I would like to thank the Excom members, Board members, committee chairs, committee members, and others who volunteer their time and service on behalf of the SSA. Without your support and the Hobbs office team we could not accomplish the goals set forth in achieving our Mission. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team who give so much of their time in support of the soaring movement.

For my part I feel it's important to get into the field to speak with members and get their input. In 2019 I visited the Perry Region 5 Contest, Mifflin Region 2 Contest, Harris Hill Region 3 and Juniors Camp, and spent most of a week at SSA AirVenture booth in Oshkosh. I also attended the 50 year anniversary celebration for the National Soaring Museum which was a grand event. For 2020 my current plans are to attend the Seniors Soaring Competition in March, help out at the SSA AirVenture booth in July and then in August manage the Region 3 Contest in Dansville, NY.

Detailed reports on the financial status of the society will be presented by our Executive Director, Denise Layton, and our SSA Foundation Chairman, Phil Umphrus.

Growth and retention continues to be a challenge. Ken Sorenson is leading the charge as Chairman of the Growth & Retention Committee. He has an event planned during the convention which he will share when he reports on the progress of his activities.

We need to continue to attract youth to the sport, support their training, and retain their interest in soaring. Linda Evenski (Region 1&3 Director) is in charge as Chairman of the Youth Committee. The Youth Scholarship initiative for 2020 is underway. Linda will report separately on the progress of the team's activities.

Work is continuing on developing stronger SSA Planned Giving and Fundraising programs. The new planned giving site was cut live in the Fall of 2019. John Godfrey will report more on the progress in his report.

Safety continues to be a top priority. It is very sad that we had so many fatalities this past year and with very experienced pilots. The Soaring Safety Foundation, headed by Richard Carlson, provides many excellent safety-related resources and services to the membership. A strong and persistent emphasis on safety is critical to the health of the sport and the SSA. The SSF continues to keep safety related topics in front of the membership by presenting monthly articles in Soaring magazine and conducting FIRCs and club operational safety audits. Rich will report separately on this topic.

We discussed in the last Board Meeting about forming a website investigation committee to assess the needs for developing a new website. The current website is running on some old technology which eventually isn't going to play well as the internet continues to upgrade. A
committee was formed in October and is Chaired by Melanie Nichols. Melanie will report more on the progress in her report.

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

1. Growth and Retention.
2. Continue to attract youth to the sport, support their training, and retain their interest in soaring.
3. Keep focus on representing and promoting the soaring movement to governments, air sporting organizations and aviation groups.
4. Continue to develop additional CFI-G flight instructors. Monitor the results from the CFI-G Incentive Scholarships.
5. Track the results of the SSA Planned Giving and Fundraising programs.
6. Continued our focus on safety.
7. Promote new contest sites.
8. Restructuring of the SSA website: Define the requirements and develop a plan to transition to a new website. This will be a significant effort.