



Silver Eagles Newsletter

January 2017

Silver Eagles,

We have 8 new members this month! It is the end of the year getaway! **Ron Schleede** “had lunch with some Geezer's from NTSB” and brought us two new members, Bob and Bill. Carol retired and responded to my invite and then the flood began! The Board was listed as one of the best places to work again. Oh, and yes on the last newsletter I forgot about **Philis'** passing. I jokingly blame it on age, but last month was a special, the holidays coming too fast, major home repairs and my gall bladder decided that it's warrantee had expired requiring a date with a surgeon. That along with a lot of other fun stuff –what a month – Weeeee!!

New Members:

Bill Hendricks – Not sure that Bill is new because his name is on our previous contact list, however, he hasn't been getting the newsletter – so that makes him... in need of our fellowship!

Bob MacIntosh

Carol Floyd

Barry Strauch - No plans for the near term, other than traveling next month to Australia and new Zealand with my wife, and daughter and son in law. If there are any changes I'll keep you posted. I would love to keep in touch with my fellow retirees.

Scott Dunham - I'm planning to win the lottery, but that hasn't worked out yet....

Tom Zoeller – Managing Director headed to the Chemical Safety Board.

Rick Narvell

Jim Rodriguez

Board News: [News from **Lorenda Ward**, our inside person.]

Chris Hart - Everyone – I am happy to report that we received great news today when the Partnership for Public Service announced its 2016 rankings of **Best Places to Work**. We achieved a rank of **9** out of 29 small agencies. Our rank on this index has improved steadily over the last several years, as follows:

- 2015: 10
- 2014: 14
- 2013: 17

Thank you for participating in the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) in record numbers and for giving feedback that showed that we are improving!

According to the Partnership's website, "The overall rankings are determined by the Best Places to Work index score, which measures employee engagement. The index score is not a combined average of an agency's category scores. It is calculated using a proprietary weighted formula that looks at responses to three different questions in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. The more the question predicts intent to remain, the higher the weighting." The three questions are:

- I recommend my organization as a good place to work. (Question 40)
- Considering everything, how satisfied are you with your job? (Question 69)
- Considering everything, how satisfied are you with your organization? (Question 71)."

For more information and a full list of agencies, click on this link:

<http://bestplacestowork.org/BPTW/rankings/overall/small>.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing transportation safety by all that you are doing to help create a collaborative, inclusive work environment. Together, we are achieving important outcomes for the American people, including all of us. And, as we pursue continuous improvement throughout our organization, we look forward to future gains in employee engagement and mission success.

Thanks, and Happy Holidays . . . Chris (*I believe that we all knew this!*)

Chris Hart - Everyone -- As you probably know, **Tom Zoeller's** last day as NTSB's Managing Director is Friday (the 13th!). He has accepted the position of Chief of Staff at the Chemical Safety Board.

We all owe Tom an enormous debt of gratitude because, to his credit, he has ably spent many years of his life as a public servant in positions that help improve all of our lives, largely involving transportation safety. He will be continuing his public service, but at the CSB, in a different arena -- improving the safety of facilities that make and store chemicals and other hazardous materials of all types.

I could not have accomplished much of what I have done as your Chairman without Tom's highly competent, enthusiastic, and passionate assistance, and we will certainly miss him. Please join me

in giving Tom our heartfelt thanks for his years of service to the NTSB and to the traveling public, and in wishing him the best of continuing success at the CSB.

So, you ask, who will be our new Managing Director?

Our new Chairman will probably prefer to select his or her own Managing Director. Thus, with my term as Chairman expiring in mid-March, I do not plan to name a new Managing Director at this time. Having said that, I am pleased to announce that I have asked **Dennis Jones** to serve in the interim as our Acting Managing Director, and he has graciously accepted.

Having served at the NTSB for decades (there were no child labor laws back when he started here), Dennis knows the agency better than anyone I know, and he is as committed to helping the agency perform our mission efficiently and effectively as anyone I know. His wealth of knowledge about the agency and about what has worked and what has not over the years, along with his extensive managerial experience, will be invaluable to help ensure that our agency will continue fulfilling its mission, and will continue collaborating, improving, and innovating, until our new Managing Director is selected.

