR Gavel to the incoming President who will, officially, bring our annual proceedings to a close and begin service as the next President of our Society. But, where did this special Gavel come from? Who made it, and why do we pass it on, each year, without fail?



Legend has it, the Gavel was forged deep in the Colorado mountains, or in a garage or woodshop from ancient, sturdy oak, or poplar or ash. Its creator labored hard, with passion for science and space exploration, as each stroke of the lathe shaped its creation. Then, one day, the Gavel simply appeared, emerging from hidden obscurity, to be held—triumphantly—high overhead, signaling the conclusion of each successful year in celebration of gravitational and space research, and to pass-along the opportunity for future prosperity to the next kin of leadership for our Society.

Some say the Gavel possesses magical properties, warding off the gremlins of meeting mischief; and whomever wields it, bringing our meetings to order and taking them to a close, will raise the scientific engagement, enable collaboration and lead to new discoveries & development for all conference-goers. However, I'm a scientist, so I wouldn't know anything about that.

As for the question, "where did the Gavel come from?" All I can offer is this photo from 2006, one of the first recorded appearances of the Gavel, when outgoing President, Paul Todd, raised it triumphantly overhead as he handed it off to the incoming President, Ken Souza. The rest is—as they say—legend.



HOTEL LOGISTICS AT A GLANCE

Hotel Address

11111 North 7th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85020

Reservations: 1-800-947-9784
Hotel front desk: 1-602-866-7500

Hotel Parking

- Free self-parking
- Valet parking included in resort fee
- EV charging stations available



Hotel Shuttle

Front Desk & Hotel Shuttle transportation can be reached and requested by dialing Ext. 15 from your guestroom phone or by texting to 480-757-7334. The hotel shuttle is available 6 AM to 10:30 PM daily for transportation around the property.

Hotel Location and Transportation from Airport

- Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort is situated in the Phoenix North Mountain Preserve, just north of downtown Phoenix. The hotel is 15.3 miles (24 min) from Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX).
- Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort has no off-property transportation. The hotel recommends using your preferred ride-share service, a taxi, or metro bus for your travel needs.
- Metro Bus Information: \$2. Visit <https://www.valleymetro.org/> to plan your trip. Estimated trip time 1 hour and 23 min from Sky Harbor International Airport.
- If you're traveling to the U.S. internationally, be sure to read: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel>

Things to do in Phoenix: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/>

Arizona's Capitol city is framed by terrain, including the red rocks of Papago Park and the signature spine of Camelback Mountain.

- **Hiking:** Hike the trails around the resort. Complimentary weekday transportation to different trails is available; visit the hotel concierge to inquire further.
- **North Mountain Visitor Center:** Get information on hiking and local history.
- **Phoenix attractions:** Explore attractions like the Heard Museum, Camelback Mountain, and the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.
- **Dining and entertainment:** Visit the 7th Street Dining Corridor or experience a show at the Footprint Center or Medieval Times. Further afield, there are many restaurants and bars in midtown and Arcadia, art murals on 16th Street, and nightlife in the Melrose District.

