



**NASA Ames Contractor Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 12, 2023**  
**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		(760) 500-0136
Vice President	Vince DeFrancisci	Bay Area Environmental Research Institute		
Treasurer	Sara Jain	Tellus Solutions		(408) 368-0726
Secretary	Valerie Escobar	AMA	N229-3	(408) 761-6063

**Call to Order [11:02] by Kari Gonter**

**Introductions**

**Thomas Paine, Administrative Officer:**

- Ames will be holding a picnic on July 19<sup>th</sup>, please RSVP on the Inside Ames site.
- Budget discussions are currently being discussed at HQ and Center going into next fiscal year.

**Christine Munroe, Small Business Specialist:**

- NASA OBSP Learning Series takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The NASA Office of Small Business Programs offers a series of webinars with in-depth training relevant to small businesses. These webinars will provide the opportunity to ask questions directly to key points of contact at the Agency. In addition, there is a podcast series that explores a wide range of topics from NASA and other agencies to determine how they see the small business program and what small businesses can do to support them. Events take place at 1pm EST and more information can be found at <https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/learning-series>.
- Send Christine an email if you are interested in special training for subcontracting paperwork: [arc-smallbusiness@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:arc-smallbusiness@mail.nasa.gov)

- Small Business Goals:
  - o Agency is currently not making any of their small business goals (Small Business, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, SDVOSB)
  - o NASA Ames is currently making all their small business goals (Small Business, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, SDVOSB)
- OSBP provides many resourceful publications to the small business community. To view/download visit: <https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/osbp-publications>
- Small Business Industry Nomination form will come out end of August/early September. **Nominations must come from your CO**

### **Shana Sethna: Women in Operations Psychological Safety at NASA Ames**

- WiO (Women in Operations) is focused on open discussions to create a platform to share knowledge of Center Operations
- Goals: WiO and Center Operations collaborate with ACC to move forward on improving psychological safety in the workplace
- Event was held March 2, 2023 (85+ attendees)
  - o Time I felt Safe: Working with familiar faces, leaders listening more than talking, appreciating and acknowledging all comments and feedback, agree to disagree
  - o Time I didn't feel safe: Toxic behaviors, foul comments, not respecting opinions, stealing credit, dismissing concerns, micro-managing, leaders questioning work and results provided by team members, lack of collaboration amount organizations
  - o Best Practices: Understanding the words "yes and no", using them appropriately, giving benefit of the doubt, respect is a two-way street, attitude can set the tone, celebrate mistakes/document lessons learned, embracing weakness
  - o After Thoughts: How can we normalize conversations surrounding career failures, how do we foster healthy psychological safety posture amongst CS and contractors and Ames.
- Recommendations: How do we approve cohesive collaboration at the Center
  - o Leadership can improve communication throughout all the levels. Make sure contractor site management is engaging effectively across team members and boundaries

## **ACC Business Items**

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

- Kari approved the June minutes at 11:04 am.

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

- No Report

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

- Beginning balance: \$18,540.75
- Expense: \$24.95 (web hosting)
- Total ending balance: \$18,515.80

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

- No Report

## Committee Reports

### **Small Business – Saba Hussain**

- No Report.

### **Ames Calendar– Faten Mansour**

- Possible theme: NASA Ames contribution to AI and the latest technology.
  - o Any new theme suggestions need to be received by July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Requests for sponsorship e-mails will be going out in the next couple weeks:

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

- No Report, but please send photos you would like to be featured on the blog.

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

- Santa Clara HS contact was notified their application was approved.
- Received another inquiry about supporting an equipment purchase, currently waiting on application to be received.

### **Public Policy- Sara Jain**

- After weeks of political impasse, tense negotiations and mounting economic anxiety, the Senate gave final approval on Thursday night to bipartisan legislation suspending the debt limit and imposing new spending caps, sending it to President Biden and ending the possibility of a calamitous government default.
- Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic finally launched its first commercial SpaceShipTwo flight today. Galactic-01 took four Italians and two Americans across the threshold between air and space for a few minutes of weightlessness. Three of the Italians were mission specialists conducting microgravity experiments while the fourth was one of the pilots. The next commercial flight now is planned for August with monthly flights thereafter.
- ESA's Euclid spacecraft is on its way to the L2 Lagrange point where it will spend six years collecting data to help scientists understand the nature of dark energy and dark matter — what some call the Dark Universe. Between them, they make up 95 percent of the universe, but scientists do not know any more than that and hope data from Euclid, NASA's upcoming Roman Space Telescope and ground-based telescopes will provide some answers.

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

- During the month of June there were quite a few new cases opened (35 under investigation). This is a reflection that the center is active, please make sure you continue to talk to staff about safety and be available to investigators with questions about open cases.

### **ACC Golf Tournament– Kari Gonter and Trey Croom**

- There are plenty of spaces available in September and October, looking to finalize date soon.

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

- Planning is continuing for a hybrid event. Committee is currently working on finalizing the application for nominations which should be completed by the August meeting.

## New Business

- Please make sure your company information is updated on the website.

### **Adjourning the Meeting**

- Kari Gonter adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

- The next official meeting will be held virtually on August 2, 2023, at 11 am (PST).