

Chief Executive Officer's Message

Late last year AAHS was approached by a local benefactor interested in assisting AAHS in building out more space for our aviation collections and preservation efforts. Since that time we have had ongoing discussions with the leadership at Flabob Airport regarding how we could make this addition to AAHS' "footprint" at Flabob bigger. We can ALWAYS use space; with our increased incoming donations of late, we are devoting more effort (and square footage) towards cataloging and dispositioning the aviation items placed in our care. It also could be the opportunity we need to build the *right* sort of space to effectively preserve the aviation history we've spent nearly 70 years collecting.

The proposed addition to our living space comes with the expectation that AAHS will initiate, lead and manage an ongoing docent program that supports the various history venues built or currently under construction at Flabob Airport.

Flabob Airport, in addition to its several youth education programs, is striving to become a kind of "history village," where visitors can see and touch aviation history from various eras. Flabob has already developed a Wright Flyer history building, along with a hangar devoted to early aviation race planes. They are currently constructing a hangar devoted to the "golden age" of aviation (1920s-1930s), a jet hangar, and a memorial to the aviators of the Vietnam conflict. AAHS would train volunteers to guide visitors through these history venues, and possibly assist Flabob management with larger group tours.

The prospect of a new building for AAHS has been a heady challenge, while developing a docent program has added another dimension to our already full plate of important tasks planned for this year, such as the initiation of a new AAHS digital platform.

We are reaching out to you – could you lend a hand to assist AAHS, at this critical junction in our existence? Creating history materials for the planned docent program, updating our social media with news bits, assisting in helping writers with upcoming journal articles, or identifying aviation photographs, are all things that can be done remotely, and don't require a presence at the AAHS office.

Many other aviation clubs/organizations have since closed down, due to low member interaction, reduced interest, lack of funds, etc. We at AAHS are very blessed in that we are situated at a historic site that shares our future interests. With careful management we can manage our publication costs. What we REALLY need is some time from you, our members, so that as an organization we can complete tasks that are both critical AND time sensitive, AND meet our member needs.

Email me at my work address- and I'll see if we can match an AAHS need to any time you may have to offer. And thank you!

Jerri Bergen
AAHS CEO