

# Langley Research Center Alumni Association Minutes of the General Membership Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2021

**Call to Order and Meeting Overview:** President Damodar Ambur called the September 14, 2021, Zoom General Membership meeting of the Langley Research Center (LaRC) Alumni Association, Inc. (LAA) to order at 11:45 AM.

**Attendance:** At least 23 alumni attended some portion of the meeting.

**President's Report:** The President, Damodar Ambur, reported that the Hall of Honor (HoH) call for nominations was put out in September and that an email will be coming out today. Nominations are due the first week in January. The second LAA quarterly newsletter was published earlier this month and is available on the LAA website ([larcalumni.org](http://larcalumni.org)); the next newsletter will come out in December. Damodar reminded everyone to submit a Consent and Release of Rights form for anyone who has not done so already. The form is available on the website; please print the form and send it to Rick Ross.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary, Rick Ross, reported that there was no general membership meeting last month, so there were no minutes. Rick thanked all who submitted newsletter articles. At least 30 people have completed the Consent and Release of Rights form.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Geoff Tennille, reported that received payment for all but one of the lunches. All expenses have been paid for the Mariners' Museum tour and lunch. Dave Miller is a new lifetime member. LAA has a balance of \$3,321.95 in the LFCU checking account and \$9,735.32 in savings. Funds are used to support LAA activities, Hall of Honor activities, and STEM outreach. Our 501(c)3 status is still unknown; waiting on IRS to respond. In response to a member's question, Dan Palumbo added that funds could be used for support of charitable organizations in the future.

**Communications Officer's Report:** The Communications Officer, Dick Hueschen, reported we have one new member, Wes Goodman, who will be retiring next year. 23 alumni passed away since the last report during the July LAA meeting: Stu Flechner; Sandra White Patrick; Joe Hudson; Fred Morrell; Warner Smith, Jr., Tom Brooks; Bill Henley, Jr.; Charles "Buddy" Poe; Donald Ewton; Dick Couch; Neil Holmberg; Dick Campbell; Douglas Lord; Sandra Chaney; Susan Bostic; Chris Gross; Martin Baxter; Charlie Mann; Shelly Baron; Mark Flockhart; Alton Mayo; Otis Childress, Jr.; and Wilmer Reed III.

Dick then asked for a moment of silence to honor our alumni who had passed. Dick will provide the names to Olaf and Rick to post on the website.

**Vice President's Report:** The Vice President, Dan Palumbo, reported that the picnic has been canceled due to COVID. In its place, some of the members will be reporting on their activities during retirement. Next month, Mia Siochi will be giving a presentation on nanotechnology.

**Guest Speakers:** Dan Palumbo introduced the guest speakers for this month: Damodar and Manjula Ambur and Olaf Storaasli. Damodar and Manjula discussed their voluntary service in retirement for education, teaching STEM for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade talented and gifted students at An Achievable Dream Academy. Damodar also serves on the Virginia Governor's STEM Advisory Committee. Damodar and Manjula continue to provide volunteer services for food

security, funding, food packaging and distribution, and food drives for the Peninsula Food Bank. They increased awareness and advocated for climate change by giving presentations, petitioning legislators, and participating in seminars and rallies.

Olaf Storaasli discussed his participation in a Pfizer vaccine study to help solve the COVID-19 problem. Because of his involvement in previous studies, the University of Tennessee contacted and asked him to participate in a COVID vaccine study. He began his participation in the two-year double-blind study in September 2020. He also participated in local TV to raise awareness. He was originally rejected due to age but was accepted when study was later expanded. He originally received a placebo but was able to receive the vaccine in early January when the study was unblinded due to successful results.

**Adjournment of the General Meeting:** Damodar Ambur adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM.

**Next General Meeting:** The next LAA general membership meeting will be a Zoom meeting, to be held at 11:30 AM on October 12, 2021. Call-in information will be sent to members in advance of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ross, Secretary