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Al Schade  
Bruce Toomey  
Marty Wright

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The Honorable Wm. P.  
Clark

**Museum Information**  
Phone (805) 227-0440  
(Answered by Machine)

FAX 238-9317  
Can also be used to reach  
personnel at the Museum

**Museum Hours**  
Saturday 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 12n - 3pm

**Mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 570  
Paso Robles, CA 93447

# *Estrella Warbird Museum*

## *Estrella Squadron Newsletter*



All the news that's fit to print and then some  
4251 Dry Creek Road Paso Robles, California

Volume XII Number 2 Paso Robles, California February 2001

### **February Meeting**

The February Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2001 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm

Our Chef, John Himes, has promised us a pork roast dinner which should be delicious. We have had many compliments from members and others about our dinners during the last few months. They have just been getting increasingly better and better and we are indebted to our great kitchen crew for their efforts.

**Reservations are a Must. Call 227-0440**

Some of our members are great about this and it really helps us. Others never call but still wander in for dinner. Give us a break folks and help us save money.

Our speaker for the evening will be William G. Martin, MSG. USA RET. who served in the Philippines on Bataan and Corregidor during WWII and was a Prisoner of War of the Japanese for three years, three months and nine days!!

His brief biography was so interesting that we simply had to make sure that everyone read it so we are printing the whole thing on

page 4. We are delighted to have MSG Martin as our speaker.

This will be MOST interesting so please try to be there!



### ***President's Corner***

*Betty Miller*

Happy Valentines Day! We will be celebrating with a great Pork Roast dinner and all the trimmings and beautiful decorations, so bring your favorite person and enjoy the evenings' festivities!

### ***Special Thanks to...***

**K.O. Eckland**, our Research Library Librarian. K.O. is doing a great job of cataloging and filing. We will soon have a great place to visit and read up on some of the great aviation events and aircraft.

**Dori Foxworthy and Ron and Jackie Brooks** for their great work as the Decoration Team for our dinners. I know I speak for all of us, when I say how much it is appreciated.

**Carol and Tom Weiss** who framed and hung the great mural in the Meeting Hall! I hope you have taken a moment to walk around the Hall and the Museum and checked out the newly framed artwork and photos.



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Committee Chairs

Program

George Marrett  
466-7640

Dinners

John Himes  
466-6680

Membership

Obbie Atkinson  
238-9212

Grounds

John Kendall  
239-8029

Air Show

Chuck Miller  
466-1212

Ground Equipment

Dave Geiger  
239-1598

Insurance

Brian Webster  
237-0222

Public Relations & Media

Catherine Paine  
239-2274

Refreshments

Tom Gabele  
237-1567

Photo

Wally Engle  
227-0245

Site Improvements

Glen Thomson  
238-4858

Research Librarian

K. O. Eckland  
466-5373

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Toomey  
238-9266

Activities

OPEN

To our kitchen staff of hardworking folks, Bob Chambers, Ed Chidlaw, Linda Hermansen, Jim Iverson, Al Davis, plus Bar-B-Que's Mike Wing and Tommy Cameron. These folks arrive around 2pm and work until we start serving...our hats off to you all and those who I missed!

*February Tasks*

(Held over from January!!!) I am still looking for folks to help build some movable wall panels for the Hangar Museum. (These can be assembled at your home and then reassembled at the museum) Call me at 466-1212 if you can help out.

**Airshow 2001**

32 people turned out for the first Airshow Committee 2001 meeting last Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>. We have some great Chairmen for this years Paso Robles Airshow. We are still looking for someone to head up the Vendor Coordinator slot. This person will coordinate sending out the Vendor package to prospective vendors, assigning the vendor spots and being able to be on hand the day of the air show to answer questions the vendors might have. Call Chuck Miller at 466-1212 if you are interested or just need more info.

**Preliminary**

**2001 Paso Robles Airshow  
Schedule of Events**

**Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner Dance and Show. This year the theme is "A Night In The Tropics"

Wear your 1940's-1950's-1960's garb with a tropical twist. The setting is somewhere in the tropics with palm trees and orchids. Dinner will feature tropical dishes in a sumptuous buffet. Our "USO Show" will have a great assortment of talent and The Main Street Big Band will be back for your dancing pleasure. Since we won't have to

get up for an air show the next morning, the boys in the band will play until midnight!

