

For immediate release:  
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## AEA Membership to Vote on Board of Directors During Election This Week at Convention

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The members of the AEA Trusteeship Committee presented the following slate of nominees for election to the AEA Board of Directors for the term of April 2008 to April 2011. Voting takes place from Tuesday, April 22 to Thursday, April 24, during the annual AEA International Convention & Trade Show at the Gaylord National Resort in Washington, D.C.

There are six open director positions for this year's election. Pursuant to AEA bylaws, each AEA member company has one vote per company. Election results will be announced during the AEA Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 25.

Current AEA Board Members seeking re-election are:

### **MATT FOWLE, General Manager, Mid-Continent Instruments West, Van Nuys, Calif.**

Matt Fowle holds a degree in electronics engineering. Since 1991, he has been the general manager of Mid-Continent Instruments' West Coast facility, where he is responsible for all aspects of the operation. Fowle is an active member of many organizations, including the AEA, NBAA, HAI, AOPA, EAA, and the Van Nuys Condor Squadron. He has been an AEA board member since 2005. Fowle was honored as the AEA Member of the Year in 2007.

### **GARY HARPSTER, Avionics Modification Sales, Duncan Aviation, Lincoln, Neb.**

Gary Harpster joined the Navy as a Seabee. Following the Navy, he graduated from Iowa Western University where he received a degree in electronics technology. He flew for Omaha Air Supply for two years before landing a job at Sky Harbor in Omaha, Neb., as manager of the avionics shop. In 1985, Harpster joined Duncan Aviation and helped set up satellite shops in Houston, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio. He then became an avionics technical representative, and his current position is in avionics sales. Harpster holds a private pilot's license and a commercial pilot's license. He has been an AEA board member since 2005, and he serves on the AEA Trusteeship Committee.

### **GARY PICOU, Vice President of Quality Systems, PS Engineering, Knoxville, Tenn.**

Gary Picou is a graduate of Spartan School of Aeronautics. Currently the vice president of quality systems at PS Engineering, Picou first worked as a bench technician for Narco, before being hired as a technician by King Radio. In 1989, he was hired to start Avionics Review, a monthly publication written for pilots about avionics. Following that stint, Picou moved to Eugene, Ore., to become the avionics manager for Flightcraft. Then, he moved to Knoxville, Tenn., to work with Mark Scherer of PS Engineering. He also serves as newsletter editor for EAA Chapter 17 in Knoxville. Picou has been an AEA board member since 2005. He serves on the AEA Government & Industry Affairs Committee, and is a frequent contributor to *Avionics News* magazine.

### **JEANNE RAU-FLATTERY, CEO, Millennium International / President, Aero Express, Lee's Summit, Mo.**

Jeanne Rau-Flattery became the majority owner/founder and current CEO of Millennium International LLC, an FAA/EASA repair station, in 1997. She also is owner/founder and current president of Aero Express Inc., which specializes in buying, selling, renting, leasing and trading ramp and bench test equipment. Rau-Flattery is the Aviation Networking Forum coordinator for the annual ACPC Conference, serves on the advisory board for Union Bank, and is a member of TEC International, a group of fellow CEOs in her community. Rau-Flattery served on the AEA Strategic Planning Committee in 2003 and 2004, then was elected to the AEA board of directors in 2005 for a three-year term. She is a member of the AEA Finance Committee.

**DENNIS SCHMIDT, President/CEO, Sandia Aerospace, Albuquerque, N.M.**

Dennis Schmidt began his avionics career in 1965, attending the U.S. Navy Avionics School in Memphis, Tenn. He began his civilian avionics career with King Radio. At King, Schmidt was a DME and transponder technician before moving into the customer service supervisor position. In 1976, he joined Foster AirData in Columbus, Ohio, as service manager. In November 1993, Schmidt joined Terra Avionics as vice president of sales and marketing. In September 1997, he founded Sandia Aerospace in Albuquerque, N.M., to design and market niche products for the general aviation market. Dennis Schmidt has served on the AEA Educational Foundation, and he is a member of the AEA Trusteeship Committee. He has been an AEA board member since 2005. His company, Sandia, was named AEA Associate Member of the Year in 2003.

Nominees for the AEA Board of Directors election are (listed in alphabetical order):

**Van Dardis, Director of Customer Support, S-TEC, Mineral Wells, Texas**

Van Dardis, director of customer support at S-TEC Corp. in Mineral Wells, Texas, has been employed by S-TEC for more than five years. Previously, he was director of product development at Luscombe Aircraft in Altus, Okla., and engineering department manager at Brantly Helicopter in Vernon, Texas. Dardis is a 35-year aviation industry veteran, holding an A&P license and a private pilot's license.

Dardis was the 2002 Recipient of Distinguished Achievement for Applied Research from Southwest Oklahoma Advanced Technology Association and Cameron University. He has served as an FAA DMIR and as a member of the AEA Program & Member Services Committee.

**Lamont Durante, Avionics Sales, Savannah Air Center, Savannah, Ga.**

A 30-year veteran of the avionics industry, Lamont Durante has been employed by Savannah Air Center, Savannah, Ga., since May 2007. Prior to this position, he worked in avionics sales for Premier Air Center of East Alton, Ill.

Durante is a past member of the AEA board of directors. Over the years, has contributed information for many avionics articles in Avionics News and other trade journals.

**Tom Genovese, Sales and Customer Service Manager, Mid-Continent Instruments, Wichita, Kan.**

Tom Genovese is the sales and customer service manager for Mid-Continent Instruments, responsible for global OEM and aftermarket business development. Prior to Mid-Continent, he was director of sales and marketing for Raytheon Aircraft Services and area sales manager for Honeywell's Bendix/King line. He earned a bachelor's degree from Wichita State University and is pursuing a master's degree in aeronautical sciences from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Genovese is an AOPA member and an IFR rated pilot with more than 400 flight hours. He is actively involved with the AEA, serving as a member of the Program & Member Services Committee.

**Rick Ochs, President, Spirit Avionics, Columbus, Ohio**

Rick Ochs is the president of Spirit Avionics, an FAA-certified repair station in Columbus, Ohio. He is an FAA airframe mechanic and a private pilot. He also holds an NCATT Aircraft Electronics Technician certificate.

Ochs is a member of the NBAA's Maintenance Managers Committee, and director of development for the Youth Aviation Adventure. He recently joined the FAA's AMT Outreach committee. In addition, Ochs is a member of the AEA Program & Member Services Committee, and regularly attends AEA conventions and regional meetings.

**Adam Parish, Regional Sales Manager, Cutter Aviation, Phoenix, Ariz.**

Adam Parish began his aviation career in the United States Air Force as an avionics technician. After his enlistment ended, he continued to advance his career by taking an avionics shop manager position with Cutter Aviation in Phoenix, Ariz.

Four years ago, Parish was appointed Cutter's sales manager for aircraft services.

Parish's involvement with the AEA includes serving as a member of the Program & Member Services Committee, serving as an AEA ambassador at his local FSDO, and started Cutter Aviation in the AEA Training Excellence Program. He also is a member of the Rockwell Collins Dealer Advisory Board. Parish has attended every convention and regional meeting since 2003.

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*The Aircraft Electronics Association represents more than 1,300 repair stations from throughout the world specializing in maintenance, repair and installation of avionics and electronic systems in general aviation aircraft. AEA membership also includes manufacturers of avionics equipment, instrument repair facilities, instrument manufacturers, airframe manufacturers, test equipment manufacturers, major distributors, engineers and educational institutions.*

