



# The Triumph of Flight®

Bringing an Icon to Dayton - The Birthplace of Aviation

Branding America's Only National Aviation Heritage Area  
Symbolizing Ohio's Aerospace Leadership

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Soaring 270 feet above the intersection of I-70 & I-75 and seen by thousands of vehicles daily, this 144 foot wingspan monument to the Wright Flyer will symbolize Dayton, Ohio throughout the world.

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## Recovered and Rebalanced

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Recovered and Rebalanced
- 2 Join the Flight Team
- 3 Patterson Still Making an Impact
- 4 Board Member Spotlight

The loss of our president, Walter Ohlmann, last August was a severe one – somewhat unbalancing for the Wright Image Group. Walter not only provided leadership to the group, but gave it a home and supported it. It was not clear at the outset that we would be able to successfully regroup and move on. However, we are pleased to report that we have.

Our first concern was to replace Walter's tremendous credibility and community influence on our board. A second was to replace the day-to-day leadership he provided. And yet a third was to ascertain whether our home and support at Walter's business, the Ohlmann Group, would continue.

That last concern was quickly put to rest by Linda and Lori, Walter's daughters, both senior officers in the Ohlmann Group. In their father's memory, they assured us that we would continue to have a home at the Ohlmann Group, and that they would also continue to support us as he had with the resources at their disposal. Both have been incredibly gracious and constructive with their assistance since then – Linda even volunteering to serve the remainder of Walter's term as a director. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we can repay only by building the Triumph of Flight®!

The other two concerns were a bit more difficult. WIG by-laws stipulated that in the president's absence, the VP for Public Information would act in his stead. That provision was sufficient to provide the temporary leadership needed until the WIG determined what to do about filling the President's job. The Executive Committee met in mid-October to consider the situation and generate a recommendation to the board. Based on a consensus that we were unlikely to replace Walter's credibility and influence on the board with anybody on our radar, the committee recommended

two things – reorganizing to create a new executive director position, and leaving the president's job open until the right person came along to fill it. We amended the by-laws to enable that, approved them in December, and elected Curt Nelson to fill the executive director position. The president's position remains open.

The Wright Image Group will feel Walter's loss keenly for quite a long time yet, but we have closed ranks and are moving ahead – determined to build the Triumph of Flight®.



*An earlier rendering of the monument.*

## Join the Flight Team



*By Byron Kentner*

The Triumph of Flight® project has been sustained primarily by local volunteers and contributors since its inception, but it will take a major contributor to launch construction. The search for that anchor sponsor is now the top priority of the Wright Image Group, but additional local support is needed to help attract such a major contributor. We know that strong local support will be a prerequisite for any consideration of that kind of commitment, and we have established our "Join the Flight Team" initiative to achieve that.

The program is focused on two objectives – money and numbers. The money is the obvious part. The funds raised by this initiative will be used to fund the recurring operating expenses of the Wright Image Group while it conducts its major fundraising campaign. The "numbers" we are after is the number of contributors. Equally important as the dollars is the number of local contributors we can show in support of the project – the more the better for our credibility.

There are good reasons why local support should be strong. Although the Triumph of Flight® is a state monument celebrating Ohio's aviation pioneers and industry, there is no doubt that a major beneficiary of the project will be the Dayton area where it will be located. The monument will not only bring tourists to its base, it will also direct those visitors to other sites in the National Aviation Heritage Area surrounding Dayton – Wright-Dunbar, the Air Force Museum, Carillon Park, WACO Field, Huffman Prairie, etc. It will help to re-brand Dayton from a rust belt casualty, as many Americans regard the city, to a center of technology and innovation, which we locals know it to be. Not only will the monument change the way people think about Dayton, it will change the way Dayton thinks about itself.

It is tempting to consider that if only 10% of the half million residents of Montgomery County came up with only \$10 we could finance fundraising efforts through to completion with money left over. But the world doesn't work that way. Reaching a half million people is easier said than done, and there are many other worthy causes in the Dayton area that are asking for local support, as well. The Join the Flight Team campaign is structured to make it as easy as possible on local donors to participate while still reaching our objectives. We are asking for a minimum pledge of \$1,000 by contributing \$200 now and following up with \$200 annually over the next four years. We project that this will not only provide us with the cash flow needed until the start of construction, but will indicate strong local support to potential major donors.

An important part of this program is donor recognition, not only as thanks to our contributors, but also to document local support. Every company making the pledge to Join the Flight Team will be listed on our website (click on "Our Supporters") at the time they make their pledge. In addition, there will be recognition at the base of the Triumph of Flight® Monument for each member, both companies and individuals, of the Flight Team.

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member or a friend of the Wright Image Group, and most likely also a contributor. Without you, we would not be where we are now with a site secured, an engineered and tested design, approvals in hand, and the blessings of the State of Ohio. But we need your continued support, and the support of as many new friends and members as we can find.

