



Silver Eagles Newsletter

February 2018

Silver Eagles,

We have 2 new members this month! One I knew very well from his first stint at the Board, and the other... well, I've been retired for nine years! **Bob Benzon** got a call asking the whereabouts of **Howard Plagens**. Anyone know? Also, I just went through a 70 ½ year life change. (See below) As for other news... it looks like I need some help from you'll next month!

New Members:

Chris Hart

Vishal Amin

(See contact list)

Board News:

This from **Chris Hart**, through **Lorenda**, of course:

Everyone – On this, my last day, I would like to thank all of you for making my time at the NTSB such a gratifying and enjoyable experience. The quality of your work speaks for itself, when people do what you recommend more than 80% of the time even though they don't have to, and you deserve to be proud of how much you have helped the continued improvement in transportation safety over the years. What's more, while you were doing all the work, we Members were getting all the credit . . . what's not to like about that? This opportunity to work with you has certainly been the pinnacle of my career.

Next steps? I'm not sure yet, but my current thoughts are to use what I've learned here to improve safety in two broader contexts. The first is applying aviation automation lessons learned to automating our cars, where they don't seem to be paying much attention to automation mistakes of the past. The other is figuring out how the very successful collaborative aviation safety program, the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST), which has been used to improve process safety (keeping airplanes from crashing), can be transferred to improving workplace safety (slips, trips, and falls). There is a major gap between the process safety folks and the workplace safety folks

that, if bridged, could significantly improve workplace safety just as CAST has done with process safety.

In other words, I don't plan to stay at home watching Ellen . . . :))

Best of continued success in your efforts to improve transportation safety, and I look forward to our paths crossing again . . . **Chris**

This from **Vishal Amin** and again **Lorenda**:

My four years here at the Board has come and gone at lightning speed but my memories and friendships I have made here will be forever cherished. I truly appreciate your support during my tenure.

You all are exceptional and truly dedicated public servants with an amazing mission to improve transportation safety. Reading NTSB reports during my university days at ERAU sparked my interest to one day join this fine agency. This dream is finally fulfilled. I will truly miss the mission and working with exceptionally smart people of this agency.

In my next chapter, I plan to launch a transportation consulting firm AERTRON Inc, with the mission to improve transportation safety and reduce travel times for our citizens by connecting people, technology and policy. Please stay in touch and I know our paths will cross again in the future.

Member News:

Bob Benzon - Got a cold call from a Canadian TV group (Cineflix) wanting to find **Howard Plagens** regarding an old accident of his. They want him to appear on one of their upcoming Mayday series episodes. Does anyone know of Howard's whereabouts?

I, **Jim Henderson**, just turned 70 ½ years old and the IRS is demanding their pint of blood from my retirement accounts. The TSP process was relatively easy. Go on line, print the required form for Full Withdrawal of your account. (Sounds scary!) Part way down you should check the box for the TSB to calculate the amount required by law to be withdrawn. Provide the info for direct deposit in a bank account. Those are on the first two pages. I would also include the third page to tell them how much you want withheld. If you don't, then they automatically withhold married with three eligible kids. Not many of us have that by 70 ½. Finally, you FAX or mail the form (3 pages – there are about 8 others not related to this event) to TSB. I note that you will have to do the same for all of your IRA accounts, but there is some flexibility for withdrawing the required amount from one of the several IRAs that you have. I only had one so I didn't really dig into this. If I had, I'd have probably taken the money from my worst IRA first! Save the big earners for later. (BIG Earners – LOL!)

One other note!! If you are worried about the tax consequences, then start taking this on the year that you turn 70 ½. If you wait until you are required – or the following year – then you are required to make two withdrawals that year. The first, I think is April?, and the second is December. This doubles the tax consequences – which also can hit your Medicare Part B for the following year.

Miscellaneous:

Okay, it would be great to have Member news for next month. Workshops? Volunteer work? Vacations? Please! Please!

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

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! We are not in Ireland this year, but our favorite Tex Mex restaurant will probably have green beer and salsa verde!

Jim Henderson