

# The Triumph of Flight®

Bringing an Icon to Ohio - The Birthplace of Aviation

Branding America's Only National Aviation Heritage Area  
Symbolizing the Achievement of FLIGHT!

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Issue 1

Soaring 270 feet above the intersection of I-70 & I-75 and seen by thousands of vehicles daily, this 144-foot wingspan monument will symbolize humankind "slipping the surly bonds of earth."



© 2015 by Wright Image Group,

## Ohio Aerospace Day!

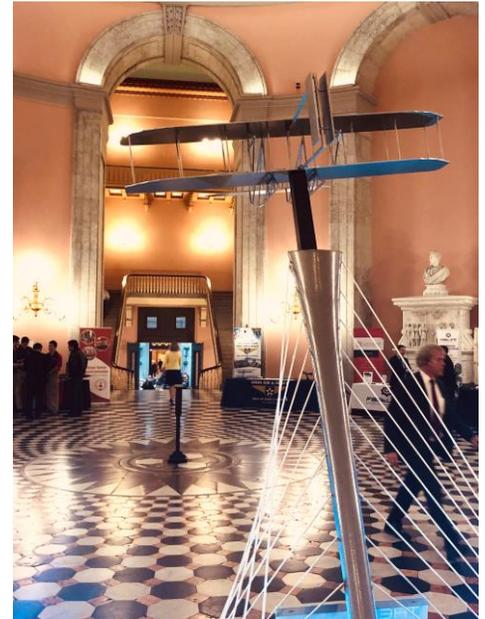
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On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council (OAAC) and the Ohio House of Representatives' Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee (OAATC) co-sponsored the first full-day Ohio Aerospace Day in the Columbus state house. The objectives of

this Aerospace Day were closely aligned with those of the OAAC, an economic development organization, chartered by the Ohio governor, designed to attract and retain key growth-oriented companies and to work collaboratively as leaders from all regions to strengthen and grow Ohio's aerospace and aviation industry. The day was an opportunity for movers and shakers from around the state to network, share new information, and generate new development initiatives that will drive Ohio's economy and increase the state's global competitiveness.

The Wright Image Group's Triumph of Flight was in good company with a stellar list of sponsors that included the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI), General Electric, the Ohio State University, the Dayton Development Coalition, Safran, Aerojet Rocketdyne, and many others. Of course, our level of support for the event was miniscule compared to the others, but we were listed! And we had space for our floor display model in



Joe Lehman Baby-sitting our "Baby"

an awesome section of the capitol rotunda.

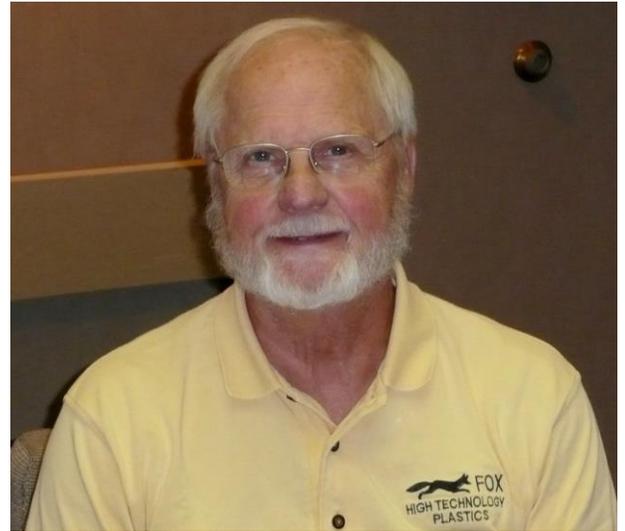
The WIG's team of three, Joe Lehman, Byron Kentner, and Curt Nelson shared the day's "model manning" duties and made some interesting contacts. Dayton area Representatives Rick Perales and Jim Butler stopped by to say hello, as did OAI's President and CEO, Dr. John Sankovic, a key member of our Triumph of Flight Advisory Group.

One of the most interesting take-aways from this session, gleaned after listening in on much of it, was that the Ohio aerospace and aviation industry really needs a strong visual brand – something that dramatizes its history, its strengths, and its potential. It seemed to us that we have just what they need! Next year we will do our utmost to be part of the "meat" of the program instead of the "eye candy."

## A Farewell Thank You to Our Founder

He has known this time would come but he had no idea it would come so fast. One of our original founders, Walt Hoy, and long-serving Chairman of the Board of the Wright Image Group, has decided to step aside and slow down a bit. Walt has resigned from the Board of Directors.

