



Soaring 250 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.

# The Wright Icon News

Bringing an Icon to Dayton - The Birthplace of Aviation

Today's Modern Aerospace Hub - Tomorrow's Aviation Leader

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Issue 1

## A New Artistic Dimension

In keeping with New Year tradition, this issue of the WIG newsletter will focus on the new! And the newest, most dramatic thing happening now is a redesign of everything we had earlier planned for the grounds below the monument!

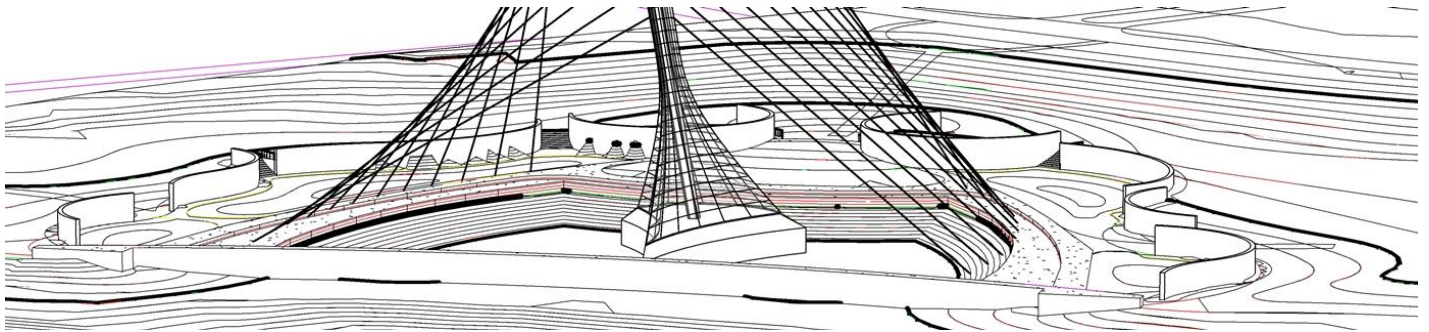
As many of you realize, a lot of states in America have had their aviation history chronicled and published in a book by private authors. Incredibly, Ohio, the birthplace of aviation, has not. Smithsonian Publications has asked two authors to develop a book about Ohio. One of the authors is Tom Crouch, Chief Curator of the Air and Space Museum and a former Ohio resident. The other is

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Dan Patterson, author of over 40 aviation books, accomplished aviation photographer, experienced aviation radio commentator, and also a resident of Dayton. The reason this is relevant to the Wright Image Group is that the authors have agreed to synchronize the release of this book (by June 2015) with a significant event at the project site, and to include information about the site's development within their book.

The real significance, however, was that Patterson was intensely captivated by the monument design and intent. As he puts it, "I knew that I had to get involved!" So much so that he generated a formal presentation on his ideas of what could be built around the base of the monument, and pitched it to the Board of Directors on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board listened with great interest and readily approved his proposal. We have now entered into a formal agreement with him to fold his ideas into the monument design!



*Computer-generated image of Dan Patterson's initial concept for walls that will hold displays of significant events in Ohio aviation history.*

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## Hello to the "Triumph of Flight"

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Wright Image Group reached another milestone. After struggling for years to find the right "name" for the monument, one that captures everything it symbolizes – the spirit of innovation, the achievement of flight, the birth of an industry, aerospace leadership – we suddenly had the name. In discussing with Board members his ideas of what is to be built around the base of the monument, Dan Patterson said, "It would be really helpful if you named this elegant monument something equally elegant – and simple. Something like... "The Triumph of Flight." It was like a curtain was suddenly drawn back to reveal what was always there and always destined to be the answer. We just needed an artist, like Dan, to draw the curtain! Within the hour, the name was formally and enthusiastically adopted.

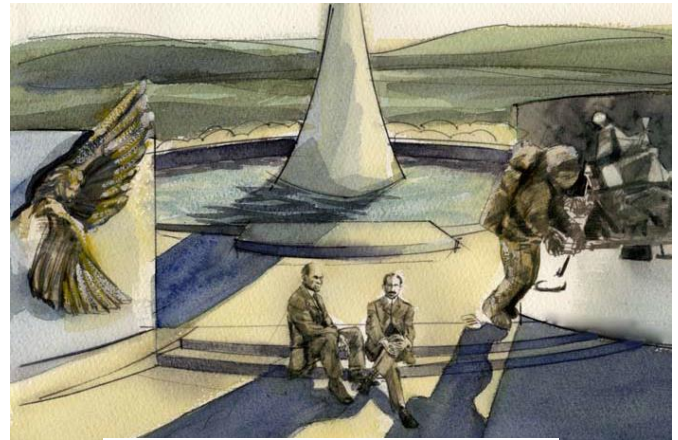
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Dan's design additions include five key features: 1) a dramatic, impressive, and welcoming entryway; 2) a gathering space for tours, weddings, etc.; 3) sightlines for dramatic photo opportunities; 4) a sense of drama and the feeling you are on "sacred ground"; and 5) opportunities for discovery.

Newsletter readers are already aware of the reflecting pool from which the monument pedestal will rise, but the surrounds are going to change. At the center of the entry will be a welcoming bronze casting of the Wright brothers replicating the now famous photograph of them sitting on the entrance steps to their home at 7 Hawthorne Street.

They will be flanked on one side by a partial bronze of Icarus, the mythological Greek flyer, extending out of a dramatic art panel. On the other side will be Ohio astronaut, Neil Armstrong, stepping onto the moon from his lunar module depicted in another art panel. His first footprint will be cast in bronze and imbedded in the plaza entrance. Visitors will be welcomed by Orville and Wilbur, and sense that the brothers' achievement connected man's eternal desire to fly with the ultimate reality of space travel!