As we did last year, we will be sending you a letter this spring as part of our annual membership fund drive. Along with that letter will come a copy of our "Join the Flight Team" pledge form. Please continue your support and consider a meaningful tax-deductible gift to the Triumph of Flight. Use the pledge form or not, as you wish, to make a one-time gift or commit to a multi-year gift.

Invite your friends and family to join the hundreds of others who have made cumulative gifts of \$1000 or more to the Triumph of Flight®, and will have their names inscribed on this magnificent monument when it becomes a reality. Help us make that happen.

## Patterson Still Making an Impact

Dan Patterson, the WIG’s widely-known and creative design consultant, was active for a couple of months last fall, helping us out with the things we need to approach potential donors, especially major donors, for contributions. Those included a visual concept of how donors would be recognized at the monument. Working with project architect Steve Brown, the two of them came up with the rendering below that illustrates how our donors will have their names listed on the north wall of the grand entrance, a twenty-foot-high wall with a bronze casting of Icarus in flight and the welcoming title, “Triumph of Flight.”



The names of all donors (both companies and individuals) who have given a cumulative total (including membership dues) of \$1000 or more will be listed on the wall in seven tiers of donation range, named as shown below. Lettering sizes will increase in each successively higher tier, to reflect the greater donations. Major donors who prefer to secure naming rights for different parts of the monument will have that opportunity as well.

Dan is the creator of all five of the aviation figures we currently have included in the design – Icarus, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Neil Armstrong, and John Glenn. (All have appeared in previous issues of this newsletter and are used regularly in our presentation materials.) He has now added two more to that distinguished list of aviation pioneers: Jimmie Doolittle and Nadine Nagle. Many more will come in the future as we build the story within the Evolution of Flight Park at the base of the monument.

\$1,000,000+	Triumph
\$500,000+	Soaring
\$250,000+	Climbing
\$100,000+	Wheels Up
\$50,000+	Take Off
\$10,000+	Full Throttle
\$1,000+	Flight Team



*Renderings courtesy of Dan Patterson Studios. Jimmie Doolittle (above), illustrating his involvement in Ohio’s Cleveland air races in the 1920’s. Nadine Nagle (right), illustrating her role as one of the critically important Women Airforce Service Pilots in World War II.*

To join, make a donation, or get information explaining the different contribution and recognition levels, write to us at:

**Triumph of Flight®**

1605 N. Main St  
Dayton, OH 45405  
or visit our website,

[www.wrightmonument.org](http://www.wrightmonument.org)

**Annual Membership Dues\***

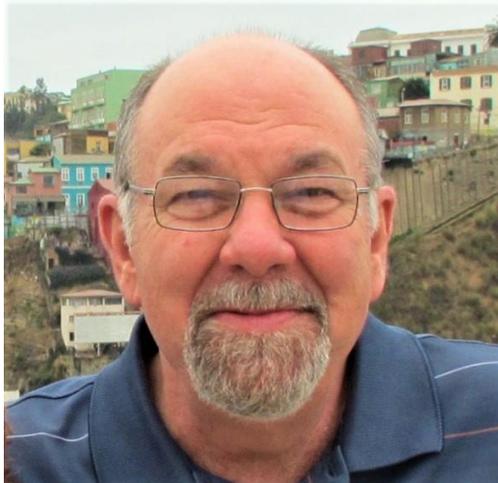
1 year - \$20

2 years - \$35

3 years - \$50

*\* Applicable to Individuals, Families or Businesses*

**Board Member Spotlight**



**Byron Kentner**

Byron grew up in Troy, Ohio. He graduated from the College of Wooster in 1972 with a degree in history. After working in accounting and taking accounting courses at Wright State, he went to work for the CPA firm founded by his father that is now Kentner Sellers, LLP. Byron became a CPA in 1976 and has served as a partner in the firm for 30 years. Although he has retired from the partnership, he continues to work at the firm serving a small client list.

Byron and his wife, Sue, have been residents of the Vandalia-Butler community since 1979. They have one daughter. They enjoy the performing arts in Dayton, and travel extensively.

Byron began working with the Wright Image Group Development Committee about two years ago. In his words, "I was sold on the Triumph of Flight® Monument the first time I saw the artist rendering of it. I am one of those who firmly believe it will be the icon by which Dayton is known in the future, both as the birthplace of aviation and as a center of innovation." He has had a positive impact on WIG fund raising, and was formally elected to the board last year.

He currently serves on the boards of the URS Foundation, Building Bridges, and on the Community Collections Committee for Dayton History.

The WIG is a proud partner of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance.

As such, we ask our donors to make checks out to the Aviation Heritage Foundation and mark them so that it is clear the donation is specifically intended for the Wright Image Group.

By flowing our donations through the foundation, the federal government will match a portion of them. This additional funding goes to support the aviation heritage of the entire region. (See instructions below)



**Make checks payable to:  
Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc.**

With the following comment  
on the "For" line:

**"Restricted for WIG"**

and mail to:

**Triumph of Flight®  
1605 N. Main St Dayton OH 45405**

**WIG Board of Directors**

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