

TO: SSA Board of Directors  
FROM: Denise Layton, COO  
DATE: August 12, 2015

**SSA Staff** - Losing Rhonda Copeland after eighteen years was a big loss to the SSA office. After a short time adjusting to her new responsibilities, Kayla Owens has now mastered the membership department and has started implementing a few new ideas which have saved time and money. She is currently working with Doug Easton to streamline the chapter renewal process, which I think will be a big help for the chapters, and the staff.

Unfortunately, Misty Dodson, who handles the merchandise department, the FAST program, and contests, has tendered her resignation. As soon as I return from the Board meeting I will begin looking for her replacement.

Although we are now down to five full time and one part-time employees, we are still keeping up with the workload. We will be stretched thin at the upcoming Convention, but I hope there will be sufficient volunteers, and that the local club will provide the additional personnel to staff all of the necessary positions.

**Directors' Terms** - Several years ago during the process of reducing the size of the Board, it was decided to change the expiration of some Directors one time, so each year approximately one third of the Board would be up for re-election. It was determined this would help in keeping continuity on the Board. This was to be accomplished by having Region 1 and 3, 2 and 4 and Region 7 serve a two year term which would then put them in alignment with having one third of the Board expiring each year. This has not yet been accomplished and I ask for your approval to get the elections in line so one-third of the Board is up for re-election each year.

I propose in 2016, Directors in Regions 1 and 3, 2 and 4 and Region 7 be elected for a two-year term. This would put them up for re-election in 2018. Then they will follow the normal three-year rotation. The terms would then look like this:

2019	2020	2021
6	5	1 and 3
9	8	2 and 4
10	12	7
11		

**2016 SSA Convention** - I am pleased to announce that after a three month process, I have finally tracked down the gentleman I wanted for the keynote speaker, Mark Stucky. Mark currently works for Virgin Galactic as their lead test pilot. He will be working with the flight team who is responsible for flying WhiteKnightTwo and SpaceShipTwo. He has a very interesting background with over 9,000 flight hours in over 170 different models of aircraft. He should make an excellent keynote speaker.

We are doing something a little differently for this Convention in 2016 by ending the speaker sessions at 3:15 each day. Because the exhibit hall is so large, we didn't believe that having fifteen minutes between speaker sessions would give people enough time in the exhibit hall. By

ending the sessions earlier, people can spend more uninterrupted time each day in the hall seeing everything. Hopefully, attendees and exhibitors will enjoy this.

Thanks in large part to the efforts of Andreea Alexandrescu, there is a new website for the Convention, and it has a lot of useful information as well as the registration form. The South Carolina group has really put forth a lot of effort in getting stuff organized for this event.

Sam and Leigh Zimmerman are in charge of speakers for the Convention, and they have a nice slate of interesting topics. Mark Maughmer has taken over the reins from Bernald Smith and will be putting together the OSTIV track, as well as the OSTIV dinner Friday night.

As of this date, 63% of the floor displays have been sold and 45% of the booths have been sold. SSA staff has been working on this, but Andreea Alexandrescu has also been selling space and is responsible for contacting local businesses to exhibit.

We are starting to look at the 2018 Convention and will soon solicit groups to assist in putting on the convention. Since it was discussed at a previous meeting we should quit limiting locations to southern states, I think this will give more places a chance to have a convention in their area. If you have someone in your region who would be interested in helping with 2018, please let me know.