



Silver Eagles Newsletter

December 2018

Silver Eagles,

We have 2 new members this month. I purchased a new computer on Cyber Monday. The Unofficial Jolly Holiday party held yesterday was a success, although two departing people (Jennifer Morrison & Dennis Jones), who I hoped to invite to join, didn't come, and two buddies formerly of RPH, now Silver Eagles (Joe Kris & John Beckius), also didn't show. Of note, Joe called in sick and John never committed. However, the Silver Eagles were well represented.

New Members:

Georgia Struhsaker

Bella Dinh-Zarr

Board News:

This from **Georgia Struhsaker** through **Lorenda Ward** (our inside person) ... to those who do know me, in case you had not heard, I am retiring on November 30. After 24 years with the NTSB, the time has come to close this chapter of my life. Although I could reminisce at length about my experiences, I think it's best to keep this short. So, with great sincerity, I offer this executive summary version of a retirement letter: I am very proud of my career with the Board, and it has been an honor to work with all of you.

If you would like to keep in touch with me after the 30th, you can reach me at: (*See contact list*)

All the best, Georgia

This from **Bella Dinh-Zarr**: Thanks for forwarding your newsletter and for helping so many people stay in touch! I've heard about the Silver Eagles for years, and in fact, many of the people on this list were kind enough to answer my many questions when I was first nominated five years ago! It's been a true privilege working with the good people on the Board for such a noble mission. My term ends December 31, and I'm not seeking renomination, so my last day will be January 14. After that, I will be volunteering for a few favorite causes (school library, .05 BAC,

etc), biking a lot, and then traveling around the world for year with my family starting this summer. Thanks again for including me, and I look forward to staying in touch!

Lorenda also introduced me to **Bella Dinh-Zarr** when she told Lorenda that she couldn't make the Jolly Holiday Party. (See contact list.)

This from **Robert Sumwalt** through **Lorenda**, of course, about **Dennis Jones**:

Dear Colleagues:

Working for the federal government as we do, we must sometimes bid farewell to some of our most beloved colleagues. This is just such a case, as our Managing Director **Dennis Jones** has announced that he will retire from the NTSB, effective January 3, 2019.

When I became the Acting Chairman of the agency in March of 2017, I asked Dennis to continue in his position as then-Acting Managing Director; later, I asked him if he would consider assuming that position permanently, as the NTSB's Managing Director. I am extremely fortunate, as is this agency, that both times he said "yes." After 39 ½ years of federal service at the NTSB, however, Dennis has decided that it's time to retire.

Effective on January 3rd, Sharon Bryson will assume the reins of leadership as the agency's Managing Director. She will be joined in the MD suite by Paul Sledzik, who has agreed to become our Deputy Managing Director. I am extremely grateful to Sharon and Paul for their willingness to serve in these leadership roles, and I am excited for our path ahead.

Please join me in extending our heartfelt thanks to Dennis for his many decades of service -- to this agency, its mission, and the traveling public. And then please join me also in welcoming Sharon and Paul to their new roles as our Managing Director team.

Thank you, to each of you, for your commitment and work on behalf of this agency. I believe 2019 holds great things in store!

Robert [Sumwalt]

(I sent an invite to Dennis before he left.)

News from Robert J. Molloy Ph.D. through guess who!: I have some bittersweet news to share. **Jennifer Morrison** has accepted opportunity to continue her work to pursue auto safety outside of the NTSB but her leadership and experience in our office will be difficult to replace. She has been an outstanding leader for the central team as well as a superb vehicle investigator from the time she joined the Board in 2002. Her last day will be November 16. We will be celebrating her time with us on Wednesday, November 7th at 11:30 in the OHS conference room.

For those of you who will not be in town for the celebration, we plan to have a holiday party in early December when all three teams will be in town for various work/report planning meeting and hope that Jennifer will be able to join us at that time. *(Jennifer was gone before I learned of her departure. If you have contact info, then please let me know.)*

Member News:

This from **Bridget Ann Serchak**: Greetings from Jerusalem! I was testing my WiFi access and your newsletter showed up. Day one of a ten-day tour. First real travel since the passing of my beloved mother on June 22nd but since she helped me plan this trip, it is extra special. She came here 30 years ago with a dear friend from South Africa and visited another dear friend in Tel Aviv - who was the person who hosted me when I arrived last night. Very poignant. Still at VOA but hope to land someplace else soon. I can retire in May 2024 but wish I could do so now. So envious of all of you retirees. Keep up the great work and I will do what I can to recruit more members! 😊 Did **Barry Strauch** ever join? (Yes)

Thanks for all you do! Bridget

Jim Pritchert's wife passed away last month. I know that Jim wasn't a member, but he told me within the last few months of his upcoming retirement and desire to join us.

Mentioning Jim made me remember running into **Ed Pritchard**, formerly of FRA, (*name similarity*) with whom the Haz Mat group worked closely. He was sitting in the back corner of our favorite Thai restaurant in Fairfax, VA. We had seen him there once before, but he appeared to leave on a mission! This time he sat with us and we talked for a while. He expects his second – well, for him, I think – third retirement, soon. We talked about our fun travels! – not work related, that is.

This from **Georgia Struhsaker** after joining us: Happy holidays everyone! I retired on November 30, 2018, after 24 years with NTSB in a variety of roles including air safety investigator, regional director, and writer/editor. Although I still enjoyed the work, I wanted more time to spend with my husband, Jim Struhsaker, who retired from the Board in 2014. After 9 years in Hawaii, we moved back to the mainland 2 years ago, and we now live in San Rafael, California (about 20 miles north of San Francisco) so we can easily get to the city, wine country, mountains, and ocean. Jim and I both volunteer at The Marine Mammal Center, which is the world's largest marine mammal hospital, where we help care for the seal and sea lion patients. We are avid travelers and are planning trips to Fiji, Spain, and Tahiti in 2019. Most recently we went to Peru and visited Machu Picchu (see attached photos).



This from **Ron Battocchi**: I was in Taos in late October with a college friend and his wife to help build a Habitat for Humanity home. This was our 7th such adventure--Richmond, New Zealand, New Orleans, Guatemala, Charleston, and our second build in Taos. The project was traditional adobe construction which attracts volunteers from throughout the country. We performed a variety of tasks such as applying stucco to the exterior, plastering walls, mudding and sanding walls, caulking, and some carpentry. Attached is a photo of me, my classmate, his wife, her brother, a colleague and the prospective homeowner.



A bonus was the spectacular yellow cottonwood and aspen leaves from Santa Fe to Taos, especially along the Rio Grande river.

Miscellaneous:

With this much news I will just briefly add that the Silver Eagles that I recognized during the Jolly Holiday Party included: **John Goglia, Dwight Foster, Bill McIntosh, Joe Epperson** and **Gary Hammack** (*Who asked me to mention his photography which can be found at BLACKCOFFEEPHOTO.COM. He reassured me that all his photos (on the site) are “G” rated. This could mean that direct contact will result in other rated photos?*) Oh, and **Lorenda** was there running the show. Maybe when she retires, we can encourage her to become our Party Coordinator. You know, “West-coasters need to gather in San Francisco on ... for a mega party!” (See attached party photos.)





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

Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Fabulous Kwanza! – and a Wonderful New Year!

Jim Henderson