PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This year has certainly brought challenges and new ways of being into all of our lives. The Board of Directors have met several times regarding how to best handle our 2020 San Antonio Reunion to ensure your safety and incorporate CDC, WHO and local guidelines. Following is a time-line/decision process.

Sep/Oct 18: Selection of site, dates, contract signed.

27 Mar 19: Annual Board Meeting at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel to develop the reunion schedule and identify costs. The goal: trouble shoot any potential problems and create an enjoyable experience for all. Surprise: The new sales manager told us the hotel had been purchased by Hilton, would be remodeled by 2020, and our contract would be honored.

8 Mar 20: BOD met to discuss COVID-19 findings. CDC/WHO recommendations stated no travel restrictions and no recommendation for cancelling events. Freedom Flyers still a go. David Schill, Treasurer, contacted all 110 people signed up giving them the option to cancel with a full refund by Friday 13 Mar. Canceling at this point AMEA would lose $5,500 but we felt member safety was more important.

14 Mar 20: WHO had declared a pandemic on 11 Mar, travel restrictions were in place. BOD was offered postponement of the reunion to 4-7 Nov 20 (during Fiesta), no additional cost, same contract. Attending members were contacted with updated info.

8 May 20: Notification the hotel will be closed for construction until Jan/Feb 2021. The use of a sister hotel, The DoubleTree near the Market Place was offered for November. Since it would not be on the Riverwalk, the BOD requested options to stay at the El Tropicano. Lots of discussion regarding consequences of cancelling San Antonio all together, setting up something else for 2022, election of new BOD members if no 2020 meeting, and mainly what’s best for our members.

OUTCOME: NO 2020 REUNION. A new election process to replace the three Board member positions up for renewal in 2020 are defined in this Crew Alert.

NEXT REUNION: 23-27 Mar 22 at the newly remodeled El Tropicano Riverwalk by Hilton, San Antonio, TX with a new contract/new prices. Schedule will be much the same, arrive Wednesday, River Boat cruise Thursday & dinner, Friday free day, Saturday meetings and Banquet. No Freedom Flyer event at this point. More details as we get closer.

1 Jun 20: All room reservations will be cancelled by the hotel; our new contract is being worked.

Finally, I can’t THANK the Board members/hosts enough for all the extra hours and careful thought put into this process. Ted Bassett, Secretary and David Schill, Treasurer have been especially busy with the many letters, refunds, and follow up with members signed up for the 2020 reunion. Thank you to their wives Joyce and Phyllis as well. Dan and Threva created items to be distributed at the reunion, Steve Davis works the web site, and along with everyone Sam, Debbie, and John Roberts have been there for all the extra meetings and Rick Tripp has done our FaceBook postings. Your valued input makes this all possible!

Belinda Morrone, AMEA President

ABREVIATIONS from President’s Message
CDC: Centers for Disease Control
WHO: World Health Organization
BOD: Board of Directors
already selected and has been visited. Once the new board members are elected, the seven member board will assign positions and tasks. Board member positions are for a 4 year term; and board member’s may rerun. Also, there are times when a member may have to hold their position until a replacement can be found. We do have a great team now and truly enjoy working together. I hope you will join our group. We all look forward to working with you!

**AMEA Board of Directors**

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**Filling Vacant and Expiring AMEA 2020 Board of Director Positions**

Under normal circumstances, AMEA Board members are nominated and elected during the General Membership meeting at the reunion. Our By-Laws define seven board members to serve for four year overlapping terms. The overlap ensures that experienced members are on the board as new members join. This year we have three positions to fill (Harriet Neill left, Dan and Sam are retiring). The President could fill the vacant position, but she is leaving it open for the membership. Since we are not meeting in person this year, we will be using email and US Postal mail for distributing ballots and returning your votes.

Our By-Laws allow a written Letter of Intent from any absent member to be presented at the time of nomination, and members may self-nominate. So we are asking those interested in being considered for a seat on the board to send in by **5 Sep 20**, a Letter of Intent, that includes some background information (availability for meetings, computer skills) and your contact information. We strongly suggest you consider running for a position on the Board or nominating someone whom you believe would be an asset to the organization. Please ensure that the individual(s) you wish to nominate are willing to serve on the board and are proficient in operating a computer (Microsoft and Publisher or being willing to learn would be very beneficial).

