



THE WINGS CLUB

Wings Club News
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NEWS

Annual Meeting



Mary Ellen Jones, John Plueger

With the rap of the gavel, John Plueger, the 73rd president of the Wings Club Foundation, opened the Annual Meeting by welcoming guests and noting that it had been an honor to serve during what was a banner year for the organization.

Reviewing objectives for the past year, he highlighted that the Distinguished Scholar Awards were doubled to \$10,000 a student and that the Annual Gala (the organization's main fundraising event) was structured to maximize fundraising potential, thus enabling more aggressive support of opportunities for individuals pursuing an education in the field of aviation. A robust and informative roster of monthly luncheon speakers and the first USA Aviation Day, co-hosted with IATA, further fulfilled the mandate to provide programs to educate students and others about the field of aviation.



Jim McNerney, 2016 Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree

A video review of the past year, nominations to the Board of Governors and the induction of four new Golden Eagles preceded the presentation of the Wings Club Foundation and IAWA (International Aviation Women's Association) Outstanding Aviator Award to Wild Weasel Colonel Edward T. Rock (USAF Ret.). A tribute video of Colonel Rock's career and his remarks from the podium gave all in attendance a real feel for his heroics and those of his fellow Wild Weasels at the height of the Vietnam War.



Ken Gazzola, Colonel Edward T. Rock (USAF Ret.), Mylene Scholnick

The announcement of Jim McNerney, immediate past Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Boeing Company, as this year's Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient elicited wide applause from the attendees. He will be honored at the Annual Gala, held at the Waldorf Astoria on October 21, 2016.



Mary Ellen Jones

The evening's business ended with the presentation of the President's Gavel to Mary Ellen S. Jones, who will serve as the 74th president of the Wings Club Foundation. Mary Ellen is the second woman to ever hold this post, with Carol B. Hallett who served in 2001/2002, having been the first.





THE WINGS CLUB

A Message From The President



June 2016

*D*ear Wings Club Members:

At this year's annual meeting, I had the great honor to be elected as the 74th President of the Wings Club Foundation. I very much look forward to the opportunity to serve the Foundation and its members.

I congratulate John Plueger for a superb term as President. Through his leadership, the Wings Club has risen to new heights.

As we look to the new year, our Board of Governors consists of a very accomplished group of aviation executives who will contribute to the leadership of the Club. The Wings Club officers this year include: Scott Donnelly, Vice President and President Elect; Frank Pray, Vice President; David Davenport, Secretary; Todd Kallman, Treasurer; and Bob Craft, Foundation Counsel.

The Wings Club's primary mission is to support aerospace education. We all care deeply about aviation and want to foster a steady stream of innovative leaders for the future. Our objective is to increase our student scholarship awards. In order to do this, it is critical that we grow the Foundation's endowment. As part of our very active fundraising toward this goal we have established the Wings Club President's Societies, a structured contribution program that will recognize those who support our mission in a significant way. The program will coincide with the milestone 75th anniversary of the Wings Club.

Another important initiative is to increase the reach and diversity of the Wings Club. We want to attract new members to continue to grow and insure that we remain vibrant. We welcome new ideas and new perspectives that will make us an even better organization.

Regarding our upcoming events, we have an outstanding list of speakers scheduled for the balance of the year. We will also continue our very successful Aerospace on Campus program with the addition of new schools in the fall. At our Annual Gala in October, it will be our pleasure to honor Jim McNerney, immediate past Chairman and CEO of the Boeing Company, with the Distinguished Achievement Award.

It looks to be an exciting year at the Wings Club. I look forward to working with you and hope to see you at our upcoming events. I encourage you to introduce friends and colleagues to the Wings Club and our events to further broaden our membership and bring additional perspectives to our organization.

Best regards,

Mary Ellen S. Jones
President
The Wings Club Foundation



HIGHLIGHTS FROM WINGS CLUB EVENTS

SEE WHAT YOU MISSED

JANUARY



Wes Bush
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Noting that it was an exciting time in all the categories and technologies of aerospace, Mr. Bush focused his remarks on one such technology – unmanned aircraft. He further sharpened the focus on autonomous systems that are truly robotic versus those that are controlled by a human pilot and ultimately introduced a category of technology now under development that would “provide the tipping point from which autonomous aircraft will reach their potential ... cognitive autonomous systems.” He explained, “these are robotic systems that operate using the same actions that we would expect from the judgment, and ultimately over time, the ethics of a pilot.” Mr. Bush concluded with a plea that government not limit R & D, while in China and Russia, “R & D is going full steam ahead.”

MARCH



Doug Parker
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
American Airlines Group Inc.

Mr. Parker opened his remarks with a quick look at what American Airlines had achieved in 2015. “At American Airlines last year, we put the airline on a strong financial footing with a profit of \$6.3 billion and a pre-tax margin of 15.3%... something few thought we could do this early in the merger.” He then transitioned to his remarks concerning what it means to be running an airline today. “Business today is in a transformational state... and the biggest transformational piece is getting everyone to understand that this industry has changed... structurally, fundamentally and permanently changed.” He continued that, as management, you have to believe that it has changed and then make the leap. “It’s a whole different world today. Once you realize this you know you have to manage differently.”

