Thank you Ken for your leadership and the great effort you put forth during your term as Chairman. It will be a challenge to follow in your footsteps. I would also like to thank all the many volunteers for their time and service on behalf of the SSA!

**Focus for 2019:**
Our focus for 2019 will be to continue the efforts towards achieving our Mission, which is to promote and support the sport of soaring by providing services and benefits to the SSA membership and the soaring movement in the United States. As you know this is always an ongoing process. Ken Sorenson has put a significant amount energy over his term as Chairman by putting committees in place to support the mission. Some of the significant accomplishments have been:

1. Development of promotional videos to promote the funding of SSA junior/youth programs.
2. Junior training & contest event for SSA Juniors which is now an ongoing yearly event.
3. The Google Discussion Group, which has been very effective in improving communications between clubs and commercial operators.
4. Interesting & informative articles in Soaring magazine.
5. The Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF), headed by Richard Carlson, provides many excellent safety related resources and services to the membership. The SSF continues to keep safety related topics in front of the membership by presenting monthly articles in Soaring magazine and conducting FIRC’s and club operational safety audits.
6. Monthly webinars on cross-country flying techniques and other soaring related topics. This has been very successful.
7. The OLC has been another means of promoting cross-country flying along with an excellent series of monthly articles in Soaring magazine.
8. The CFI-G Incentive Scholarship was launched and is intended to encourage development of new flight instructors for our clubs.
9. SSA has established a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) that expands the organizations’ joint efforts to bring the possibilities of flight to more people.
10. Work is continuing on developing stronger SSA Planned Giving and Fundraising programs. The Gift Giving is now available online from the SSA main web page. More to follow in 2019.

**Moving forward into 2019 we need to continue focus in the following areas:**

1. Growth and Retention continues to be a challenge: Ken has agreed to Chair this Committee.
2. Continue to attract youth to the sport, support their training, and retain their interest in soaring. The Junior Committee has a good start but needs to be more proactive in making progress in this area. Denise is working with JP Stewart and Chris Schrader to see what can be done to move this forward.
3. Keep focus on representing and promoting the soaring movement to governments, air sporting
organizations and aviation group.

4. Development of more CFI-G flight instructors. Ken Sorenson is committee Chair for CFI-G Incentive Scholarships. There has been a great response to the scholarship initiative.

5. Continue work on development of the SSA Planned Giving and Fundraising programs. Crescendo has been chosen as the vendor to implement the SSA Planned Giving program. John Godfrey is Chair of this committee and will report more on the progress in his report.

6. Promote new contest sites. Eric Bick recently started a Contest Corner column in Soaring Magazine and Hank Nixon has asked his team to contribute articles for this effort.

7. The SSA website: This is a significant effort. Content must be accurate, up to date, and new features implemented as needed.

These accomplishments and ongoing efforts would not be possible without the support and energy from our volunteers. There are an enormous amount of dedicated hours contributed by our volunteers to make this happen, so Thank You!