**\$35.00 per person \$60.00 per couple**  
(Limited to 350 Guests)

**Sunday, September 9**

**The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Paso Robles  
Airshow is Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Gates open at 8am. There will be a Parade at 11 am featuring bands, antique cars, military armament vehicles and marching units.

The show will start at 12:30 pm to allow folks to come from church. It will be an action packed show, with "Russian Thunder", John Collver, the "Wild Thing", Silver Wings, and the "China Doll" among the featured civilian acts, plus a military mass parachute drop, military rotary aircraft demos, jets, tanks, and much, much more!

**At-the-Gate Admission:**

**Adults \$8.00 Kids \$4.00**

**Advance Ticket Purchase:**

**Adults \$6.00 Kids \$3.00**

**Airshow 2001 Sponsors**

The Paso Robles Airshow is our major fund raiser so if you know a business that could be a potential Sponsor, give Betty Miller the name of the business and the person to contact. Spread the word and lets have a great turnout!

**Framing Fund**

Carol Weiss has recycled and utilized some frames we had on hand to reframe some art and photos that were donated to the museum. We are at the point where we need some more supplies for matting, mounting and framing. Some of you have generously donated \$10.00 to \$20.00 towards this endeavor. If anyone else would like to donate some money for framing supplies, please contact Carol Weiss at 239-2637.

**DINNER RESERVATIONS**

**PLEASE!!!**

**227-0440 227-0440 227-0440**



### **Estrella Squadron Newsletter**

is published monthly as an unofficial and voluntary contribution. Contents and opinions, other than byline columns and Letters to the Editor, are the sole responsibility of the Editor. Bruce MacE. Toomey, unless otherwise noted.

Submissions for inclusion are not only welcomed but solicited, including articles, display and classified ads, etc.

Please send all submissions to the Editor at Box 3065, Paso Robles, CA 93447 or FAX to (805) 238-9516 or email to [bruce@toomey.com](mailto:bruce@toomey.com)

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Toomey Racing USA  
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Paso Robles, CA 93446

Bruce Toomey has no business connection with or financial interest in Toomey Racing USA.

### **Apologies and Kudos!**

The apologies are for the January newsletter which had little news and was remiss in several instances. During Christmas week when the newsletter was being written my wife was in the hospital and I had a slight stroke so things were a bit more disorganized than usual at the Toomey household.

The kudos are for the GREAT Christmas Party at our December meeting which was provided by the wonderful banjo playing and witty entertainment of Gary Ryan along with his bass guitar player, Liz Douglas.

As if that wasn't enough, Gary sort of casually called out for K.O. Eckland, who absolutely stunned the whole crowd with his magnificent piano playing!! Most

of us know KO as our Research Librarian and raconteur and some of us also know that he is a splendid writer. Others of us know that he is a highly talented artist and that he creates wonderful aviation art in particular, BUT, there were darn few of us who were aware of his talents as a musician!!

What a party!! Our two wonderful members and Liz played up a storm and the addition of KO was a great thrill for all of us. Some of our members may not be aware of the fact that both Gary Ryan and K.O. Eckland are highly professional musicians along with their many other talents. We can't even begin to tell you of the quality and diversity of the professional bands, groups and famous singers that they have been associated with over the years but it certainly wasn't hard to figure out that we were being entertained by the best at our Christmas Party!!

Thanks you guys (and gal!) for a wonderful evening!

### **Another Note of Thanks**

To member John Dolan for his efforts in the Restoration Building. John is a constant worker, usually hanging from a precarious perch fixing something vital or covered with mud or dirt from some job that no one else wants to do. In the past weeks, however he has been working in the Restoration Building, completely reorganizing the tools and other items. If you ever went over there to look for something you will know what a

job this has been! Many thanks, John!

