



## NASA Ames Contractor Council

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024

Meeting held virtually via Microsoft TEAMS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>M/S</u>	<u>Phone</u>
NASA Representative	Amir Deylami	ARC		
President	Kari Gonter	Metis Technology Solutions Bay Area		(760) 500-0136
Vice President	Vince DeFrancisci	Environmental Research Institute		
Treasurer	Sara Jain	Tellus Solutions		(408) 368-0726
Secretary	Valerie Escobar	AMA	N229-3	(408) 761-6063

### Call to Order [11:00] by Kari Gonter

#### Introductions

##### Thomas Paine - NASA Ames Center Management & Operations Updates

1. Happy Hour is today at the Space Bar from 4 pm to 6 pm.
2. Looking at budgets for the rest of this year and next year. Hopefully by the end of this month we'll have a set budget for the rest of the fiscal year.
3. DEI day is April 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are working on the agenda. Add it to your calendars!

##### Christine Munroe, Small Business Specialist

- Not able to attend.

## ACC Business Items

### **ACC President's Report – Kari Gonter**

4. February minutes were approved at 11:02am
5. Kari is still acting as the President of the ACC. Has been doing it for the last 4 years. Kari is fine with continuing being the President. There were no objections to Kari continuing as President and he was voted in.
6. Jinesh Jain is nominated as the Vice President and voted in as the new ACC Vice President
7. We need a new secretary. No one stepped up.

### **ACC Vice President's Report – Vince DeFrancisci**

8. No Report

### **ACC Treasurer's Report – Sara Jain**

9. Beginning balance: \$20,785.90  
Credit: None  
Expense: \$24.95 (web hosting-February)  
\$1,605.86(My Café Food for ACC Annual Happy Hour)  
\$390 (To Faten, Desserts and table setup expense for ACC Annual Happy Hour)
10. Total ending balance: \$18,765.09

### **ACC Secretary's Report – Valerie Escobar**

11. No Report

## Committee Reports

### **Small Business – Saba Hussain**

12. There have been issues with the Small Business office and the Small Business committee. Miriam has stepped up to lead. Others are volunteering also.

### **Ames Calendar– Faten Mansour**

13. We still have calendars available for sale, please contact Faten to coordinate purchase.
14. Faten will be going to the Ames Happy Hour to sell calendars.
15. Any ideas on the new theme? We need to decide in the next month or so.

### **Marketing and Communications - Renee Mitchell**

16. She did put up some new information on the blog. <https://www.amescontractorcouncil-blog.com/>

### **Imagination Foundation – David Cornelius and Linda McCahon**

17. No new grant applications currently.

18. The group of high school students from Mission San Jose HS that we provided a 2023 grant to for the Human Exploration Rover Challenge had to drop out of the competition. They are working to return the grant money to ACC Treasurer, Sara Jain. It was discussed to check in with the school to see if they have another STEM project that can use the funds.

### **Public Policy- Sara Jain – Get Sara’s notes**

19. Odysseus, a lunar lander from Intuitive Machines, recently transmitted images back to Earth after its challenging landing near the Moon's South Pole on February 26. Despite initial uncertainties regarding its precise landing location due to navigational issues, NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter successfully located it. This marks the first U.S. lunar landing since 1972. Although the mission was planned to last at least seven days, communication is expected to cease after five days
20. In legislative developments, on February 28, leaders from both major parties in the U.S. Congress reached an agreement to extend funding through a Continuing Resolution, effectively postponing concerns over a potential government shutdown. This resolution ensures that funding will continue until March 8 for some departments and until March 22 for others, including critical agencies such as the FAA, NASA, and NOAA, with the Department of Defense also being covered in the extended funding.
21. NASA has announced the opening of applications for its next astronaut class today, inviting U.S. citizens with a strong background in science, technology, engineering, or math to apply. The agency is looking for individuals to participate in missions to the moon and possibly Mars. Applicants must meet rigorous qualifications, including a master's degree in a relevant field, significant professional experience, and the ability to pass a physical examination designed for long-duration missions. The deadline for applications is April 2, with the selection process aimed at expanding NASA's capabilities for future lunar and Martian exploration.

### **Safety Outreach– Mike Weiss and Linda McCahon**

22. Nothing to report.

### **ACC Golf Tournament– Kari Gonter and Sara Jain**

23. This will happen in the spring. Kari will be setting up a Teams meeting with everyone who volunteered. Two civil servants will be joining the planning committee.
24. Trey Croom is stepping down so Kari will continue to co-lead this with Sara Jain.

### **Contractor Excellence Awards– Debbie Koyler**

25. No report

### **New Business**

26. Kari asked if the # of folks at Ames has increased or remaining the same. Mike Weiss will ask security if we can get numbers.
  - Speed Mentoring Events for Women’s History Month – WIN will be hosting a speed mentoring event.
  - There are at least 8 people that would attend ACC meeting in person. Kari is looking at setting up the April meeting to be in person, on-site at Ames and on Teams as well. If we have an in-

person meeting, perhaps we can get more updates about what is going on at the center. The wind tunnel was given as an example.

- Membership list for the ACC was looked at. Kari sent messages to everyone on the list to send in their company information or state that they want to be removed from the list.
- If you have a company that should be on the list, please let Kari know. We're not looking to include other agencies on the Moffet Field side to ACC at this time. Perhaps in the future we can look at other agencies that are on the Ames campus.
- Mike and Linda will review the ACC list with the list of prime contractors on-site. They will then reach out to the prime contacts to encourage them to join the ACC.
- Faten would like you to check your company information on the ACC website. Make any updates as needed.
- Sara is the Exchange Council Rep and meet the group at the last happy hour. The Ames Exchange Council report has been added to the agenda.

### **Adjourning the Meeting**

- Kari Gonter adjourned the meeting at 11:47 pm.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

- The next official meeting will be held virtually on April 3, 2024, at 11 am (PST). Kari will try to get a meeting room set up for folks who can attend in person in building N232.