

# Northrop Rice Foundation Newsletter



February, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 1

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It seems like every newscast these days is a duplicate of the preceding one. The main subject of the reporting is the declining economy. The housing situation is affecting the economy, fuel prices are escalating, unemployment is starting to rise and consumer confidence is on a downward cycle. However, one area of the economy that seems to be somewhat immune from the economic downturn is the aviation industry.

The commercial airlines are flying with nearly full airplanes. The corporate airplane manufacturers are having record sales. Private small airplanes are selling well, and during the last two years both large commercial airplane manufacturers Boeing and Airbus have had record sales. This is a situation that is both positive and negative for those of us in the aviation career field.

The positive aspect of the downturn is that it seems more people are using air travel instead of driving personal cars for business and vacation travel. Our busy life styles require us to travel to accomplish our various tasks. As the cost of fuel increases, more people will choose air travel, which will require more airplane capacity. This in turn will require more pilots and qualified maintenance personnel to maintain the airplanes.

Hopefully the increase in the cost of fuel will not cause the airlines to reduce capacity. Instead they can reduce other expenditures allowing them to continue to supply us with the necessary service they now deliver.

The above positive aspect of the present aviation cycle could lead us into a negative one. A challenge that I see — where are the personnel going to come from to fulfill the requirement for addi-

tional qualified Aviation Maintenance Technicians? Several industry organizations have predicted a shortage of technicians, however, there has been little discussion and programs on how to minimize the impact of a predicted shortage.

Another factor is that a significant number of current Aviation Maintenance Technicians are of “baby boomer” age and these people are nearing retirement, thus leaving their positions in the industry at the same time an increase in technicians will be required.

The Northrop Rice Foundation spent some time during the last Board meeting reviewing our present Mission, Goals and Operating Procedures. We had the benefit of an individual qualified to lead us through this activity that has resulted in our having a much clearer picture of our future activities.

As a result of this important meeting I feel we are developing a Foundation operating plan that will assist the industry in meeting this shortage challenge.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### *Inside this issue:*

NRF Board Member Highlight	2
Recent Board Activity	2
Contact Information	2
NRF Adds Benefits	3
ARAC Update	4

## **Board Member Highlight**

Jim Lukins has been in aviation for over 50 years. His first aviation experience was as an aviation maintenance technician after attending a Navy school. He served as a flight engineer until his discharge after five years of active duty.

Jim then attended Iowa State University where he graduated in 1961 with a BS degree in Aerospace Engineering.

Jim was recruited by Boeing to assist in the introduction of the 727 and later models of the 707. From 1961 until 1985 he was involved in the flight area in charge of airplane performance and certification. He worked on the Boeing 737, 747, 757, 767 and 777 airplanes.

In 1985 Jim was asked to assume the responsibilities of Director of Maintenance Training, an assignment he continued with until his retirement from Boeing in 1995.

After retirement he participated in consulting activities during which time he was asked to join the Northrop Rice Foundation.

Jim is dedicated to improving the status and work environment of the Aviation Maintenance Technician.

## **Recent Board Activity**

The beginning of the year is always hectic for many of the NRF Board members. Throughout the fall and winter months, we distribute email announcements for all of our scholarships and awards. An email blast is sent out approximately every two weeks to those schools listing an email contact address in the ATEC catalog.

At the beginning of March when the scholarship deadline occurs, all Board members actively participate in the review and evaluation of the many applications.

Along with the Board meeting in February, several Board members attended aviation conferences including Women in Aviation (WIA) in San Diego and HeliExpo (HAI) in Houston.

We apologize for the delay in sending out our February newsletter!

### **NRF Board of Directors**

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*The Northrop Rice Foundation Newsletter will be published three times a year - February, June and October. If you have any suggestions on articles or information you would like to see in the NRF Newsletter, please contact Alice Rice at 281-334-5932 or email at mar246@juno.com*

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For information about the activities of the Foundation or to obtain details about any of the programs described in this newsletter, visit the Foundation web site at [www.northropicefoundation.org](http://www.northropicefoundation.org), or email a request for information to Ivan D. Livi, at [ivan.livi@verizon.net](mailto:ivan.livi@verizon.net), or [nrf@alphabravo.com](mailto:nrf@alphabravo.com).

