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Dear NEC/AAAE Members and Supporters,

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the 2019 President for the Northeast Chapter, it is truly an honor! As I begin this important leadership role, I reflect on the leaders that came before me with a sense of pride knowing their hard work and dedication has created the strong and vibrant community that is the Northeast Chapter. I am eager to continue the momentum and ensure that we continue to serve the aviation industry to the best of our potential. I do not take the responsibility of being your President lightly; in fact, I have been preparing for this moment for many, many months. I am excited about what is to come, and I hope that you are too!

I would like to personally thank Maria Sheridan and the entire 2018 NEC/AAAE Board of Directors for helping me set the tone for 2019. In 2018, Maria provided guidance and direction to elevate our chapter to the next level. It was Maria’s vision that set forth the Women in Aviation Scholarship Fund Donation and doubled the chapter’s initial goal of \$6,000.00 at the Annual Conference. I will be continuing these efforts in 2019. If you would like to donate or purchase a Women in Aviation calendar, please [click here](#). In addition, we completed the process of soliciting for a new association management company through a request for qualifications (RFQ), a process that resulted in our decision to select Capitol Hill Management Services (CHMS). I look forward to working closely with Angela Kelly, our new Executive Director from CHMS. To read more about the important notes that come from the change, please [click here](#).

As you all know, the chapter’s work is never done. We are continuously seeking new ways to enhance the membership experience and boost our reach to the aviation industry. This past year we had several notable accomplishments I’d like to recognize:

- The chapter hosted four conferences where we saw record attendance and sponsorship revenue:
 - Annual Airports Conference
 - International Aviation Snow Symposium
 - Annual Hub Winter Ops and De-Ice Conference
 - NEC/AAAE Annual Conference
- Held multiple trainings to include Snow Academies (basic and advanced), ASOS and AARF.
- Increased our active membership.
- Awarded numerous scholarships to events and NEC/AAAE members, plus matched 60K in AAAE scholarships.

2019 is going to be a busy year! I have four goals that I would like to put into action with the collaboration from our Board, Committees, Executive Director, and Membership. My 2019 goals are as follows:

- Ensure financial stability and transparency.
- Strategic planning: establish a three-year strategic plan.
- Diversity: develop chapter diversity & inclusion by forming a committee to work with the National AAAE.
- Membership: I would like to see our chapter hit 500 active members! Is this goal aggressive? Yes, but it is certainly attainable. I encourage each active NEC/AAAE member to join me in increasing aviation awareness by seeking to continually increase our membership. In 2019, I challenge each active member to recruit one new member. New members can join online via the Chapter’s new website by [clicking here](#).
- I plan to continue to build upon the goals and programs established by my predecessors. I will continue the fundraising effort that Maria initiated for the “Women in Aviation” and will make this a key initiative throughout the year at all events.

I am convinced that we as a TEAM have the professional knowledge and determination to take on any task and succeed. If you are not involved on a committee level or as a member, I encourage you to do so! Visit the respective links for more information on [committees](#) and [membership](#).

My motto is “We can do better.”

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to [myself or any members of the Board](#) or contact Angela Kelly at 518-313-1141 or info@necaaae.org.

Warm Regards,

Ed Foster, A.A.E.
2019 NEC/AAAE President

Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives

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