APRIL



James Hogan
President and Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Airways

“The secret weapon of Etihad Airways is to grow the airline through partnership.” With that as his opening statement, James Hogan discussed Etihad’s model for airline competition. “Global air travel is a business with incredibly high barriers to entry...the highest barrier is network. You can’t build a global network overnight. That’s where partnership comes in. We’ve take an open partnership approach, working with scores of airlines on codeshare agreements. Then we took that one step further with minority equity investments in strategically important airlines. Together, we’ve been able to create a new competitive choice for air travelers. That’s good for consumers, good for tourism and good for trade.” Mr. Hogan said he believed that many of the issues raised about Etihad Airways by the Open Skies Campaign stemmed from a lack of understanding of the airline’s partnership business model.





THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

JANUARY LUNCHEON



Frank Pray, Brad Owen, Bob Craft



Julie Cabrera, Caitlin Rega, Heather Relation



Benjamin Lehberger, Sharon DeVivo, Mike Lavitt



Gary Spulak, Alyssa Ten-Eyck, Jim Jacobs



Darryl Fraser, John Stack, Lisa Davis, Randy Belote



John Plueger, Wes Bush, Marion Blakey



MARCH LUNCHEON



Stacy Burd, Eric Brinker, Robbie Mehoke, Nicole Hanlon



Christopher Griffin, Doug Parker, Jerry Behrens



Edward Rock Jr., Edward T. Rock, Sara Gould, Steve Townes, John Stewart



Dowling College students and faculty



Mary Ellen Jones, Doug Parker



Samer Karadsheh, DJ Ghosh, Doug Parker and students from Dowling College



THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

APRIL LUNCHEON



Majid Al-Suwaidi, Mary Ellen Jones, James Hogan



Howard Rubel, Barry Eccleston, James Hogan



Johnny Cooper, Craig Thomas, Roberto Cuesia, Matthew Jones, Robert Ranck



Mary Ellen Jones, Peter Turecek, Etihad Airways Representatives



*Seated: Barry Eccleston, James Hogan, Mary Ellen Jones, Bob Craft
Standing: David Davenport, Gary Krauthamer, John Rosanvallon, Howard Rubel, Thomas Bosco, Sharon DeVivo*



Katery Nalaluna, Nathan Hicks, Aubrey Herberten



ON THE ROAD

**Dublin, Ireland
March 10, 2016**

Greeting the guests at the 10th Annual Dublin Luncheon, Marlin Dailey, European Committee Chairman, extended his appreciation to the Dublin Aviation Community for their continued support of the Wings Club Foundation and extended a special welcome to the Irish Aviation Students Association (IASA). He then turned the Ceremonial Gavel over to James Meyler, the incoming Chairman of the European Committee, who presided over the meeting and introduced the speaker, Mr. Tewolde GebreMarian, Group Chief Executive Officer, Ethiopian Airlines.

Mr. GebreMarian used the opportunity as the first head of an African airline to address the Dublin gathering to provide a captivating and informative review of the history of Ethiopian Airlines' development - which in many cases paralleled the very history of Africa's development - and to share his vision for the airline's future.

From being the first airline to bring jet service to Africa, Ethiopian has grown to serve 93 international destinations on five continents and 20 destinations within Africa. A member of the Star Alliance since 2011, today the airline carries 6.4 million passengers a year and is the largest cargo carrier in Africa.

About the future, Mr. GebreMarian made the case that Africa is a young continent, full of natural and human resources; very challenging, but "a continent you need to put into your strategy." About Ethiopian, he lets their slogan say it all... *Ethiopian, the New Spirit of Africa.*



James Meyler, Tewolde GebreMarian, John Slattery



Tewolde GebreMarian addressing the audience



*James Meyler,
Tewolde GebreMarian.
Marlin Dailey, Standing
Michael Yohannes,
Marie-Louise Kelly,
John Slattery, Gus Kelly,
Simon Glass,
Tom Fitzsimmons*



Marlin Dailey, James Meyler



*Irish Aviation Students
Association (IASA)*



Dublin guests



IATA & The Wings Club Foundation Aviation Day USA 2016

On February 25, 2016, we joined with IATA to host the first of its kind USA Aviation Day. Attracting a record crowd of 400 people, the event featured an excellent slate of speakers and panelists.

John Plueger, President & COO Air Lease Corporation, opened the day with welcoming remarks followed by an address from Tony Tyler, Director General and CEO, IATA. Robin Hayes, President & CEO JetBlue, delivered the key note speech.

Following the opening speeches, the executive panels covered a wide range of topics and contributed to an agenda and a unique event which received wide-spread approval from the audience. Topics included Infrastructure and Airspace Challenges and Opportunities in NYC; A Wall Street View: Is Profit Here to Stay; The Executive Chat: A High-Level View of the Industry and The Evolution of the Passenger Experience.







THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

ANNUAL MEETING





THE WINGS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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SAVE THE DATE

June Luncheon

June 15, 2016

 The Yale Club

Speaker: Brad Tilden

CEO and President

 Alaska Airlines

Golf Tournament

June 27, 2016

Burning Tree Country Club

 Greenwich, CT

September Luncheon

September 22, 2016

 The Yale Club

 'Sight Lecture'

Speaker: John Leahy

COO, Customers

 Airbus

Annual Gala

October 21, 2016

 Waldorf Astoria

Distinguished Achievement Award

Honoree:

Jim McNerney

former Chairman & CEO

The Boeing Company

November Luncheon

November 17, 2016

 The Yale Club

Speaker: TBA

December Luncheon

December 8, 2016

 The Yale Club

Speaker: Gary Kelly

Chairman, President & CEO

 Southwest Airlines

