



Silver Eagles Newsletter

November 2014

Silver Eagles,

We have 3 new members this month! I wish that I could take credit for it, but it was pure luck.

New Members:

Dave Mayer

Jeff Rich

Danielle Roeber

Board News:

Mayer David - NTSB Colleagues,

The time has come for me to leave the NTSB. The New York Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has asked me to come aboard as its Chief Safety Officer. It is as daunting a mission as it is compelling, and I have accepted the challenge.

The MTA serves more than 15 million people over a 5,000 square mile area. Each year, MTA subways, buses, and railroads provide 2.62 billion trips, MTA bridges and tunnels carry more than 280 million vehicles, and MTA capital construction projects boggle the mind. All of this represents a significant contribution to our nation's economy, and it demands the highest level of safety.

May your thoughts and encouragement be with me as I make this transition. Each of you, and the steady, principled work of the NTSB, will forever be in my heart. My last day at the NTSB will be November 26, 2014.

I intend to work hard as your Managing Director until my departure. To that end, back on May 28th, I told you that I would hold listening sessions, and report the results to you. I will issue to you my thematic report about what I heard at the listening sessions tomorrow. My report will also include a "last call" for those of you who wish to be listened to (anonymously or not), but did not attend a session.

I will consider all of the input I receive (quickly, please) and I will issue my action plan for change before I turn in my credentials. I will not be here to implement the plan, but all of you will all know my thoughts for the road ahead. I salute Agency Head Chris Hart for his agreeing to let me focus on this, and for his trust in authorizing me to deliver these materials to you.

In closing, please accept my apologies for the abrupt and impersonal nature of this message. I wanted to be certain that each of you learned this news from me, rather than from another source.

Sherry Chappell - She was the deputy division chief of MD-3 (the division which now houses the combined functions of Safety Recommendations and Executive Secretariat). She wrote: As I depart for a new position at the FAA I just want to thank everyone who has made these 3 years so interesting and rewarding. Working with all of you has been an honor. Everyone's dedication and enthusiasm is infectious.

Danielle Roeber- Office of Communications, has left and taken a new position at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

“Turning into a Pumpkin

I'm not walking out the door just yet, but I don't want to forget to send this!

Thirteen years . . . almost to the day. As a daughter of a retired Coast Guard officer, I can tell you that this is the longest time I've spent in one place. And as an extrovert, I can tell you that it's the people who make a place important for me. I've seen a lot of people come and go in my thirteen years. And now it's my time to go.

I would prefer to make individual goodbyes because I prefer the personal touch. No way an e-mail can adequately convey all the emotions I feel – the bittersweet emotions – at leaving the NTSB to take a position at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. I said several times over the last 6 weeks that I look forward to my move, my new organization, and the people with whom I'll be working; I don't look forward to leaving. But individual goodbyes just aren't possible at this point. And besides, I hate uttering “goodbye” anyway.

Thank you for the friendship, camaraderie, growth, and opportunity to make the world a little bit better. Thank you for the honor and privilege of working with each of you.

Charlottesville and the Shenandoah Valley do have Internet and cell phone service. So please reach out and maybe even come visit the beautiful part of Virginia. My personal e-mail is (on the attached contact list).”

I invited David and Danielle to join us, but I don't have contact info for Sherry. If any of you have that info, please forward it to me. Thanks!

Member News:

Another spot of pure luck, I ran into **John Parsons** today at a Corner Bakery nearby. We talked family and I forgot to mention this group, but I got his email address so I will get in touch. John was with our facilities group many years ago. Today, he is a construction contractor in Northern Virginia. He seems to be doing well!

One further note, well WARNING: If you are contemplating converting from Windows 8 to 8.1 - be very sure that you have written down some password that you were supposed to have generated when you uploaded Windows 8. If you don't have it, then halfway through the process the screen will ask you to enter that password. Failure to do so will lock up your computer. It cost me \$200 to get my computer unlocked! Seriously! My impression is that my computer was held hostage for ransom! Yes, as part of the unlocking process, they did "sell" me a bunch of security programs that I don't know how to use, BUT... Well you get the idea.

Misc:

Don't forget the Silver Eagle Website: www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html

Remember NEWS – NEWS personal NEWS!

Okay where did fall go?? It is positively frosty here! Correct me if I'm wrong, but I guessed something like this after the relatively cool summer.

Jim Henderson