

FLY PAPER



Election 2024

The Flypaper is a monthly publication of

The Fox Valley Aero Club

An Illinois not-for-profit Corporation

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AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252

Special Edition:

ELECTION 2024



This "extra" is dedicated to the upcoming election for the Officers and Directors who will lead our club in 2025.

The voting is again happening by e-mail ballot this year. You will receive an e-mail from Dale with the voting instructions and link to the ballot on or about Saturday, November 23rd. Simply make your selections, and then submit to electronically cast your ballot. Voting will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 29th.

This issue is intended to make you familiar with the candidates vying for your vote. The individual statements are in order by position, and second, alphabetically.

Paul Martin, Editor

Candidates:

President

Dale Gathman (incumbent-unopposed)

Vice President

Dave Murray (incumbent-unopposed)

Secretary

Armin Weber (incumbent-unopposed)

Treasurer

Scott Stampfli (incumbent-unopposed)

Director-At-Large (six positions available)

Dave Cotton

Rich Gabrys (incumbent)

John Howe (incumbent)

Jeff Hughes

Glenn LaRocco

Rob Sampson (incumbent)

Scott Schilling (incumbent)

Dominick Silvestri

Bill Suhr (incumbent)

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Paul Martin

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Dale Gathman for President (unopposed)

I thank you for nominating me once again to serve as president of our great club in 2025. If you are new to the club and would like to know a little about my history before FVAC, see the Meet the Members section of our September 2011 Flypaper, available on our website. Since joining the club in 2011, I have served one year as an At-Large Director, four years as Secretary, and the last eight years as President.

A heartfelt Thank You goes to our 2024 board members and all of the members who volunteered during the year. No one person could possibly run a club of this size, and with the combination of our board members and all of the additional volunteers who step up and help, the club has been and will be in great hands once again.

We had a couple of goals for 2024, one being the renewal of our field lease with the City of St. Charles, and the other being the designation of our field as a FRIA site. I am very happy to report that both of these goals have been accomplished. We now have a new 10-year lease, with an option to renew it for another 10 years when it expires. And our flying field is now designated a FRIA site.

I am looking forward to 2025, starting with our Frozen Fingers event on January 1st and our SWAP meet in February. We will be following up with another full slate of events and activities. Our largest event, Windy City Warbirds & Classics, was very successful this year after we missed hosting it in 2023.

Thanks to John and Deb Howe along with all who helped out with this event, everything went smoothly. We look forward to hosting it again in 2025.

As a board, we strive to make decisions for the club based on what is best for the club and the majority of our members. Please let us know your thoughts and wishes for the direction of the club. Also, keep in mind that we cannot make everyone happy all of the time, and as we have over 200 members, there will be some members who disagree with some decisions. We realize this and welcome all opinions and questions, but please know that at the end of the day, we are making the best decisions we can based on the majority of the members' wishes and the well-being of the club.

Our club is very strong, with new members joining every year. We have acquired a few members this year who have vast experience in model building and flying, along with some who are brand new to the hobby. This makes for a great club with members of diverse talents who can help each other out.

As in past years, I will do my best to stay informed of regulation changes and the state of the hobby and will keep you, our members, informed about what you can do to help our hobby. Obviously, we are stronger as a group than we would be individually, so thank you all for being members of our great club. Together, we can keep the Fox Valley Aero Club one of the best RC flying clubs in the country. Let's plan to have another fantastic year of Flying, and please remember our goals of Fun, Safety, Camaraderie and Unity.

I count it a privilege to have you as FVAC members and look forward to spending some time with you in 2025.

See you at the field or the meetings,
Dale

Dave Murray
for Vice President
(unopposed)



I have been a member of several clubs over the years and have served in various positions. I have spent over 26 years with FVAC, and consider it to be one of the finest clubs in the Midwest. I have been a contest director for many years and have helped organize past Kids Day and Festival of Flight events. I served as contest director for the 2014 - 2022 Warbirds & and Classics events. I am a member of the Warbird and Classics Alliance and attend several of the Warbird and Classic flying events.

My goal as an FVAC officer is to:

- Support the board in promoting a safe and welcoming environment for the membership, guests, and spectators.
- Support, and promote activities that engage our neighbors, and the local communities.
- Represent FVAC at flying events
- Balance the considerable need for safety, with the primary goal of this hobby, which is.... to have fun!

Thank you for your consideration for FVAC Secretary.

