

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT



I want to thank you all for putting into my trust the presidency of EAA 172 for 2010. Sheila Connell asked me a couple of months ago if I would consider it and I agreed, hoping that someone more qualified would also be nominated. Alas, it was an easy vote as no one else accepted the nomination. I am actually happy that there was not a fight over chapter leadership. If there were that would indicate that there were many unhappy members with different groups trying to take control. It will be easy to lead a chapter where all are of the same mind.



I did not campaign for this, so no campaign promises to break. I don't have a plan for the first 100 days... I do need to get to know more of you. I am not so good at remembering names, so hope you will have patience in reminding me who you are. I also need to learn who all the volunteers are that make this chapter work. As I learn more I am sure that I will see more that I can do as well.

I have no grand plans to change the direction the chapter is on. It seems that people are comfortable with how things have gone and I'll try to keep that. I will be thinking of more fun things we can do to reach out to more people. There are many ways to "fly" and I want to be open and welcome all forms of flight. EAA has tried to capture everything from ballooning to jet warbirds. Many people have dreams of flight that may not include an "airplane." We must continue to find them and educate them that their dream is possible.

I believe the strength that I bring to the presidency is management planning and organization. These are skills that I learned and use in my work. What I don't have is a long history with the chapter as many of you do. I don't know your accomplishments, struggles, traditions, etc. There are also many people that you know and care about that I do not even know. I hope you will help me out with these things as I have no intention of ignoring the great past and people of this chapter.

A chapter does not run on just a president – it requires many people helping. EAA is primarily a volunteer organization. I know there are many who volunteer their time for the chapter and I hope you will continue. I may need to ask for more volunteers and hope all can help. I need you to let me know when I need to back out and let others do their part as well as when I need to step up and do more myself. Successful leadership will require input from all of you.

Sheila did a great job the last 3 years and I hope that I can follow in her footsteps. I look forward to a great new year in getting to know all of you and having fun with all things flying!

Fly safe!

Al

Ps. Yes, you can call me Al, or Allen. I answer to both.