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### **Docents**

Our Docent program continues to improve every week. We have had several new volunteers in the past few months whom we have mentioned and now, the latest, being Steve Forsman who doesn't have enough to do taking care of our aircraft almost every weekend!!

We have been trying to come up with a time and date for a Docent training session and have decided to set the date of Saturday, February 10 for our first one. It will begin at 10:30 and probably will last for about an hour. We will conduct sort of a regular tour to give the Docents an idea of what should be said including a little history of the Museum and other items.

Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting, especially those who have thought of volunteering for Docent duty but who have been a little apprehensive because of what they perceive as a lack of knowledge on their part. Some get nervous about speaking to visitors but it really is a lot of fun and no one expects the Docents to be experts in either aviation or the military. We are also working on the Docent Guide to update it and to make it something that will make the Docents a bit more comfortable when asked questions etc.. Anyway, if you are interested please attend. We will have another "school" for those who cannot attend on a date to be named and



we'll try to have it soon after the one on the 10th of February

### Don't Take the Rocks

What?!!

There are several rocks on the counter in the Museum. These are paperweights for loose applications and other items placed on the counters. When the front and big doors are open on weekends there is often a gale through the Museum that can strip pinned up papers off the bulletin board to say nothing of loose papers on the counters!

Some clean freak keeps throwing them out and we have to wade in the mud in the side field to find more. The real paperweights we had have disappeared! Nota Bene!

### Library News

It has been painted!! After numerous requests for volunteers Betty Miller, Ed Chidlaw and Ron Brooks stepped up and the three of them worked last Saturday. Betty and Ed came back on Wednesday to put on the final touches so it is now ready for the carpeting that the Henry family so kindly donated

The library is going to be a very nice spot, cozy and comfortable, and I have the feeling that more than a few of us will be hanging around the place for some quiet time.

Those of you who think the members of the Board of Directors simply sit around and pontificate once a month might take another look at the Board member list and then look around during the week and weekends to see who is

### Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.

#### Life Members

Seventeen and Counting!!

1. Glen Thomson
2. Obbie Atkinson
3. Allen Smith
4. Conrad Martin
5. Gary Corippo
6. Al Schade
7. John Cromwell
8. Ed Chidlaw
9. Ken Grubb
10. William Sima
11. Gerald Taylor
12. Marty Wright
13. Marilyn Webster
14. Brain Webster
15. Jim Pickens
16. Arnold Hermansen
17. Greg Sudderth

working. We have many great volunteers but on any given project you can see plenty of Board members doing all kinds of jobs.

#### B-17 Arrival Date

The Experimental Aircraft Association's B-17 will be arriving in Paso Robles on April 26 and will stay through the 30th. We are one of 15 stops they will make on their Spring tour which starts on March 16 and goes through May 13. They will have three or four flying tours each day to raise money for the EAA. The cost of flying this bird is not cheap so this is one way they provide for its maintenance and the flying program.

We are providing the operating base for them during this period and it should be a great attraction, not only for the EAA but for our

Museum as well. The local EAA Chapter #465 wants to work with us to make this successful for them and ourselves. We will be discussing possible events or shared programs at the Board Meeting.

### Lost & Found

We still have one nice beige "Members Only" jacket with hood in the L&F department. We also have a set of keys which probably belong to someone with a Mercury. At least that's what the logo on one of the keys looks like. Contact Betty Miller or Bruce Toomey at the meeting to retrieve either item.

### Business

#### Cards on Bulletin Board

We have noted several business cards, unrelated to anything we are involved in as a group, pinned on the board in the Museum where we put up notices, member lists, an occasional member ad and other pertinent in-house items. We don't know whether or not it is members putting them up for friends or just people who casually drop by. Although there is no serious objection to this it would seem that, since several of our own members place business ads in our newsletter, which helps us pay for postage, those who do not belong to the Squadron might think about buying an ad or maybe even joining up. You might pass this thought along.

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Short Survey of Museum Interests

I would be interested in one or more of the following areas of involvement on behalf of the Museum. (Please circle your choice)

Aircraft Reconstruction (encompassing all types of involvement in restoring aircraft to at least static display condition.)