The art panels will be installed on curvilinear walls ranging from 4' to 12' tall, called "ornamental retaining walls" in the architectural trade, which will provide a sense of enclosure and allow up to 1800' of "canvas" on which to illustrate the evolution of flight. The panels will be stainless steel, etched with monumental-sized photos that highlight, with emphasis on Ohio, significant aviation and aerospace accomplishments. Generous sidewalks will line each side of the walls to provide opportunities for photographs and discovery.



*Patterson's concept of the new entrance*

Surrounding the base of the monument, then, will be an amazing, intertwined story of aviation and aerospace history that will leverage this region's rich heritage to help encourage future business investment, promote statewide tourism and nurture international awareness. The combined effect of these changes, added to the already stunning 144' wingspan Wright Flyer III soaring 270' above, will create an awesome experience that visitors will remember for a lifetime.

This is an exciting upgrade to our project. In the months to come, Dan will be working very closely with our project architect to select the proper materials, locations, angles, and subjects for the art panels. We will, of course, keep you informed on our progress!

## Board of Directors Changes

At the Wright Image Group Annual Membership Meeting held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, two new Directors, Chuck Stevens and Ed Phillips, were formally elected and began their terms. They had both been serving unofficially in that capacity for the past several months.

Chuck has been the WIG's point of contact with NASA during the past two years to coordinate the wind tunnel work completed by OSU last spring. Ed has been a highly effective Fund-raising Committee member for the past year. We welcome them both to the Board and look forward to their valuable assistance in the years to come.

Another of our Board members, Air Force Maj Gen (Ret) Dave Eidsaune, resigned his seat on the board because he has relocated with his family to Oregon. We will miss his insights and assistance, but wish him all good things in his new home.

## New Possibilities for Government Funding

Again this year, the WIG participated in the Dayton Development Coalition's annual Priority Development and Advocacy Committee (PDAC) process. The process is aimed at evaluating and prioritizing regional projects to aid the community in speaking with one voice when pursuing funding opportunities – particularly with state and federal governments. We submitted our primary application to the Economic Development Panel, but with Dan Patterson's proposed artistic changes, we also felt qualified to submit an application to the Quality of Life Panel. We submitted both applications on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November for evaluation.

This year, however, there was a new wrinkle added. Governor Kasich intends to establish a Capital Budget by July of 2014 that for the first time in six years includes funding for community projects oriented either towards economic development or arts and cultural investments. He directed the Coalition to identify and prioritize the Dayton Region's qualifying projects in both categories for inclusion. The Coalition used its PDAC process to do that.

The WIG's arts submittal to the Quality of Life Panel was not accepted for inclusion, but our submittal to the Economic Development Panel was. It was not highly ranked, but recommended with a funding level of \$1,000,000. Those results were forwarded to the Governor's office on December 15<sup>th</sup> and together with submittals from other parts of the state will form the basis of proposed legislation early in 2014.

The WIG also was made aware that it could submit a proposal directly to the Governor's staff for independent consideration. We took full advantage of that, submitting a comprehensive composite of our two applications. We have made our legislators aware of all this and enlisted their support to make something happen. Now we await the results.

## The Site Gets a New Windsock



Travelers passing through the intersection of I-70/75 have grown accustomed to the red wind sock flying from the top of a 30' flag pole on the southwest corner of the intersection. Board member Jon Kurtz Sr. and his son installed the pole and wind sock back in 2007 to mark the location of the future monument to the Wright Brothers and the birth of aviation.

The pole and wind sock proved durable, but Mother Nature had aged the wind sock beyond its years. When several board members visited the site this past summer with prospective donors and other influential supporters, they noticed that it was looking downright ragged!

Jon had retired from his position as President of Creative Banners, Flags, and Poles, Inc., but his son continues to run the company. This past October Jon and his son sprang into action with the company's new equipment and replaced the old sock with a new one just like it. The letters "W.I.G." are clearly emblazoned on the sock for all to see, marking the location of the future "America's newest icon."

We thank you, Jon!



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

Monument  
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**



**Al Leland**

Al was born in Connecticut and raised in Southern California. He earned an undergraduate degree from USC and went on with graduate studies in economics, basic accounting, and managerial accounting at Cal State LA and Golden Gate University. Eighteen years later he was running the Personal Trust business for the State of California at First Interstate Bank (now Wells Fargo). In 1993 he moved to Dayton and held positions as President of Bank One Dayton and Executive vice President of Bank One Trust Company. He also spent four years with Fifth-Third Bank overseeing their Investment Advisory, Private Banking and Trust Businesses for Western Ohio.

In 2004, after thirty years in the Banking Industry, he retired to start Leland Consulting LLC, assisting family business owners with succession management, ownership, ownership control, and value transfers.

He also serves on the Boards of the Victoria Theater Association, the Engineering and Science Foundation, the Wright "B" Flyer, and Public Media Connect. He is a past Chairman of the Dayton Art Institute and a past President of Carillon Historical Park.

He enjoys restoring a 1927 home in Oakwood, as well as golf, squash, gardening, and reading. He and his wife, Fern, have one son and one daughter.

**Expected Donation Pledge**

**Payment Schedule**

\$ Up to \$1000 - 1 month  
1001 to \$2500 - 3 months  
\$2501 to \$5000 - 6 months  
\$5001 to \$10,000 - 12 months  
\$10,001 to \$50,000 - 18 months  
\$50,001 to \$100,000 - 24 months  
Over \$100,000 - Negotiable

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



**Make checks payable to:**

**Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc.**

With the following comment on the "For" line:

**"Restricted for WIG"**

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- Walter Ohlmann - President
- Stephen Brown - 3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Design & Engineering)
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\*Directors Emeritus

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