Since the Group was first incorporated in 2005 until just a few years ago, Walt has been the face of the Triumph of Flight. In the early years he was constantly on what he called the "rubber chicken circuit," making the rounds of civic clubs, social clubs, engineering associations, and the complete spectrum of political councils in the Dayton region. The monument concept was much simpler then, and selling the idea was not difficult, but signing up donors and sponsors was every bit as difficult. Nonetheless, Walt succeeded in



*Chairman Emeritus Walt Hoy*

marshaling a lot of community support – twelve resolutions of support from regional municipalities, including the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, and Butler Township. His efforts gave us a solid foundation to build on.

The rest of us on the WIG board have long admired his high energy level. He's been heavily involved with many local aviation heritage groups now represented by the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, especially the Wright "B" Flyer and Aviation Trail, Inc. One of his recent favorites and the recipient of a great deal of his time and energy these past few years has been K12 Gallery and TEJAS, an artist-centered visual arts center offering innovative programs for all ages in the Miami Valley.

Although he is stepping aside, we have no doubt Walt will remain active and supportive of the Triumph of Flight project. We will continue to carry his name on our roster as "Chairman Emeritus." Thanks for your many years of good work, Walt. And we look forward to seeing you every so often!

## Annual Election of Officers and Directors

At the Wright Image Group's annual membership meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the nominating committee proposed a slate of directors to serve in board seats whose terms will run from January 2020 through December 2022. Those directors are as follows:

Byron Kentner  
Tom Kleptz  
William (Bill) Koop  
Judge Walter Rice

(NOTE: Ed Phillips also held one of these seats but elected this year not to be re-nominated. Thank you for your years of service, Ed!)

There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that all four individuals were re-elected to their current board seats.

The board of directors also approved designation of George Gianopulos (deceased in January 2019) and Walt Hoy (resigned in December 2019) as Directors Emeritus.

See [Annual Election](#) on page 3

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

**Triumph of Flight®**

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

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

**Annual Membership Dues\***

1 year - \$20

2 years - \$35

3 years - \$50

*\*Applicable to Individuals, Families or Businesses*

**Annual Election** from page 2

On the same day, the WIG held its annual board of directors meeting for the primary purpose of electing officers. The nominating committee presented a slate of nominations for officer positions as follows:

- Executive Director – Curt Nelson
- Director of Development – Joe Lehman
- Director of Public Information – Byron Kentner
- Director of Design & Engineering – Steve Brown
- Treasurer – Jacqie Nawroth
- Secretary – Sandy Anderson

There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that all nominees be elected.

**After Success, Then What?**

Every October 5<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the emergence of the “world’s first practical airplane.” That was the day Wilbur Wright flew his and Orville’s third Wright Flyer for 39 and a half minutes and covered more than 24 miles of distance over the ground. They had done it!

Many people wonder why the brothers then suddenly stopped flying. Dr. Tom Crouch, author of “The Bishop’s Boys,” provided the explanation. “The brothers....had invested an enormous amount of time and energy in solving a problem that had baffled the world’s great minds for centuries. The airplane was not their gift to the world, but a product for sale.

“The value of their product was not in the wood, wire, and fabric of the machine, but in the knowledge that lay behind it. Under the best of circumstances, that knowledge would be hard to protect.... Premature disclosure of the details would seriously complicate...their legal position....

“Even the patent would not guarantee protection.... A far wiser course was to reveal as little about the airplane as possible until they had a signed contract for its sale in hand. Until that day arrived, there would be no more flying.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tom Crouch, “A Machine of Practical Utility,” *The Bishop’s Boys*, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, NY, Reissued as a Norton paperback 2003, pg 300.

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**

- Executive Director – Curt Nelson
- Dir Design & Engineering – Steve Brown
- Dir Development – Joseph Lehman
- Dir Public Information – Byron Kentner
- Secretary – Sandy Anderson
- Treasurer – Jacqie Nawroth
- Tom Kleptz
- Amanda Wright Lane
- Ralph Link
- Linda Kahn
- Bill Koop
- Walter Rice

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**Wright Image Group, Inc.  
1605 North Main St  
Dayton, OH 45405-4198**

**Phone: 937-276-2963  
800-266-4767**

**Website: [www.triumphofflight.org](http://www.triumphofflight.org)  
(Past newsletters are posted)**

**Email: [cnelson@triumphofflight.org](mailto:cnelson@triumphofflight.org)**

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