Flying Aircraft Maintenance [either as a professional (A&P, AI or whatever) or to assist as a volunteer in routine maintenance]

Ground Vehicle Maintenance ( Tugs, jeeps, cranes etc.)

Building Maintenance (those with electrical, plumbing, building and allied talents whether professional or as helpers who would be willing to assist in routine building maintenance)

Landscaping & Grounds ( assisting in lawn cutting, shrub care, weed control, driveway cleaning, taxiway FOD walks etc.)

Commissary or Culinary [food prep for dinners and functions, cooking, serving (cafeteria style) and kitchen cleanup when Oak Park kids not available]

Refreshments (bartenders at dinner meetings and events, assist Supply Chairman, help stock dispensing machines etc.)

Library ( assist Librarian in cataloging, and other phases of library work,

Art & Display (framing donated art work, maintaining art work, help setting up Museum displays, etc.)

Docents (opening and closing Museum on specified days, reception and welcoming of visitors, leading formal and informal groups around Museum and answering questions, making sure Museum is neat and orderly) (Docents will be informally trained in Museum lore etc.)

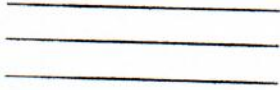
Other - (either write in a suggestion of something that might interest you or of another category that you think should be considered)

No preference at this time.

Member Name, please \_\_\_\_\_

Note, this sheet can be mailed after folding in thirds and taping. Please affix stamp and save the Museum the cost of the return mail!!

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**Place  
Stamp  
Here**

**Estrella Warbird Museum  
P.O. Box 570  
Paso Robles, CA 93447**

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Docent Shift Assignments

As of 01/31/01

February 2001

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Docent Name</u> | <u>Phone #</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Sat 03      | 10 - 1      | L. Campo           | 238-7702       |
| Sat 03      | 1 - 4       | R. Blomquist       | 227-0362       |
| Sun 04      | 12 - 3      | A. Britton         | 226-9627       |
| Sat.10      | 10 - 1      | L. Campo           | 238-7702       |
| Sat 10      | 1 - 4       | M. Chambers        | 239-2888       |
| Sun 11      | 12 - 3      | A. Britton         | 239-2637       |
| Sat 17      | 10 - 1      | L. Campo           | 238-7702       |
| Sat 17      | 1 - 4       | T. Weiss           | 239-2637       |
| Sun18       | 12 - 3      | S. Forsman         | 461-6324       |
| Sat 24      | 10 - 1      | L. Campo           | 238-7702       |
| Sat 24      | 1 - 4       | R Blomquist        | 227-0362       |
| Sun 25      | 12 - 3      | R. Passon          | 466-7234       |

Please call Bruce Toomey 238-9266 if you can fill in on one of the open shifts.

DOCENTFM



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**Biographical Data for**  
**William G. Martin MSG**  
**USA RET.**

Birthdate/Place: December 1918,  
Monterey, California

Military: Enlisted November 1940 and assigned to the Third United States Infantry Regiment, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota; thence to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri and there, in August 1941 took a short discharge and reenlisted for the Thirty First Infantry Regiment, Post of Manila, Philippine Islands. Served as a Rifleman and Rifle Squad Leader during the Battle of Bataan, 02 Jan to 09 April 1942..

After the Defense Force of Bataan was surrendered on 09 April 1942, escaped to Corregidor Island and was attached, for rations and administration, to the Fourth United States Marine Regiment (beach defense) with duties as a rifleman/machine gunner. After the Corregidor Force was surrendered, on 07 May 1942, became a Prisoner of War of the Japanese.

Prisoner of War Experience: Was a POW for three years, three months and nine days, being held during that time in POW camps in the Philippines, Korea and Manchuria. In 1942 was in transit for 30 days from Manila to Pusan, Korea on one of the notorious "Hell Ships" .Was liberated in Mukden, Manchuria on 15 August 1945 by Russian Forces and returned to American military control on 17 August 1945. After repatriation and rehabilitation reenlisted in the United States Army and retired in September 1960.

Currently: Lives in Los Osos with his wife Lee W. Martin. Lee was a member of the WAVES from 1942-1945. Today both are active, to the degree possible, in veterans and community affairs.