Armin Weber

Armin Weber
for Secretary
(unopposed)



Hello FVAC Members.

My name is Armin Weber.

I currently serve on the FVAC board as Club Secretary and am running for the same position in 2025.

I retired this year after 44 years in Software Development. I saw my first RC airplane fly in the early seventies and have been hooked ever since. I build and fly many types of models, but my primary interest is large scale models, WW2 aircraft being my favorite.

The viewpoints in this publication are solely those of the individual authors. They may not necessarily represent those of the Editor, Officers, Board, or Membership of the Fox Valley Aero Club.

Scott Stampfli for Treasurer (unopposed)

My name is Scott Stampfli, I am your Fox Valley Aero Club incumbent Treasurer.

I am running for 2025 FVAC Treasurer. I have been a member of Fox Valley Aero since 2015 and fly electric, glow and gas.

I am a Dad to two super cool teenagers. When I'm not at my day job I enjoy flying at various local and out of state events, camping, and going to art shows with my awesome, patient, saint of a wife Jes.

I appreciate the faith and trust you have in me and I've enjoyed taking on the tasks of the treasury. I'd appreciate your vote and look forward to seeing you at the meetings and flying with you at the field in the new year! Here's to a great 2025 of flying and camaraderie at FVAC!



DOING THE
MOST GOOD™

Angel tree

The Club is once again collecting donations to support the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Donations will be collected on two occasions: December 7th, at the Christmas Party at Nick's, and December 14th, at FVAC Field from 9 am until noon. Cash and gift cards are helpful in supplying gifts for older kids, who the Salvation Army normally struggles to find gifts for.

Dave Cotton for Director-At-Large

My name is Dave Cotton "Shooter". I have been a member of the Fox Valley Aero Club since 2010. You may have seen my helpful, smiling face at the field and maybe helped recover a few planes from the beans or corn stalks.

Within the previous years, I helped orientate you to the FVAC as your membership chairman. During this time my goal was to maintain a safe field, which allows all the members to enjoy the privilege to fly at this wonderful facility. If you attended or volunteered at the Windy City Warbirds and Classics event, you've seen me on the flight line with Sal Perno where we set the bar to which all War bird Alliance strove to achieve. Thus, my nickname "Shooter" because I insist on maintaining a safe flight line.

As your elected board member (At Large), I would advocate full transparency and integrity that is inclusive to all our club flyers.

Our Membership has a tremendous group of people, which of course all want to see this club move forward in a positive direction for general flyers.

I, therefore, request your vote as Director At Large in the upcoming election.

Warm Regards,
David Cotton



Rich Gabrys for Director-At-Large

I have been a proud member of Fox Valley Aero Club for over 20 years. My love for all mechanical flying things began at an extremely young age, when my mom would place me in a stroller, and walk me to the east side of Midway Airport. We would sit and watch the planes take off and land, till I would fall asleep and nap. After that, I was never the same.

My first model airplane was built by my dad in an hour. It was constructed of 1/4" pine baseboard trim, and painted light blue from the same can he used to paint the bedroom, shared with my brother. It wasn't much to look at and didn't fly, but was the beginning of a learning process which continues today.

I discovered radio control in 1960 while driving with my family past a flying field at the intersection of Rt 45 and 107th in Palos Park. I could not believe my eyes! After that, it was non-stop scratch built, stick, control line, free flight models, and even several failed attempts to build my own radio.

My wife of fifty-one years, Jan, entered the picture our first day at DePaul University. While she has no interest in flying, Jan has been a huge positive influence on my hobby, and actively supports the club. We come to FVAC as a package.

I see FVAC as a diverse population of folks with differing talents, resources, interests, and abilities, all united by an interest in the flying of model aircraft. As a candidate for the At-Large Director position, I see a responsibility to foster an environment which allows all members to exercise their abilities, enjoy all forms of model aircraft, and others who support and share that interest.

As with any large group, there are differing personalities, levels of engagement, perceptions, interests, and opinions which take away from the best possible environment. In the case of the current state and leadership at FVAC, I experience more right than wrong, and would only hope to continue and build upon the cubs existing foundation. In summary, my goal as a director would be to continue to enhance an environment of fellowship, and a place which best serves the shared model airplane interests and needs of the majority of FVAC members.

John Howe for Director-At-Large



My name is John Howe, I am running for a Director at Large position for 2025.

I have been in the hobby since I was 14 years old and am now 52 and have loved every minute of it. I am very lucky that my wife (Debbie) and daughter (Katie) love and participate in the hobby with me, so we are a flying family.

