



Silver Eagles Newsletter

December 2015

Silver Eagles,

We have two new members this month and a couple of favorites of mine! One favorite for anyone who ever had to perform during a Board Meeting and the other for keeping us sane in RPHM! Oh, one of our members noted that changing to self-plus-one on his medical insurance would have increased the amount he had to pay, so he didn't. That doesn't make sense to me, but be sure to check it out before you change! Admittedly I only saved about \$8 a month and that was almost not worth the time making the change. Another asked how well Blue Cross coordinated with Medicare, and I responded "like a hand in a glove."

New Members:

Antion Downs

Nancy Mason (although I don't have her home email, yet!)

Board News:

Nancy Mason, Ron Price, John Clark, Paul Misencik and Lisa Kleiner retire at the end of December. (I have sent invites to all of them.)

Member News:

Antion Downs - I think it no coincidence that I am writing this on the morning of Thanksgiving. I have a lot to be thankful for. In the spring of 1995 I arrived in D.C. fresh out of college with no idea of what my future would hold. At the urge of my parents I quickly found myself at a staffing agency searching for the opportunity of a lifetime. That company introduced me to (what I did not know at the time) the first true love of my life. An agency and mission that truly has the best interest of America's traveling public at heart. That spring I walked into the NTSB equipped with three tools that had served me well up until that point, a love of hard work, dedication, and the passion and drive to succeed. My first assignment was to serve the agency as the custodian and deliverer of mail and packages; ok I was the mailroom guy. I then graduated to graphics and IT support in the Office Surface Transportation, Public Affairs, and Research and Engineering. In 1999, thanks to the departure of Teddy Brown, I took on the duties of the managing the boardroom

and conference center, where I had the pleasure of attending every board meeting, hearing, and forum and other events. In those meetings I learned and came to appreciate all of the talent that we have at NTSB and how together we improve transportation safety for all. After the boardroom, I answered that call to assist with building a video, photography, and social media program within the Office of Public Affairs that has been heralded throughout our industry and in the media. From my first accident (TWA 800) to my last (Akron, Ohio) and everything in between it has been a great ride. Everything listed above would not have been possible if not for you, my colleagues at NTSB. You all have supported and guided me every step of the way, and for that I am truly thankful. Every life experience as an adult (getting married, becoming a father, etc.) I have shared with you. I truly love you ALL, yes even those who have not always loved me back. The NTSB and its staff are truly the best in government.

Finally, the time has come for me to move on. I have been offered an opportunity for promotion and advancement with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and will begin my new journey there on Monday, November 30th. I leave with mixed emotions. I am excited about the new opportunities and challenges to come, but at the same time, very sad to leave the agency that has embraced and nurtured me for some 20 years. I leave you with one charge, a charge that I tried every day to fulfill. Please do your very best to leave the NTSB a better agency than what you found it. Happy Thanksgiving

Dwight Foster – noticed that I put the wrong photo in the last newsletter. It was something made up between Dwight and Ron. I'll attach the real one. I suspect that no one really believed that the Appalachian Trail took them to the top of Mt. Everest, but sorry, if anyone was confused. It was Mt. Washington, I hope!

Misc:

50th Celebration: Nothing new this month. We are going to have to get some spin going in the new year!

Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a Jolly whatever holiday you celebrate this time of year! New Years will see the Hendersons salsa-ing it in again at our “adopted” son’s actual parents’ place!

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

Jim Henderson