

President's Message

You are likely feeling similar to myself right about now, in that you are heartily sick of a world focused only on death counts and whom to blame them on. Aren't there other important, impactful things that should also be demanding our attention now to avoid disaster later?

In our tiny corner of the world, we are continuing to move forward with important tasks which, we know if not done soon, will critically impact our ability to survive as an organization. One of those is downsizing our Huntington Beach office space, which had become prohibitively expensive. We have been gradually moving our headquarters to Flabob Airport, Riverside, but we had planned to keep a small footprint in Orange County to support projects managed by Orange County-based volunteers.

Amid all the pandemic uproar our dedicated volunteers have modified their schedules and worked with a neighboring office tenant to negotiate an office 'swap' – where we move into the neighbor tenant's smaller unit, and they take over our larger unit. The volunteers have had zoom meetings, telecons and email action lists to make this work even under these unprecedented times, and along with our regular AAHS maintenance tasks. If, and when you get the chance, do send a 'thanks' to the office volunteers, such as Library Manager Bob Palazzola and Archive Manager Paul Butler for their tireless support of our goals.

A hidden, positive outcome of forced 'at-home' mandates has generated several new volunteers who are helping with our web-based 'AAHS PLANE SPOTTER' app (www.AAHSPlaneSpotter.com), developed by Hayden Hamilton, that is allowing volunteers to help catalog the AAHS photo archive, online from their own computers. If you're interested in giving AAHS a few hours of your time from the comfort of your on home, this is a great way to get your aviation fix!



Another goal we've recently accomplished is finding ongoing editorial support for the AAHS *FlightLine* newsletter. This newsy-format publication was a standard 4x yearly offering from AAHS, along with the *Journal* up until fall, 2018. But, with increasing responsibilities, our Journal Editor, Hayden Hamilton could no longer keep the publication going. The Board of Directors approved support for this important product, and have asked Job Conger, a longtime AAHS member, professional writer, volunteer AAHS *Journal* proofer and contributor, to assist in putting the *FlightLine* back on a regular publication schedule. Job will support content collection and editing for *FlightLine* articles and submitted photographs. We by no means have a complete staff; we still need to fill the role of content manager, to support both Job and Hayden with relevant material collection. Do please contact the office if you're interested.

Our strange new world still does not allow large group functions in many urban settings, including Hiller Air Museum and SFO Aviation Archives, which has prompted the AAHS Board of Directors to officially CANCEL plans for an AAHS Annual meeting this year. We have contacted all members currently signed up, and will be providing refunds to all as requested. More details will be available on the AAHS website.

There are many consequences of our mad new world, and all we can really do is support each other and those in need, keep our long-term goals in mind, and keep plugging along!

Jerri Bergen
AAHS President