These are voluntary positions; however, they do require a certain amount of effort to keeping the organization running smoothly. Some examples include keeping the website current by making entries into the database, managing the Honor Roll, distributing the Crew Alert twice a year, planning a Reunion every two years, publishing the Memory Book after each reunion, managing the organization’s funds, contacting new members, etc. These duties are spread among the seven members and we all work as a team, so if you have a problem someone else on the Board will help. Specific officer responsibilities are listed in the By-Laws if you would like to review them on the web-site. Travel to an on-site meeting held the year before the reunion (on the odd years) is requested of every Board member. Travel is at your own expense. This year might be different since the hotel is

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**Here is the Process:**

1. **Write a Letter of Intent**, include background information, computer skills, ability to travel, contact info (sample format on page 5 of this Crew Alert)

2. **Send it in by 5 Sep 20:**
   - via email to: Board@amea.us
   - OR
   - via postal mail to:
     Belinda Morrone
     382 Hamilton Street
     Worcester, MA 01604

3. **Questions**: 508-755-1985 (Belinda)

4. Once all the applicants are received, a ballot will be created and sent via email/postal mail to all AMEA members with a deadline to respond.

5. Out of the ballots sent in, those candidates receiving 2/3 of the votes will be elected. Our goal is to announce the newly elected members in our next Crew Alert.

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**Words to Live by...**

“You can’t start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one.”
This article about computer security is written to address a broad range of readers with varying degrees of cybersecurity understanding. I have been working in cybersecurity for twenty plus years for world-wide companies like Hewlett Packard (HP) and Cisco Systems. My job, daily, is to track down and block bad actors; what some may call hackers! With the right tools and training to detect these bad actors, you may be surprised to find your devices (laptop, computer, tablet, or smartphone) are under a steady stream of attack or reconnaissance probes. How do they do it? Some use techniques known as phishing where they send you an e-mail or text message that appears to be from your bank or some organization you belong to containing a convincing graphic or other language enticing you to click or tap your finger! But before you do, hover your mouse over the link or graphic and look extremely closely at the address, especially the first part before the .com, .org, etc. It may have the name of your bank or organization embedded in it but what else is there? Cybercriminals are extremely convincing these days and may even make a phone call addressing you by name or know some details about your bank or organization. Be careful who you give information to or fill out any form or run any program on your computer especially if you didn’t contact them first. No legitimate company is going to contact you first offering to remove a computer virus they detected on your computer or any other offers to fix your computer, tablet or smartphone. Make sure that you are using a reputable anti-virus software, even on your smartphone. After installation you must run a full scan at least every two— four weeks. While you are at it, make sure your computer, etc. is updated on a regular basis, including your browsers. Common schemes are messages that appear to be from friends asking for help, claiming to have had their wallet stolen while traveling or asking you to accept them as a Facebook friend or messenger. Before you do that, it is always a good practice to contact them by phone and ask if they sent the request to you.

Another tactic used is to create a fun little game that you can download and play on your device. However, what may be happening behind the scenes is a completely different game! This innocent little game may have a backdoor, known as a keylogger, that is recording every keystroke you make and sending them to a database on the Internet. Or it may install some small program that triggers a virus to infect your system. Please also be aware of the use of default passwords. Did you remember to change your password on your Internet devices after the service provider installed it? If not, someone outside your home could easily connect to your wireless network and gain access to your devices. Do not use common information as your password because those bad actors can easily use a dictionary and figure yours out. I use a very secure password program to store all my complex passwords that I cannot remember. I only need to remember one very secure password and can lookup the others easily. Finally, do not use the same password for your bank or other financial institution as you do for websites.

The AMEA website is also undergoing some changes to make it even more secure. It was moved to an updated server running a more modern operating system, faster connectivity and updated software.

I hope this article was helpful, if nothing else, to cause you to think about security a little more carefully.

Steve Davis
AMEA Web Support

Website Updates:

AE History: The AE History section of AMEA's website has been updated with new links to articles about recent coronavirus evacuation missions. To check out these stories just go to the public AMEA website at www.amea.us, click on the AE History tab and select AirEvac in the Middle East and Africa (1990s to today). Under this link you will find: "Air Force Uses Cutting-Edge Isolation Pod to Evacuate COVID-19 Patients from Afghanistan". The second new link is "Air Force evacuates Coronavirus patients from Afghanistan in first use of Isolation System".

In addition, there are also two new story links in the AirEvac/MedEvac in WWI and WWII category.
The AeroMed Evac Association (AMEA) Facebook (FB) Group

The “AeroMed Evac Association (AMEA)” Facebook (FB) group Administrators would like to take this opportunity to review and address a few items pertaining to the AMEA FB group.

Let’s begin with a general review. Most, but perhaps not all, know the AMEA has its own Facebook group entitled “AeroMed Evac Association (AMEA)”, comprised of a membership base rapidly approaching 1,200 individuals. The AMEA FB group is the social networking site of the AMEA and supports past, present, and future service personnel assigned to military medical airlift around the globe. The sole focus of the group is AE. Membership eligibility extends to all personnel of all branches of service (Reserve, National Guard, or Active Duty) who have served, or formerly served, in any capacity in an AE or support unit (including select widows/widowers and children as outlined in the AMEA By-Laws). The AMEA FB group is a “Closed” group whose members have demonstrated linkage with the AE system by answering requisite membership questions. The AMEA FB group also serves as a “recruiting tool” for the AMEA. A common misperception is AMEA FB group membership constitutes membership of the AMEA itself, which it does not.

The group’s primary intention is to provide a platform by which folks can share personal photos, stories, and experiences, as well as current and historical news and media articles, all of which are directly related to AE. Unfortunately, one of our greatest challenges is the lack of post participation by the membership at-large. You all have a huge repository of AE experiences to share and we encourage everyone to dig out those photo albums, news clippings, and the like, and share your history with all.

Membership in the AMEA FB group is targeted toward current, dues-paying AMEA members who hold or have held a duty position role within the AE system. Should members “invite” others to “join”, please ensure those individuals meet the group’s membership eligibility requirements. Additionally, when “inviting” someone to “join”, please inform those individuals you have done so and let them know they must personally answer each of the three requisite membership questions for membership consideration. All too often, we receive an “invite” request from a member for another individual only to have the “invited” member never answer the requisite membership questions or when messaged, convey they were unaware of the “invite” or express a lack of desire or intent to join the group. Lastly, please refrain from “inviting” non-eligible members and by all means, please do not “dump” entire FB “Friends List” with the hope they’ll be accepted. All this does is create an administrative burden for the group’s Admin folks.

As with most FB groups, there are recurring issues which require constant monitoring and attention. The primary issues currently being experienced are: 1) “off-topic” posts having nothing to with AE, 2) repetitive posts of the exact same subject, and 3) incorrect “privacy settings” by the author which does not permit the intended post photo, caption, video, or link to be viewed by all. As the AMEA FB group is comprised of a diverse group of individuals, there are some subjects deemed inappropriate for posting on the AMEA FB group. These include: 1) photos, articles or comments of a political, religious or sexual nature (or inference there-of), 2) Spam (including unsolicited advertising), and 3) posts of a personal nature best suited for one’s own FB Timeline. And a word about copyrighted/proprietary material. Please bear in mind, photos, images, artwork, etc. are subject to the laws of copyright, infringement, and intellectual property. Failure to adhere to these laws has been the demise of numerous FB groups. Photos posted by members are assumed to be the personal/proprietary property of the member who posts such. Photos posted by members, but belonging to others, must be captioned giving proper credit to the photo’s creator. Copyrighted photos must be captioned and credited as such. Likewise, articles, news releases, and the such should credit the author, owner or source. And as a reminder, “friendly banter” is permitted providing civil dialog is maintained.

Again, this is your group with the hope and intent for all to enjoy viewing and sharing our rich AE history.

Rick Tripp
AMEA Facebook Administrator

Honor Roll

Gone,
But not forgotten,
Although we are apart,
Your Spirit lives within us,

James Holl
Brigantine NJ
1 Jun 2013

Richard D Compton
Atwater CA
8 Mar 2015

Howard L Ellis
Sinks Grove WV
17 Dec 2017

Robert D. White
Colorado Springs CO
28 Mar 2019

James Boyer
San Antonio TX
2 Jan 2020

Donald Moore
Liberty NC
5 Jan 2020

Walter Sheely Jr
Chambersburg PA
6 Mar 2020

AMEA Facebook Administrator

Rick Tripp
LETTER OF INTENT — SAMPLE FORMAT

NAME:__________________________________________DATE:_______________________

CONTACT INFO: PH #: __________________Email Address: ________________________

STATEMENT REGARDING INTEREST IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Tell us a little about yourself, give us a paragraph or two that we can publish on a ballot so that folks who may not know you personally can get to know you enough to make a decision for voting. Have you worked on committees, experience in management, or experience organizing events, whatever you feel is relevant.

AE & WORK BACKGROUND: May be included in above paragraph or list separately

COMPUTER SKILLS: ____Microsoft Word _____Microsoft Publisher
____Other (please list)______________________________

ABLE TO TRAVEL TO ANNUAL MEETING: ____YES ____NO

AMEA MEMBERSHIP FORM:

To apply for membership in the AeroMed Evac Association (AMEA) complete the online application at www.amea.us or complete this form (at least bold face items).

Enclosed is my biennial payment of $______ ( $25 for 2 years)

I request Life Membership and enclose a check for $100.00 (or $____ partial payment towards full amount to be paid within one year)

Name of Member: ____________________________Nickname: __________ Known by Maiden Name: __________

Name of Spouse: ____________________________Is spouse an aeromedical member? ____ If so, what position? _____________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________________

On-line Address (if available): E-Mail
Phone numbers: (Home) (______) _______________________Mobile (_______) _______________________

May we post your address on the AMEA’s Webpage (info available only to other AMEA members)? OK _______ Not OK _______

Post your phone number on AMEA’s Web page (info available only to other AMEA members)? OK _______ Not OK _______

Membership: New __________ Renewal __________ Re-Join __________

Branch of Service (Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, etc.):

Status: Retired _____ Active Duty _____ Reservist/Nat’lGuard _____ Former Military _____ Other _____ Dependent _____

New Member History: List AirEvac units, Locations, Dates assigned and Aircraft flown: __________________________________________

Circle your AE Duty Position (Commander, Pilot, Flight Nurse, AET, CCATT, Flight Mech/Engineer, Administrative, Logistical Support, MSC Officer, Aeromedical Staging Facility Personnel, Other): __________________________

How did you hear about AMEA? __________________________________________

Make checks payable to AMEA and Mail To: __________________________

AeroMed Evac Assn.
P.O. Box 29450
Indianapolis, IN 46229-9998
### AMEA Directorates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Position</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Belinda Morrone</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>382 Hamilton St. Worcester, MA 01604</td>
<td>508-755-1985 <a href="mailto:Belinda.Morrone@amea.us">Belinda.Morrone@amea.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Hosford</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>9510 W. Willowbrook Dr. Sun City, AZ 85373</td>
<td>480-341-9088 <a href="mailto:Daniel.Hosford@amea.us">Daniel.Hosford@amea.us</a></td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teddy Bassett</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>902 Footbridge Pl Cary, NC 27519</td>
<td>937-478-5337 <a href="mailto:Ted.Bassett@amea.us">Ted.Bassett@amea.us</a></td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Schill</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>10921 Tedder Lake Drive Indianapolis, IN 46239</td>
<td>317-898-4293 <a href="mailto:David.Schill@amea.us">David.Schill@amea.us</a></td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Kittle</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>452 Buckskin Road Angels Camp, CA 95222</td>
<td>209-785-2931 <a href="mailto:Sam.Kittle@amea.us">Sam.Kittle@amea.us</a></td>
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<td>Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debby Millerberg</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>9443 Winners Circle NW Pickerington, OH 43147</td>
<td>614-866-6138 <a href="mailto:Deborah.Millerberg@amea.us">Deborah.Millerberg@amea.us</a></td>
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