

Call for Volunteers

Dear LAA members, in January we will hold our annual business meeting. During the General Membership meeting the Board's Member-at-Large Class of 2023 (Geoff Tennille, Doug Morris, Manjula Ambur, Rick Ross and Dick Hueschen) will step down and the members present at the meeting, local and remote) will elect the Member-at-Large Class of 2026 to the LAA Board. One third of the Board membership is annually refreshed from the General Membership to provide a fresh voice from our members.

This email is a call for you to volunteer to serve on the Board, as a Member-at-Large. When I have asked people personally to serve, they very often ask what would be required of them. In brief, you will be expected to attend at least 50% of the Board Meetings (in person or by proxy) for 3 years. You may resign at any time for any reason. During your term you may take an active part in deciding what we should do and how we accomplish it. Here are some of the items that will be before the Board next year.

1. Rethinking our General Membership Meeting. When I began my career at Langley I learned there had been a hiring freeze across NASA that created a 10 year gap in ages of the workforce. That age gap is now reflected in the LAA's membership with older members in their 80s and newer members in their 60s. How do we create a program that appeals to everyone in the membership? There are fundamental issues here to articulate and then address.
2. Reaching out to new retirees. We need to raise the visibility of the LAA across Langley employees. This is not easily done because the LAA is outside the 'fence' and not part of any Langley employee's job description besides the Langley Liaison who cannot be expected to fight all our battles. My experience is that it takes persistent effort with contacts inside to make sure LAA announcements don't fall through the cracks. Our monthly meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend but few know this let alone know what the program is.
3. Keeping our IT technology functioning. The LAA has a website, publishes a quarterly newsletter and now hosts hybrid meetings. We now own a laptop and will soon acquire MS 365 licenses. As you might expect we must maintain, update and protect all this capability as the technology continually advances.
4. STEM outreach. Our Bylaws declares support of STEM as one of our primary functions. There is great potential in our membership to contribute to this effort that can only be utilized by efforts initiated by the Board.

These thrusts efforts are spearheaded through our committees. There are 2 types of committees, standing and ad hoc. The Chairs of Standing Committees are Board members. There are 5 Standing Committees listed below. Members from the General Membership can serve on committees without being Board members. Non-Board Members can also chair ad-hoc committees.

1. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of the 5 Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Communications Officer in addition to the former President. Much of the early discussion and planning is done by the Executive Committee before the concept is brought before the Board.
2. Programs Committee. The LAA has a Programs Committee chaired by the Vice President (currently Vicki Crisp) whose primary responsibility is to schedule speakers for our monthly meetings. During the past year the Programs Committee has been considering organizing other social activities which range from tours to informal gatherings for lunch or a few beers. We conducted a poll to gauge the interest of the membership and will be analyzing and acting on those results early next year. The PC is also cooperating with the AIAA to organize joint outings.
3. Membership Committee. The Membership Committee is currently chaired by Mike Marcolini. This committee is responsible for outreach to Langley retirees. Mike has pointed out that we need programs to appeal to a broader spectrum of Langley employees. What those programs are and how to make their availability known to Langley employees has yet to be determined.
4. Information Technology. Currently our IT efforts are divided into 2 committees, a Website and Newsletter Standing Committee and an IT ad hoc Committee. Olaf Storaasli chairs the Website Committee and Rick Ross the IT ad hoc Committee. As you might imagine there's a lot to be done in this area. The website is functioning well, but requires constant updating. Our hybrid meetings were a little rough at the outset, but have improved greatly thanks to IT Committee efforts. We have purchased a new laptop and are planning to purchase MS 365. A switch to Teams from Zoom will facilitate inviting Langley personnel to our meetings. There's also records to keep and backup. If you have any skills in this area consider volunteering for this committee.
5. Hall of Honor . Duncan McIver chairs the Hall of Honor Committee. This committee is responsible for organizing the Hall of Honor awards ceremony every five years.

The open Secretary and Vice President Officer positions presents a real challenge as the Executive Committee will essentially be crippled and the Programs schedule, although planned

through mid-2023, will not be filled for the rest of the year. Most of us have been doing double duty and do not wish to face the prospects of additional responsibilities.

Volunteering for the Board will no doubt involve work. But there's satisfaction to be gained in building the camaraderie between the members. This is our vision.

Please thoughtfully consider joining us as we strive to bring the members together.

Dan Palumbo, President LAA

Geoff Tennille, Nominating Committee Chair