This year I (with my family) was the event chairman for our Windy City Warbirds event. I was excited to keep the event going and enjoy it with all our club members and guests. We travel during the year representing our club to Warbird and Classic events in many different states, IL, IN, OH, WI, MI, IA, MN and SC, where we have met many great friends along the way and have found that there is a wealth of knowledge to be learned from so many different pilots and I enjoy bringing back and sharing this with our FVAC club.

I hope to sit on the board this year and to work closely with everyone to make this year a great year and fun for all. We will hope to see everyone at the FVAC Christmas Party. Our family wishes a very Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all the FVAC family.

Jeff Hughes for Director-At-Large

Glen LaRocco for Director-At-Large

Hello,

My name is Glenn LaRocco. Flying has been my passion since learning how to fly control line planes 45 years ago with my father. Later flying and building RC Airplanes. My passion continued with building not only RC Airplanes, but a full-scale plane of my own (a Christian Eagle). Over the course of time, I was heavily into developing and manufacturing of RC engines to further the hobby. I am also an active member of EAA Chapter 101. This coincided with my own business, where I worked as a welding and fabrication engineer, welding instructor, and CWI.

As my journey into retirement grows nearer, I am focused on my flying of RC and Full-Scale planes. I recently re-checked out to fly a full-scale aircraft again and plan on filling my free days flying of one kind or another, fishing, and traveling with my wife.

During my retirement I would be honored to serve on the Fox Valley Aero board to help work on expanding the hobby to the younger generations and to continue the growth of the club into the future. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Glenn LaRocco



Rob Sampson for Director-At-Large

I'm Rob Sampson. I attended the University of Illinois Institute of Aviation where I earned most of my pilot certificates, Airframe and Power-Plant mechanics license and graduated with a degree in Marketing.



During my 40+ years in aviation I've been a mechanic on WWII aircraft and worked in a simulator factory. I did flight instruction, charter flying, corporate jets and flew 34 years with the airlines, retiring 13 years ago.

Like many of you, I started building and flying u-control models in the 60's. I enjoy flying all types of aircraft, large, small, gas, electric, sailplanes, and float planes. I enjoy building both kits and from scratch, but I also have many ARFs in my hanger.

I've been a member of FVAC for 22 years and I have served on the Board for several years. I'm constantly impressed by the talent and professionalism of our club members and how the club presents itself to the community. We have been blessed with insightful, hardworking, talented, dedicated, and skilled leadership. The icing on the cake is the friendly, helpful members that make this club better each year.

I strive to be an actively involved member, helping on work days, festivals, family fly events etc. I also enjoy the social events and attending the monthly meetings.

It would be an honor to once again serve on the Board of such a great organization.
Thank you,
Rob Sampson

Scott Schilling for Director-At-Large

Dear Members of FVAC,

I am a passionate RC airplane enthusiast and a long-time member of our community, I am committed to promoting fairness, fostering unity, and ensuring that our club remains a welcoming environment for all.

One of my core beliefs is that everyone, regardless of their skill level or background, should feel valued and have equal opportunities within our club. I will work to ensure that decisions are made transparently and with the best interests of every member in mind. I will prioritize fairness so that all voices are heard and respected.

FVAC is a diverse group of individuals brought together by a shared passion for RC aviation. I believe that by fostering a sense of unity, we can strengthen our community and make it even more vibrant. I will advocate for more collaborative events and opportunities that allow members to learn from each other and grow together. My goal is to create an atmosphere of camaraderie where new friendships can be formed, and our love for RC flight can flourish.

In conclusion, I am committed to upholding the values of fairness and unity and ensuring that the FVAC continues to be a place where everyone feels welcome and supported. I ask for your trust and support in electing me to the board of directors, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you all.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Scott Schilling



Dominick Silvestri

for Director-At-Large



Bill Suhr

for Director-At-Large

I have been nominated for and am currently a Director at Large for FVAC. I have been a club member for the last 13 years flying everything from small foamy's, warbirds, large electrics and turbines.

For my full time job I am a Captain flying a Hawker 4000 Executive Jet based at Chicago Executive Airport for the past 13 years and various other jets for the past 28 years.

I bring experience with working with the FAA and understand the airspace that our field is within. Having worked all of the FVAC airshows as a shooter, retriever, and air boss I know how to keep things safe and fun.

Thanks again for the nomination.