Future Plans: To continue to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. And to live to be one hundred and one years of age; because, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity and, it will probably qualify him as the oldest soldier at musters and/or reunions.

Awards: Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation (3), POW Medal and Campaign Medals. Rather interesting that he holds both the Philippine Defense Medal and the Philippine Liberation Medal - the latter by special order in September 1997, by them President of the Philippines, Fidel V. Ramos.

**Library Donations**

Our members are to be commended for continuing to make donations of various publications to our Library. We have been asked, however, to announce that we do not need any more magazines of a more or less current nature. Many people have been bringing piles of old "Flying" magazines and the like which they have been keeping for a year or more and while we appreciate the thought, we just don't have any more room for regular aviation magazines.

If you have some magazine type publication that is very old or unusually interesting, by all means bring it so that KO can look it over and find a place for it. For the present, however, please refrain from bringing us more magazines.

**March is Membership Recognition Month!**

Get ready for a number of surprises starting in the month of March. As a precursor of coming events, we are, in this newsletter, creating a column showing our Life Members which will be carried as a regular feature, henceforth.

Committee Member Marty Wright is also presently preparing plans for appropriate pins and Certificates of Recognition for old and new members alike. So...Stay tuned for further news!!

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM**

January 17, 2001

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Glen Thomson.

Board members present: Atkinson, Chidlaw, Clark, Corippo, Cromwell, Davis Al, Marrett, Martin, Miller B., Miller C., Schade, Thomson, Toomey, Wright

1. Conrad Martin gave the Treasurer's report and recommended the board adopt an audit committee. Betty Miller and Ed Chidlaw volunteered to serve on the audit committee. Gary Corippo moved that the board establish an audit committee with Betty Miller and Ed Chidlaw serving as members, Al Davis seconded. Motion passed.



2. Bruce Toomey gave the Docent Report. Bruce reported the program has improved greatly with enough docents to cover the full month with a few left over as back ups. Bruce also reported that he was attempting to hold a Docent school in February.

3. Obbie Atkinson gave the Membership Report. Obbie and his assistants have created a draft information brochure/membership application for the Museum. It will be displayed and available to the public at numerous businesses. The board discussed membership benefits for different level members, particularly corporate members. Ed Chidlaw moved that the Museum print 10,000 brochures. George Marrett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Marty Wright gave the Gift Shop Report and submitted the gift shop inventory, as well as the Museum Inventory and the year end donation list.

5. George Marrett gave the Program Report. The speaker in February will be Bill Martin. In March, the speaker will be Marty Knudsen.

6. Al Schade gave the Restoration Report. Progress on the Navion is slow because not enough volunteers are assisting in its restoration. The Board discussed methods of attracting volunteers and ownership of the Navion once it is restored to flight.

7. Bruce Toomey gave the EAA liaison Report. The EAA B-17 will be at Paso Robles Airport from April 26 through April 30. The Board discussed the Museum's involvement and suggestions were made to hold a BBQ during the visit for the EAA, the Museum and the B-17 crew.

8. Betty Miller gave the Visitor and Volunteer Report. For the year 2000, the Museum received

2,200 visitors. 100 visitors were from out of state, 20 visitors were from other countries, and 400 of the visitors were in groups.

9. Chuck Miller gave the Airshow Report. The Airshow is on schedule. 4 acts have already been booked and Chuck is working to increase the military's involvement for this year. The USO show will be August 25 and the Airshow will be September 9.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Glen Thomson reported on the status of the kitchen hood. The Museum is waiting on city approval.

2. Glen Thomson reported on the library status. The walls have been completed. Once they have been painted and the carpet has been installed, the library will be complete.

3. Betty Miller reported on the scheduled crab feed on February 7. After discussing the high cost of crab and the number of competing charity crab feeds in the area, Marty Wright moved to postpone the Museum crab feed until next year. Ed Chidlaw seconded. Motion passed.

