



Open Letter to IAA membership... the current, old, and soon-to-be,

We have exciting news, changes and goals for the coming year. IAA has had incredible success and growth for many years, but we are always looking ahead to ensure the great State of Idaho will continue to be a haven for general aviation.

The Board is in a major transition stage with several new positions opening up. First, two long-time members of the IAA Board of Directors are stepping down, vice presidents Bill Miller and Larry Taylor. They have supported IAA for many decades and served with distinction. Thank you, Bill and Larry. (And if you see them, please let them know you appreciate the years of work they have put in.) Because their responsibilities crossed over in many areas, both seats will be combined into one, the VP of Government Affairs and Relations. We are also needing two other positions to the Board filled, a VP of Membership and a VP of Training and Safety. While Bill and Larry's departure will be a loss, both plan to remain close to the Board and help transition new board members. If you think you or someone you know has the passion to fill any of these roles, particularly the VP of Government Affairs and Relations, which is critical for protecting and promoting the IAA mission, please contact the Board at Info@idahoaviation.com

– The VP of Government Affairs and Relations will represent the IAA with the state and federal agencies, and will share IAA's message and mission. This is a critical position that requires good investigative skills, keen interest and attentiveness to the many groups who send out publications and information that can affect our aviation community. The work can be both fun and challenging, especially when helping to create pathways for aviation, but it is also deeply rewarding.

– The VP of Membership will oversee potential and current members by managing the roster, communicating with the general membership, and supporting recruitment. If you like talking about flying, this position may be for you. The position requires someone who enjoys talking with young, old, new and want-to-be pilots, about the benefits of joining the IAA. We have many new streams of marketing materials, trade show booths and videos to help deliver IAA's message and mission.

– The VP of Training and Safety will help create and share training and safety information with a focus on back-country survival, mountain pilot skills, strong airport operations and good pilot maintenance skills. Support and direction will be aimed at members, but also will be provided for individuals, schools and clubs who are seeking more specifics.

This year, we are also focused on increasing the value and benefits to our more than 1,100 members. From our inception 29 years ago, the IAA has been a leader in aviation associations. We started with a preserve, protect and promote agenda, and we are vehemently defending our mission.

Beginning this year, our goal is to provide our members with more quality projects and benefits, proper accounting and reports of the actions of the Board and members. For the past five years, we chose to keep our membership dues flat, even as overhead and expenses increased. We put it off as long as we could, but as of March 1, 2018, we regret that we will have to raise the cost of a one-year individual membership to \$45. (Changes for household members are still to be determined, but will be slight.) We value the support of each and every one of our members, so in return, we are vested in returning to them even more benefits.

Of the many projects and benefits we have been working on, some have rolled out, some are still coming. I hope you have seen the 2018 Idaho Aeronautical Chart, an up-to-date mapping of Idaho airstrips, details about reporting points, obstructions, and much more. The IAA, specifically Kerry Requa with a phenomenal effort, worked with the great Galen Hanselman, the author of "Fly Idaho" and other books as well as the creator of the original aeronautical chart. Their contributions were invaluable. Thank you, Galen and Kerry. If you are an Idaho pilot and you haven't seen it yet, the 2018 chart is by far the most informative and useful tool on paper you can have. If you want one, I urge you to visit our website or one of our retailers soon. Our first printing run was 3,000, but they are selling fast.

IAA website visitors will soon begin seeing a vastly improved, more user-friendly, website. Our redesign goal was to help users save time by finding what they needed fast, ideally with a single click. Every visitor will have full access to the website as it begins to launch, but non-member access will become more limited as it nears completion. We made this decision because we know that we cannot exist without the support of our members, and one of the perks our members should receive for their continuing support is all of the valuable information that IAA provides through its website. At the same time, we want people and pilots from across the nation and around the world to visit Idaho, to see what we are blessed with. So we encourage everyone to support IAA. For nearly three decades, we have remained dedicated to protecting and preserving Idaho's aviation infrastructure.

We are ready to roll out an impressive new IAA trade show display for promoting Idaho aviation. It is a badly needed upgrade from our old one with its decades-old materials. The new display has a new backdrop, video presentation, merchandise rack, information banners, and best of all, current materials and visuals, all of which we particularly need when we promote Idaho aviation abroad. The new display will debut at the Northwest Aviation Conference, Feb 23-24 in Puyallup, Wash. If you miss seeing it, you will have another chance at the Idaho Expo, Montana Expo and the AOPA Open House. We built it to be portable, plane-friendly and striking, and I think we accomplished our goal.

Many tasks lie ahead in 2018. One of the most important will be to coordinate with other aviation groups. Our goal is to streamline the information flow from other organizations like the RAF and AOPA. Surrounding pilot groups in MT, WA, OR, UT need to be our constant friends in the conversations as well. The state itself, via the ITD, tries to balance the various directions and concerns of aviation, but WE are the voice that reflects General Aviation's feeling directly. We must reach out to more than the big-tire folks. There are wings that have floats under them, wings that never see dirt beneath them, wings that spin so fast they can hover. "All things aviation" is how we, as an association, can best perform our core duties and mission. The impending possibility of Privatization of ATC, potential User Fees, be they on pavement and/or Federal lands, is real. The USFS is in the middle of revising numerous Forest Management Plans throughout the state and nation. We need to stay vigilant in watching this progress. We must be in the room when issues need our voice. There are many who do not appreciate or understand the value of aviation within our state, economically or culturally. If you enjoy the freedom to fly, be prepared to fight for that privilege, as it is not a right.

The IAA will be present at and support many outings, fly-ins, groups and member activities during the year, so many that it would take another page to list them all. Our monthly newsletter, which contains great articles, a calendar and other information, is the regular way we communicate with our members about all these activities. Thank you, Crista Worthy, for the newsletter that you do so well. We would like everyone to benefit from the newsletter, but it will be one of the IAA member benefits from now on.

We have a new effort underway to increase our Facebook communications and emails. Please visit the Idaho Aviation Facebook page, and click Like to see our posts. Our goal is to make regular, but not constant, posts.

We will be sending a postcard to every address we have on file to remind you that if you were a member or plan to become a member, you can sign on to the IAA website and update your info. This way, we can make sure you too will get the benefits and information you know you can't live without!

This past year was full of accomplishments. Thank you, members and volunteers, the work horse of all that is IAA, for your continued support in creating one of the most premier aviation associations in the nation, in the most special state for flying in the country. And thank you, current board members, VP's, the secretary, everyone, for the effort it took to achieve so much. It is a labor of love and pays no money, but it has brought me more riches than I deserve.

Blue Skies!

Andrew George

President IAA