

President's Message

We're beginning the year a little behind in our publication of the *Journal*. Publication of the Winter *Journal* should be complete and mailed prior to year-end; however, article submission delays, website updates (which are also done by our *Journal* editor!) and other needed actions have led to this publication being pushed into the new year. Getting ahead in our publication schedule means we need to ensure our pipeline of publishable articles is well established, and this is clearly an area where recently we've not met our members' expectations. We need to think outside our current 'box' for materials for the *Journal*. We've recently approached colleges teaching history courses, and have put forth the idea of providing aviation education scholarships, with a submission of an aviation history article for the *Journal* as a portion of the student scholarship submission. We've also renewed discussions with historical organizations, aircraft type clubs, airports and aviation manufacturers that, with a small investment of time, could be rich sources of aviation history for publication.

This year, we're not only looking outside the 'box' for article ideas, we are planning for additional resources to support a more timely publication service by outsourcing more functions currently managed by our Editor. Both the *Journal* and the current events *Flightline* Newsletter, which are managed wholly by our Editor, will have layout, setup and artboard work outsourced to free up critical time of our Editor for content editing. We're looking now to outsource website maintenance and include new social media functions to both expand our internet presence and reduce the time needed for AAHS staff to do regular website upkeep.

We have in the office some terrific volunteers who have for years kept our office running and processed photo and book donations. Without these volunteers AAHS would have been defunct long ago. We realize now, with the increased work of our digitization and managing our current products, we need to budget for professional services for some of our workload. In 2019 we began utilizing professional bookkeeping services and have already realized improved operations. Prioritizing how much outsourcing we can afford in our budget and what functions we can outsource without compromising our publishing quality is a key goal for this new year.

The year of 2020 promises to bring further positive change for AAHS, a lot of work, and some fun events as well. Our Annual Meeting, the weekend of April 24-26th, will be packed full of aviation history all around the San Francisco area that you won't want to miss! Get on the bus and join us! (see the Annual Meeting Event notice in this publication for more details). AAHS will also host an airport BBQ at Flabob Airport, sometime in late May, to introduce ourselves to the airport tenants and visitors. More details to come on that. We're also considering a return visit to EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh, with a booth inside one of the main hangars. Do please contact the office if you have an interest in helping AAHS organize any of these proposed events!

Our amazing volunteers and discerning members have made AAHS a long-term source for aviation history, and we're looking forward to updating our own practices to ensure the efforts of our volunteers and members result in a quality organization.

Thank you all!

Jerri Bergen
AAHS President