4. John Cromwell reported that safety meetings were not as well attended as the Board had hoped. John has obtained a video ground marshaling at airshows that will be made available to the volunteers for this year's show.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Bruce Toomey reported that submitted articles for the monthly newsletter would be appreciated.

2. Betty Miller reported that the Museum has 2 reconditioned interior vacuum cleaners and they should only be used inside the meeting hall, not in the hangar or restoration areas.

3. A BBQ for all airport tenants was discussed as a way to generate good will among all airport users. The consensus was that a BBQ would be a good idea. No date was set.

4. George Marrett reported that the Templeton Presbyterian Church Mens' Group was interested in touring the Museum on July 7, 2001.

5. Gary Corippo suggested the Museum hold an A-4 dedication and dinner for the Navy League.

6. The model aircraft on display in the Museum need identification of model type and of the model's owner.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul E. Clark, Secretary

#### Navion Notes

Al Schade, our Restoration Chief would like to thank the four members who showed up to work on the Navion last weekend. This is what we need. Instead of one poor soul working alone, if we have two working that's like two weeks off the time it will take to finish the bird. If we have three that's three weeks off and four means four weeks off. So comeon guys, this is why we bought the Navion in the first place, to have a flyable airplane in first class condition for use by more than a few members of the Museum. BUT it doesn't rebuild itself!!

We also have some minor work to be done on all the rest of the restoration jobs. Again its the same story; one guy equals one week on each airplane. So...lets get behind Al Schade and get on these



projects. Some need Al's guidance but others can be done with just a little instruction and some might even be taken home to be worked on. Every little bit helps. That's what we are all about!!

### Missing Pressure Tank

Another one of our little Museum mysteries. Who borrowed Al's paint sprayer pressure tank? Whoever took it or knows where it is, please bring it back or let Al know where it is. He needs it for painting the airplanes and besides it's HIS. 'Nuff Said, no questions asked!!.

### George Netto Good Friend and Wonderful Member

Last but far from least we say Farewell to an old friend, George Netto who passed away on January 15, 2001.

Quiet George was always there for us whether it was helping in the kitchen or putting up airshow signs or doing grunge work. One of the original members in 1989 George was involved in every aspect of the Museum, never complaining and always ready to help.

Illness prevented him from being active in the Museum for the past couple of years but he was certainly not forgotten by all who knew him. He will always be a big part of our memories.

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Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.  
P.O. Box 570  
Paso Robles, CA 93447

January 20, 2001

To All Members.

In view of the fact that the Flight Leader program has become somewhat disorganized, the Board of Directors has been discussing the merits of the program as it is now structured. It has been tentatively decided to change it somewhat to make it more meaningful and to provide a better mechanism of organization.

It is suggested that the program name be changed to "Wings" rather than Flights to emphasize the intention to start afresh. The Wings will be constructed to reflect what we do i.e., an Aircraft Restoration Wing, a Flying Aircraft Maintenance Wing, a Ground Vehicle Maintenance Wing etc., still utilizing the alphabetic code as at present, Alpha, Bravo etc. We would also welcome any suggestions for additional categories

It has been recommended that those who have an interest in one area or another be grouped into a Wing that is active in a certain area. This would allow new members to align themselves with a group of their choice and will also allow Wing Leaders to be in contact with their particular group for purposes of communication and specific activity events.

Those members who do not have an interest in a particular area of specialization will be placed in other Wings simply to aid in organization. Please be aware of the fact that ALL members are VOLUNTEERS and NO member is required to do anything other than support the Museum with his or her dues and general interest. Frankly, at this point, we do not have enough areas of involvement to accommodate each member in a unit of some kind so there is absolutely NO censure whatsoever of any member who does not choose to align him or herself with any particular group.

Part of the reason for the Wing program is to prevent any member from falling through the cracks, so to speak, and feeling that he or she is being ignored. We are all in this together and every member is important.

Please give some thought to whatever area you would be interested in and return the enclosed form which is a self mailer. We realize that you have been surveyed, questioned and interrogated, ad nauseum, over the years but we would sincerely appreciate your compliance with this request.

Thanks for your help in making our Museum a more efficient and worthwhile project.



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**Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.**  
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To: