

## IPS Website – Untapped Resources

Susan Reynolds Button  
174 Clearview Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229  
Cell: 315-882-5170  
Email: sbuttonq2c@gmail.com

There is a wonderful array of resources and opportunities to connect globally with planetarium colleagues. The IPS website can help you be connected in a big way, stop reinventing the wheel, think outside the box, and be even more creative.

At first glance the website seems to have a daunting amount of information. You may not have spent much time exploring the entire website; there are many hidden gems! All of it is information that could be valuable to you for a variety of situations.

You would think that all the resources would be listed under “Resources.” However, this paper will highlight some resources that can be found under some of the other drop-down menus. At the top of the home page you can find the several drop-down menus; let’s examine them one at a time, highlighting some individual pages.

After the Home button, the first heading is “**About**” and when you click on it you will find:

- ▶ What is IPS
- ▶ Latest News
- ▶ By-Laws
- ▶ History
- ▶ Governance
- ▶ Partners
- ▶ **Position Statements**
- ▶ Public IPS Directory
- ▶ World’s Planetariums

The **Position Statements** found here can be useful for learning about what IPS stands for but also some of the wording in these statements can be drawn upon for grant application preparation, advertising, staff training, or for any position you are trying to promote for the benefit of the planetarium and your audiences. You can post these statements, with IPS credit, on your own website.

The statements included here are:

- ▶ [Age of the Universe](#)
- ▶ [Code of Conduct](#)
- ▶ [International Collaboration](#)
- ▶ **Education**
  - [The Value of Education in the Planetarium \(2019\)](#)
  - [The Role of Planetariums in Education \(2008\)](#)
- ▶ [Racial Justice](#) in our communities

- ▶ [Star Naming](#)

When you click on the next menu, **Membership**, you will find:

- ▶ Join IPS
- ▶ Renew Membership
- ▶ Member Benefits
- ▶ Affiliates
- ▶ Awardees & Fellows
- ▶ Board
- ▶ Career Center
- ▶ **Committees**
- ▶ Elections
- ▶ Tips for Members

Pay particular attention to **Committees**; there is a wealth of useful information on their individual webpages and these committee members can provide you with assistance with new or existing projects. You can also make valuable connections, contributions, and collaborate with experts in the field by joining a committee that addresses a particular passion or interest you may enjoy.

**Events:**

- ▶ About Conferences
- ▶ Presenter Guidelines
- ▶ Past Conferences
- ▶ **Proceedings**
- ▶ Calendar

You have access to the **Proceedings** of 18 IPS conferences and a wealth of information and inspiration by perusing these documents. If you could not attend the conference or maybe you just need a complete paper with references, this is an invaluable resource.

**Get Involved**

- ▶ **Global Projects**
- ▶ Networking and Social Media
- ▶ Be in the IPS Directory
- ▶ Committees
- ▶ Forums
- ▶ Groups
- ▶ **Professional Development**
- ▶ Suggestion Box

Boost your planetarium's relevance and prestige, give your programs an international touch, and reach out to the world's community of planetarium colleagues by investigating how you can participate in the many **Global Projects** IPS offers.

- [International Day of Planetariums](#)

- [Asteroid Day](#) (see [article from Planetarian](#))
- [Data to Dome Initiative](#)
- [One Earth Message](#)
- [Voices from the Dome](#) Project
- [Educational Video Collection](#) Project
- [World Space Week](#)

Incredible **Professional Development** opportunities are available through video conferences, web seminars, and four different contests. You need to be aware of these experiences and how you can take part in them. They all offer the chance for exchange of professional expertise with colleagues around the world.

- [Pages of Stars](#)
- [A Week in Italy for an American Planetarium Operator](#)
- [A Week in the United States](#)
- [A Week with the GDP](#)

## Publications

- ▶ Publications Overview
- ▶ **Planetarian**
- ▶ Newsletters
- ▶ Special Publications and Reports
- ▶ Conference proceedings
- ▶ **White Papers**

It is important to go back and look at previous issues of the **Planetarian**, for many of the ideas shared there are timeless. And look at **White Pages** where you will find some more position papers; they both describe the current-state of the planetarium field and make arguments about the future potential of the planetarium.

## Resources

- ▶ Resource Introduction
- ▶ Digital Domes
- ▶ Educational
- ▶ Facility Development
- ▶ Free Media
- ▶ Live Interactive Shows
- ▶ Portable Planetariums
- ▶ Research

Of course, the pages under **Resources** will give you lots of free information and free media for use in your programming and your daily work.

## Members Only

- ▶ **Planetarian Online**
- ▶ Career Center

- ▶ Conference Evaluation
- ▶ Free Fulldome
- ▶ Member Directory
- ▶ Music

As a professional working with a planetarium, it is important to become a member of this global organization; it enhances your perspective and your credibility. Members also receive the most current ***Planetarian*** online, even more free media and music, and access to the Career Center.

Make sure you explore the IPS website for the free resources available to both non-members and members. After you see the products of our hard working volunteers, you will appreciate how valuable IPS is to our profession. If you have any suggestions for website corrections, updates, or additions please contact IPS Webmasters:

**Michele Wistisen**

[mwistisen@gmail.com](mailto:mwistisen@gmail.com)

**Alan Gould**

[adgould@comcast.net](mailto:adgould@comcast.net)

If you are not a member please join and become active in our welcoming IPS family.



<https://www.ips-planetarium.org>