Please join me in welcoming Dennis as our Acting Managing Director, and please continue to apply the energy and passion every day to improving transportation safety that you did under Tom.

Thanks, and thanks again for giving me the privilege and the honor of working with all of you.

This from **Barry Strauch**:

Colleagues,

After 33 years at the NTSB the time has come for me to retire. I have been privileged to work with among the most motivated and professional people in the workforce, and I am grateful for the friends that I have made through the Board, both those from the agency and those from airlines, shipping companies, FAA, Coast Guard, and academia with whom I've worked and gotten to know personally.

Our mission is unique, and the regard with which we are held has continued to impress me in my travels for the agency. I am proud to have been associated with the NTSB for these many years. I am not sure what I will do next, but I know that I won't be biking to work in the dark anymore—more likely biking in daylight—as well as pursuing other recreational and intellectual activities.

I wish everyone the best and I thank all of you for making my 33 years here feel like just a few years.

Barry

This from **Rick Narvell**:

Good morning ladies and gentlemen:

As many of you know, I am retiring at the end of the year. But before they kick me out, I wanted to pass along a few thoughts, as follows:

First and foremost, I consider myself one of the most fortunate people on the planet to have worked at the Safety Board and known each and every one of you. I came to the NTSB on June 1, 1992, after working almost eight years as a Special Agent for the Department of Defense. Regardless of whether you started last week, or as I did 24 years ago, each of you are talented, gifted people who took time from your busy days to speak with me on whatever the subject, be it professional or personal. In many cases, it was a well-appreciated blending of both. Each of you have been either this type of coworker, supervisor, manager, friend, industry colleague and/or mentor to me. The years I've been here have been productive, happy years that I will always remember fondly. I have learned so many things from each of you and because of this, I am eternally grateful.

I came across this not long ago, with apologies for some minor editing.

"For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin...real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid, something. Then...and only then...would life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these "obstacles" were my life." - Alfred D. Souza

Good bye and best wishes to each of you in your pursuits.

Rick & Carolyn Narvell

This from **Jim Rodriguez**:

Today is my last day at the NTSB. It has been a pleasure to work with so many of you these past 6 years. I have always been impressed with the skill of the agency's investigators and engineers, the professionalism of our TDA staff, and the dedication of everyone supporting launches. It was a privilege to be a part of great investigative teams from Skagit River, WA (bridge) to Jacksonville, FL (El Faro); Oxnard, CA to the Philly Amtrak derailment; Asiana (SFO) and SpaceShipTwo (Mojave) to the 787 battery fire at Logan and the Seastreak Ferry in Manhattan. My time at NTSB has been immensely satisfying.

My next reporting point is at the law firm of Holland & Knight, where my primary duties will be to advise companies that are parties to or involved in NTSB investigations. So, I look forward to seeing many of you again. I will endeavor to use my knowledge of NTSB rules and practices to make the investigative process more efficient.

Please keep in touch. I'm always happy to talk with anyone from the agency.

James F. Rodriguez

Lorenda also sent a note that **Sheryl Cook** and **Paul Cox** and were retiring from AS. (I tried, but didn't get through to them)

Fiftieth Reunion News

Lorenda indicated that the Fiftieth plans have not been going smoothly. There has been some turnover in the leadership as there will soon be for all of the government. I'll keep you posted

Member News:

I begged **Crystal Thomas** to send a photo of her son that I spotted on Facebook. It took her a while but I have attached a couple of them. "He's [Coulton] 18 months today!!" (Jan 6, 2017) (See Crystal photos)



Ted Lopatkiewicz - I wanted to pass along an interesting matter related to Carol Floyd's retirement. My wife, Drucie Andersen (who worked at the Board from 1987-1990) and I share the same birthday, January 24. It turned out that Carol shared our birthday, although she was the "kid" of the three of us. We always talked about how we would be celebrating our respective birthdays. We wish her well in her retirement, as we have been enjoying ours. *(I let him know to contact her directly before new year because she has yet to contact us.)*

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

Have a Happy MLK day [today!] – ummm Chinese New Year! – Valentines Day! (not the Chicago massacre)

Jim Henderson