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, *cont.***

Over the next few issues of this newsletter we will discuss our future activities and how we plan to support the aviation industry. We are proud of our past accomplishments and look forward to providing even better support to the industry.

We can only achieve our significant goals if we have the resources to work toward their accomplishment. All Northrop Rice Foundation Board Members are volunteers and spend many hours on our programs. We are dedicated to supporting aviation as the primary method of travel and to making it the safest and most economical mode of transportation.

As always we need your support, both financially and in material gifts. Please become or continue to be a member of the Foundation. Encourage your co-workers to join us. If possible, please provide us with a tax deductible contribution that can be used to enhance the education and training of our future aviation maintenance technicians.

Jim Lukins, President

## **NORTHROP RICE FOUNDATION ADDS BENEFITS PROGRAMS**

This year the Northrop Rice Foundation has added several scholarships and awards programs to the list that it administers. Presently, there are nine programs that provide financial assistance, books, tools, and training equipment for students, instructors, and schools. Announcement of this year's recipients of the donated items will be made at the Annual Conference of the Aviation Technician Education Council in Las Vegas, NV on April 7, 2008. Members of the Board of NRF together with members of the ATEC Member Services Committee have served as Selection Committees and have reviewed and processed approximately seventy-five applications for the different scholarships and awards categories.

Additional programs are being implemented for the coming year. The James Villnave Memorial Scholarship will make available funds for student tuition, instructor assistance, and assistance for recently discharged veterans of the branches of the US Armed Forces. Information and applications are available from the NRF and ATEC web sites. The Northrop Rice Foundation is also joining efforts with the AMT Society which will provide more scholarship availability for people who are primarily in aviation maintenance. These scholarships will be available to aviation maintenance personnel working or training to work in a number of segments of the aviation industry.

Sponsors who are willing to participate in similar programs by providing financial assistance, books, tools, or training equipment are being solicited. Sponsors who, through their generosity, can donate to the Foundation so that it can continue to maintain these types of programs are very welcomed.

Partnerships with other aviation organizations are being investigated by the Northrop Rice Foundation in an effort to expand the availability of benefit programs for aviation maintenance personnel. Any sponsor interested in participating in these efforts please contact Ivan D. Livi, at [ivan.livi@verizon.net](mailto:ivan.livi@verizon.net).

*Ivan D. Livi is Vice President, Northrop Rice Foundation and Co-chair, ATEC Member Services Committee*

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### **Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC)**

*The following information was derived from the minutes of the ARAC Executive meeting held on December 5, 2007 in Washington DC.*

The Part 147 Working Group, chaired by Dr. Raymond Thompson, was tasked in June 2007 to (1) evaluate §§ 147.21 and 147.31 and Appendices A through D of 14 CFR Part 147 and recommend ways that would enable AMT Schools to meet the needs of clientele more effectively and (2) evaluate and incorporate revisions granted by exemptions to 14 CFR §§ 65.75(a) and 65.77.

An organizational meeting was held in September, 2007 and a working meeting was held November 28–29, 2007. During these meetings work plan objectives were developed, an ambitious meeting schedule was established and the group completed its review of Appendices A through D.

Dr. Thompson reported to the ARAC Executive committee that one of the obstacles the working group is facing is determining how flexible can it make the curriculum while still upholding the curriculum's current structure and clear manipulative standards. The working group wants to be able to update the curriculum requirements to respond to new technology without always having to revise the regulations. He stated that the working group has a good idea of what the curriculum should look like but putting it in the regulations is hard.

It was suggested that the working group look at the structure of 14 CFR Part 141 as well as the airworthiness standards. It was noted that if the regulation changes the written, oral and practical exams will need to be changed.

The working group was advised to submit its final product at least 30 days before the next scheduled ARAC Executive meeting in June, 2008.