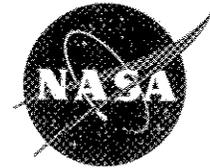


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 5, 2009

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the "How Things Fly" Reception on March 18, 2009

On March 18, 2009, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the Director of the National Air and Space Museum, non-profit organizations under 501(c)(3), will host an evening reception at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D. C., from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The purpose of the reception, sponsored by Boeing, is to celebrate the re-opening of the "How Things Fly" exhibition. This exhibition explains the principles of how aircraft and spacecraft fly.

Approximately 1200 individuals have been invited to attend. The event will be widely attended by invitees from other Federal agencies, DoD, congressional offices, state and local government, news media, and aerospace companies. The estimated cost of the reception, including all food and beverages, is approximately \$88.58 per person. The reception will allow NASA employees the opportunity to celebrate the updates and renovations of the "How Things Fly" gallery and to launch the second decade of the exhibitions.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their invited guests.

In addition, NASA employees may accept the following gift items: small foam space shape gift estimated at 48 cents, and a paper airplane made of origami paper valued at approximately 50 cents per person.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, or who are in non-career positions for which the President's Executive Order of January 21, 2009, requires signing an ethics pledge, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(1) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

  
for Adam F. Greenstone