



# PROP WASH

www.auburnaviationassociation.org

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PROP WASH is the newsletter of the Auburn Aviation Association. A non profit organization. It is published monthly and is available on line at

www.auburnaviationassociation.org

Auburn Aviation Association was established in 1984. It is dedicated to Aviation, Safety, Friendship, Community Involvement and Education.

Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday at 7 pm at the Auburn Airport.

Meeting Dates :

Board of Directors January 28th Call Tom Brady for Time and Place

Advisory Committee January 27th 6:30 CAP Complex

Auburn Air Museum January 13th 6:30 CAP Complex

## The Prez Says

The last News Letter of the year, my gosh, time really flies bye when your having fun. It has been some work too but the good side of doing this job is the neat people you get to work with. It was early summer that we lost Carol Uhouse from the Board. Since then there have been a couple of folks covering up the Secretary position. It has been mostly Floyd Sanderson and he has done the task well. For some reason he signs it "Shoddily" prepared by himself but that's just not good enough to get him out of doing the work. With the roll over of the new year The Board acquires Tom Palmer as the Vice Prez. The old saying about find a busy person if you want to get a job done sure fits Tom Palmer to a T. He is currently the CEO of the Flying Doctor Corporation and the president of the Gold Country Chapter (Auburn) of the Flying Doctors. Our new Secretary is Carryn Perry and she can almost walk across the airport to get to her hangar. Milt will still be counting Our pennies, doing our taxes and writing about his travels and such. Over at the 5AC post we will still have Gerry Brentnall working with the City's interests verses the airport users interests and Floyd Sanderson will continue as the Liaison between the 5AC and the AAA. Dick Kiger remains as our Founding Father ( maybe we should elevate that to our Founding Grand

Father), Frank Perey will continue onward as our Past President, Susan Wozniak is moving from the Newsletter publisher to the Chair of the Membership Committee and Tony Wright Sr. comes aboard as our Director at Large which is a new position on the Board. Only one square left and that is the publisher of our News Letter. Daniel Wojdac is fitting into those shoes very well and as a matter of fact he is the publisher of this journal that you are reading right now. Hey Donna, don't you go hiding out on us again. To those members that are putting in another year - you did great this past year and 04 should be just as much fun. To the new members to the Board—Welcome,. . . time roll up your sleeves, the water temperature is just fine.

There are some unsung good guys out there: Michael of the clan Duncan of the Museum, Evan Wolfe of Air Fair fame and his lieutenants Chris Rydell, David Slane and Carol Uhouse and of course the voice of Air Fair and our Web Master - Wayne Manning. Bunny, we expect to hear you play next year.

*(what no encore for the BDM Players? - Editor)*

To all our members - Thanks Troops, its been a very good ride !

Olde Barflyldr - Tom Brady

# Writing Letters To Your Congressman

By: Don Hulse

I have often wondered if writing to a congressman or senator is actually effective. Do they read the letters? If so, which ones are selected? How can you increase the probability your letter will be read? A recent article by Robert F. Dorr in *The Navy Times*, 10 November 2003, "One thing we CAN do: learn to write letters to our congressmen," answered most of the questions I previously entertained. Therefore, since not everyone subscribes to *The Navy Times*, I decided to share this important information with you.

One of the basic concepts about government shared by our founders was that government officials should answer to the people. As Dorr states: "Our 535 legislators in the Senate and House of Representatives are supposed to respond when we make a request. ... But, like an airplane stalled on the taxi ramp with a long list of mechanical glitches, American democracy isn't working very well." Most of the glitches in government are not fixable by citizens. Big institutions with big influence and big bucks, for instance, control the majority opinion. "But," Dorr continues, "we can fix one thing: We can write better letters." Unfortunately most people, including myself, do not know how to write effectively to our representatives.

Dorr, who has lived and worked in the nation's capital most of his life, and who has access to experts in the political system, claims that most people who contact Capitol

Hill frequently are guilty of common mistakes. "Nothing substitutes for a clear and precise handwritten letter," an aide told him. "The dirty little secret of democracy in Washington is that, in many congressmen's offices, e-mail messages are ignored."

Dorr offered a few tips, based on his experience and contacts, on making your voice heard in Washington:

**1. Contact the right person:** Congressmen are interested in mail only from their constituents. Your communication must show that you have a postal address in the congressman's district, or say that you vote there.

**2. Stick to one issue:** A congressman told Dorr, "We get letters that say, 'I'm opposed to the B-2 bomber, there are too many illegal immigrants in America, and veterans ought to be entitled to a salute.' It's difficult to respond to a shopping list."

It's important to get to the point. The first sentence of your letter ought to say what you want. Don't lay a foundation and build to a conclusion. Put the bottom line at the top. If you want your lawmaker to vote a certain way on a bill, say that first. If you want him to write a law, put that in your first sentence.

**3. Don't be argumentative:** An insider told Dorr, "If you begin with, 'You stupid idiot,' you're less likely to get a reply." Polls show that many Americans hold their elected officials in low regard. Don't admit it. A kiss of

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*"The dirty little secret of democracy in Washington is that, in many congressmen's offices, email messages are ignored."*

death on Capitol Hill is a letter that talks of political donations. Even if it's true, don't write, "I contributed \$1,000 to your re-election campaign, and I want..." The person who opens your letter is a government employee and is forbidden from engaging in politics. In most cases, it's more effective to write to a lawmaker's district office than his Washington address. "And," Dorr warns, "if you've been spamming a long list of lawmakers or writing to a congressman who isn't from your home district, you're contributing to a future in which nobody will listen to anything we say. If we're going to practice democracy, we need to do it responsibly."

Laura Blackann, Congressman John T. Doolittle's Communication Director, advises, "Give specifics concerning how a piece of legislation affects you. The mail is one way a representative keeps in contact with his or her constituents, and understanding

how an issue affects the constituent allows for better representation." Blackann offered the following suggestions: "Be sure to include all your information and multiple ways to get in touch with you. You want to make sure you get a response, so the more ways to get in contact with you (phone, mail or e-mail) the better. Be sure to specify your position; simply writing that you are concerned about taxes is one thing, but if you can specify your position, your representative will be able to offer you more feedback."

Contrary to what Dorr said about e-mail, Congressman Doolittle welcomes e-mail, pointing out the congressman's website ([www.house.gov/doolittle](http://www.house.gov/doolittle)) includes an e-mail formatting template.

Writing better letters won't solve all problems confronting American participatory democracy – but it will help.

*"If you've been spamming a long list of congressmen ...*

*You're contributing to a future in which nobody will listen to anything we say"*

## Auburn Aviation Association

### Officers 2004

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AIRVENTURE 2004

HAVE LICENSE

WILL FLY

I AM PLANNING TO GO TO OSHKOSH THIS SUMMER I WOULD RATHER FLY GENERAL AVIATION

IF YOU HAVE ROOM I WILL SHARE FLYING AND EXPENSES.

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Deadline for articles or other items wishing to be submitted for February publication should arrive to Dan Wojdac (editor) by January 10th

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JANUARY 7TH 2004 MEETING

18:00 BRADY HANGAR #116

The Agenda will include a Surprise Speaker. Topic also to be a Surprise (yes we do have a speaker!)

Pot Luck: Members to bring

A-N — Main Dish

O-W — Salad/Side Dish

X-Z — Dessert