



**NASA Ames Contractor Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 3, 2021**  
**Meeting held virtually via Microsoft TEAMS**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>M/S</u>	<u>Phone</u>
NASA Representative	Carol Carroll	ARC	200-9	4-0256
President	Kari Gonter	Metis Technology Solutions		(760) 500-0136
Vice President	Mark Rowland	Flight Research	NRP-19	(510) 366-5909
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**

Christine Monroe, NASA Small Business:

- NASA Vendor database was changed from the old form to a Google Doc, and lot of the information that was entered for companies in the previous database didn't get transferred over. Please go to the NASA vendor database to make sure your company information is accurate.
- The NASA mobile app is updated periodically and at next month's meeting Christine will be able to talk about the Center goals.

Sarah Pollack, Ames Procurement Director:

- Sarah was the former deputy and has been acting in the role since the beginning of August after Kelly Kaplan's retirement. Sarah was formalized in the role effective December 20, 2020.

**ACC Business Items**

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

- Kari approved January Minutes at 11:02 am.

- Kari is looking for NASA contact information to arrange speakers for future meetings.

### **ACC Vice President's Report – Mark Rowland**

- No Report

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

- Beginning balance: \$19,158.29
  - o \$24.95 for Website hosting (internet services for our website)
- Total Net income: \$19,133.34
- ACC 2020 taxes have been filed.

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

- No Report

## **Committee Reports**

### **Small Business – Saba Hussain**

- No Report

### **Ames Calendar– Faten Mansour**

- No Report

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

- No Report

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

- Two grant proposals were received from the Ames Early Career Network (ECN), one related to professional development the other related to outreach.
  - The Ames ECN previously received a grant for \$2,000.00 for their Speaker Series back in July 2018
- The Ames ECN promotes and executes a speaker series (bring in technical speakers), as well as promotes networking among the young professionals at Ames and across the Center
  - o Outreach= The ECN is asking for \$2,000 to organize remote and off site events for K-12 students—bringing in NASA engineers and scientists to interact with schools and classes. Money will be used for SWAG that can be sent to the schools as part of this outreach.
    - Received feedback from schools that the Imagination Foundation approved for grants in the past and they indicated that they would be highly interested in participating in a speaker series like this.
  - o Professional Development Workshops= \$2,000 to help with professional development in resume building, public speaking, special skills workshops (like how to write a grant or technical paper). If approved, the grant would allow trained experts to run some workshops to provide high caliber training for the members.
- Motion was passed to fund both proposals.

## Public Policy- Sara Jain

### 2020 Recap:

- On January 22<sup>nd</sup> President Joe Biden appointed Steve Jurczyk as Acting NASA Administrator until the role is permanently filled. Jurczyk has been the Agency's Associate Administrator since May 2018.
- In mid-January the CIA decided to declassify more than 3 decades worth of UFO documents. John Greenwald Jr, operator of The Black Vault—an online repository of UFO-related document, the information was obtained through a long string of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests over the last quarter century. Over time, so many requests piled up that the CIA created a CD-ROM full of declassified documents, known as “the UFO collection.” Greenwald purchased the CD-ROM in mid-2020 and he has recently finished uploading the entire contents as a series of searchable PDF files on his website, [www.theblackvault.com](http://www.theblackvault.com)
- NASA's Curiosity Rover just celebrated its 3,000<sup>th</sup> day on Mars on Tuesday January 13, 2021. A Martian day, which is also called a 'sol' is a little longer than a normal day on Earth, at 24 hours, 39 minutes, 35 seconds.
- On Monday February 1, 2021, NASA astronauts Mike Hopkins and Victor Glover went on a spacewalk and wrapped up a multi-year effort to tackle battery and camera upgrades at the International Space Station. The replacement battery program took eight years of research and development and 14 spacewalks to replace the aging batteries that store electricity generated by the ISS solar panels. The primary power system originally used nickel-hydrogen batteries for electricity storage. The ISS Program began conducting a preliminary risk and feasibility study to evaluate the use of lithium-ion batteries in 2009. The program was approved in 2011, and production of the new batteries started in late 2014. NASA and crew aboard the space station began replacing aging batteries with new lithium-ion batteries in December 2016. The new batteries were sent to the space station aboard a Japanese H-II Transfer Vehicle cargo spacecraft over four flights. Since then, 13 different astronauts have conducted 14 spacewalks upgrading the batteries. NASA says the primary power system has now been fully upgraded to lithium-ion technology as of February 2, 2021.

## Safety Outreach- Mike Weiss and Linda McCahon

- Santa Clara County COVID numbers are moving in the right direction. We know the Center's position has been to be as conservative as the county (Santa Clara).
- Return to Work Plan review process is being revised in February.

## ACC Golf Tournament –Mark Rowland

- No Report

## Contractor Excellence Awards – Deborah Kolyer and Sandra Rasmussen

- Awards ceremony should be an in-person event and is being postponed to late fall when we can attend in person.

## New Business

- Combined Federal Campaign \$500 donation: The site for donations is not currently available, and it has been decided that we are going to hold onto funds for the time being, if the site isn't working we will try to send our donation via check.
- Board of Directors is required to meet the first Wednesday of February, which they did this morning.

- 2021 ACC Elections (President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer)
  - o Do we want to amend the bylaws to allow officers to serve consecutive terms?
    - Motion approved to change the bylaws to allow officers to serve consecutive terms.
  - o March 3, 2021 we will have elections for officers, the deadline to submit your name for an officer position will be March 1, 2021.

### **Adjourning the Meeting**

- Kari Gonter adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

- The next official meeting will be held virtually on March 3, 2021 at 11 am (PST).