

**Langley Research Center Alumni Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

**Call to Order and Meeting Overview:** Damodar Ambur called the September 14, 2021, Zoom Board of Directors meeting of the Langley Research Center (LaRC) Alumni Association, Inc. (LAA) to order at 1:05 PM.

**Attendance:** A quorum (15) of voting members (and proxies) was present: Damodar Ambur (plus proxy for Pete Jacobs), Geoff Tennille, Dan Palumbo (plus proxy for Geoff Tennille later in the meeting), Dick Hueschen, Linda Bangert, Ray Whipple, Wayne Richie, Rick Ross, Duncan McIver, Doug Morris, Olaf Storaasli (plus proxy for Charlie Cockrell), Manjula Ambur, and Charles Laney. The following non-voting member was also in attendance: Marilyn Ogburn, Chair of the LRKC ad hoc committee.

**President's Report:** The President, Damodar Ambur, welcomed everyone in his opening remarks.

**Secretary's report:** The Secretary, Rick Ross, reported that there was no general membership meeting last month and hence, no minutes. Rick stated that the minutes for the special Board Meeting on August 23, 2021, were submitted, reviewed, and revised prior to today's meeting. Rick moved that the minutes be accepted, Linda Bangert seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

**Vice President's Report:** The Vice President and Programs Chair, Dan Palumbo, reported that the schedule of speakers is up to date. Dan noted that Donis Anders, the caterer for the planned picnic, had not been very responsive. As a result of the catering concerns as well as COVID-19 concerns, LAA had decided to cancel the picnic. When Donis later responded to Dan, she indicated she was having staffing problems. LAA plans to have its holiday luncheon catered by Donis; she will come up with a menu and cost prior to November meeting. The luncheon will tentatively be held at the clubhouse in Damodar's neighborhood. The estimated cost is around \$25 per person.

Due to the caterer's previous staffing issues, Dan identified an alternative if the issues continue. There is a caterer in Smithfield with a food truck, but they have a kitchen and can do catering as well.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Geoff Tennille, referred to the written Treasurer's Report that was submitted prior to the meeting. The report showed the following beginning and ending balances for the month of August:

<b>Account</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
LAA Organizational Shares	\$5.00	\$5.00
Money Market Savings	\$9,734.49	\$9,735.32
Smart Checking	\$3,690.95	\$3,321.95
TOTAL	\$13,430.44	\$13,062.27

Expenses in August were \$659 for the Mariners' Museum. Income in August was from dues (\$110), dividends (\$0.83), and payments received for the Mariners' Museum lunches (\$180).

**Communications Officer's Report:** The Communications Officer, Dick Hueschen, did not have anything else to report besides what was presented at the General Membership meeting. Dan Palumbo commented that the obituaries take too long because it takes time away from the guest speakers. Dan suggested that we could just list the names and refer members to the LAA website for details. Others commented that the additional information is helpful. Linda Bangert suggested only reading the NASA-related portions of the obituaries and limiting it to four or five sentences.

**Nomination Committee Report:** Dan Palumbo reported that Damodar Ambur plans to retire as LAA President at end of this year. Dan Palumbo stated that he will retire as Vice President at end of this year, but he is willing to accept the nomination for LAA President for 2022. Others can be nominated for both the President and Vice President positions. An email will be sent later this month to solicit nominations for these positions. LAA will need a minimum of five new board members. Damodar noted that 85% of board members are involved in other LAA activities. We will also need a new Nominating Committee chair for 2022. Suggestions were made for reaching out to Dave Miller, Kathy Ferrare, and Dave Hinton as potential board members.

**Membership Committee Report:** The Membership Chair, Mike Marcolini, was not present.

**Hall of Honor Committee Report:** The Hall of Honor Chair, Duncan McIver, reported that the HoH is making good progress and that the online nominating form is operational and on the website. Kathy Ferrare is doing an outstanding job promoting the LAA. Bo Walkley and Clayton Turner will be preparing a video to promote the Hall of Honor. NASA and the LAA will be reaching out to the 2017 nominees who were not selected to see if they are interested in being nominated for 2022.

**LAA Website Committee Report:** The Website Chair, Olaf Storaasli, reported that the website is up to date, backups are being performed, and security and privacy updates are being performed periodically.

**LRKC Ad-Hoc Committee Report:** The Langley Retiree Knowledge Capture (LRKC) Chair, Marilyn Ogburn, reported that the @LaRC page will be completely revised shortly. The LRKC committee has had recent communications with Kevin Rivers, Dawn Schaible, and Bart Singer regarding nine opportunities. Four of these are for mentoring and one (submission of lessons learned) was recently implemented. Marilyn is staying in contact with Rob Wyman regarding his efforts to restore history and archives information that used to be on the Langley website. The committee is also working with LaRC on ways to provide former employees with access to their NASA body of work.

**New Business:** Rick Ross discussed a suggestion from Kathy Ferrare to consider the use of social media platforms (such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.) to promote and encourage membership in the LAA. Rick mentioned that, prior to the meeting, Geoff Tennille sent an email describing safety and privacy concerns associated with the use of social media.

Doug Morris stated that this could be another way to make people aware of the LAA. Olaf noted that there are options available to control access. One suggestion was that LAA could have a one-way Facebook page that just pointed people to the website; when the page's photo is

updated, “friends” of the page would be automatically notified. LAA could also have a private group and that we could only invite people who are LAA members. A private group would allow discussions among the LAA members, but would not help accomplish the goal of promoting LAA to the public. Similar capability exists for What’sApp and other social media platforms.

Damodar Ambur asked Rick Ross, Doug Morris, and Olaf Storaasli to put together a proposal to be discussed at the next board meeting regarding the use of social media.

**Closing Remarks:** Damodar Ambur stated that he has been communicating with Center leaders for promoting the LAA. Damodar will be advocating for STEM education and for bringing new membership into the LAA. While he will be stepping down as President, he will still be involved with the HoH. He will be encouraging Center leaders to provide opportunities to entice members to join the LAA, such as discounted admission to the Virginia Air and Space Center, one-year badges, or similar LAA member benefits.

**Adjournment of the Board Meeting:** Damodar adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Call-in information will be sent to members in advance of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ross, LAA Secretary